



Otey Notes



As I start composing this introduction from Savannah, the ineffable beauty I now face I prepare to forego. Hard to imagine more beautiful than Savannah! But I can only remove willingly because I serve a God who teaches that there is always truer and greater beauty ahead. Savannah to Sewanee, an amazingly privileged transition for me. Sitting on the dock

watching the cranes swoop over the high tide marsh as if they *owns the joint*, one wonders whether there is any point in moving from one place to another, even from one so serenely beguiling as Savannah to a place so wide-revered in just such or similar terms. The only place to say your prayers better than where God so wonderfully gives you right now is, well, where He sends you knowing there is always, physically and/or spiritually, that place of improvement. That all begins and ends in God Himself, of course, and progress to us is venturing into what's ahead as assuredly ever more beautiful and godly as it serves Him and displays Our Lord Jesus Christ again. So if my imagination fails, God's doesn't, and thus we, you gentle reader and I, peripatetic pastor, come together.

I introduce myself as one truly gratified, humbled and honored, with only a woefully insufficient "thank you" to offer, for the opportunity to see more the deep-down beauty that is surely here meant to grow and grow. Anyone should heed awestruck the portentous reputation you bear as a mountain strangely eliciting a righteous aura to so many for generations. There must be truly much wonderful that God loves about you and this place to make it so exceptional. I look forward to learning from you, and praising Him here with you.

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TAKE NOTE



December 1

- ✓ Dr. Jim Peterman, Medical ethics
- ✓ Advent Wreaths
- ✓ Signups for Epiphany Pageant
- ✓ Signup for Christmas "Angel Tree" (more on this later)

December 8

- ✓ All Parish Meeting
- ✓ Epiphany Pageant practice during Sunday School hour
- ✓ Reception for The Reverend Canon Gideon Byamugisha

December 15

- ✓ Dixon Myers talk on Equitable Housing
- ✓ Epiphany Pageant practice during Sunday School hour

December 22

- ✓ Fr. Jess Reeves, Godly Play classes
- ✓ Christmas "angel tree" visits after church

December 24

- ✓ 4:30, Children's Christmas Creche Service
- ✓ 10:30 PM, Musical prelude under the direction of Kathy Sturgis followed by a festal Holy Eucharist - service should conclude by midnight

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From a friend's email on news of my moving to Sewanee/Otey:

I don't know if you have ever seen the illuminated memorial cross there that looks out over the valley, but I have been told that lost angels use it to find their way home on dark nights.

P.S. Sometimes people can be known in part by their likes and dislikes. A few favorite movies of mine: DONNIE DARKO; AMAZING GRACE; FLASHBACKS OF A FOOL; ZEFFERELLI'S ROMEO & JULIET; CITY OF ANGELS (Ryan, Cage). Most Bond movies, THE NATURAL, THE PHILADELPHIA STORY, BEN-HUR OR THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. I would see these pretty much again and again.

Father Reeves, aka Jess

CALLING ALL CHILDREN....

It's almost Advent... and that means it is time to wait and wonder and prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. And, it is almost time for you to help us get ready!

Sunday, December 1st bring your family and friends to make Advent Wreaths after the second service or pick up a kit to go after the first service. Be sure to get the Advent Calendar, "Quiet It is Advent" to take home to remember each Advent day with a thought and prayer.

Signups for the Epiphany Pageant will be December 1st-8th. See your Godly Play teachers for a sign up sheet or pick one up in Brooks Hall. Ms. Mary Beth Williams will be leading and helping you prepare for the Pageant: Sunday December 8th in Brooks Hall and Sunday December 15th in the church during the Sunday School hour. Ms. Kathy Sturgis will be

playing the piano and organ for you. The last rehearsal will be Saturday January 4, 2014 with the Pageant January 5, 2014 at 5 PM with a reception to follow in your honor in Brooks Hall.



Don't forget to bring your parents and friends to the Children's Creche Service at 4:30 PM, Christmas Eve! Any children who want to help tell the story that day are welcome! And, the Sunday after Christmas, December 29th, bring your family for "Cookies and Carols" during the Sunday school hour. Come to Otey and help our whole church family prepare for the coming of Christ, Emmanuel, "God who is with us." Questions: Robin Reed (636-0010)

Poinsettias

Anyone wishing to donate memorial/thanksgiving Poinsettias for our Christmas altar flowers please contact Diane Jones at djones.sewanee@gmail.com or 615-594-4805 by December 20. As the flower fund does not have enough money to cover the yearly cost of altar flowers, we have found it necessary to increase the fee to \$40.00. On another note, the Flower Guild would welcome anyone who would enjoy fixing an altar flower arrangement a couple of times a year. My contact information is: bbblythe43@gmail.com or 423-837-4515. Thank you, Betty Barton Blythe

THE BLESSINGS OF GOD



Many years ago Fire on the Mountain had planned a mission trip to New York City but 9-11 changed everything. Plan B became a trip down to the

Mississippi Delta where in the tiny town of Friar's Point we would host a week-long Vacation Bible School for the children of this predominately African American population. Having connections through an old friend we were able to put an invitation in every mail box and use a converted gym for our activities. We boarded the chartered bus and left the mountain on a Sunday with high expectations as we made our way down into the heart of the Delta. 9:00 a.m. Monday morning came and we all waited for the kids to show up..... and we waited.....and waited. It got to be 10:00 and still no kids. One million things raced in my head..... did we put down the wrong dates? Is this a turn-off, all white kids in this big fancy bus? What do they know about us? At about 10:30 way across an open field we spotted one

little boy walking towards us. All members of the youth group rushed out to greet and welcome him to the "Jubilee Vacation Bible School". Lionel was his name. Slowly throughout the morning one by one the kids began to show up, those who peeked in the windows were encouraged to come in and by mid-week we had 50 plus which included a Day Care down the street.

By the end of the week we had fallen in love with them all and it was heart breaking to leave those children behind. But there comes a time when you move on knowing that God's love is real when it is shared with others. You know if it were only Lionel who had come for the VBS we would have done it all just for him.

In Gratitude for my years serving this Parish as Youth Minister
Betty Carpenter



TAKE NOTE

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CHRISTMAS DAY

✓ 10:00 AM The Holy Eucharist

DECEMBER 29

✓ "Cookies and Carols"

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN

✓ DECEMBER 8 – Lessons and Carols

✓ DECEMBER 15 – Christmas Caroling

CANON GIDEON BYAMUGISHA SPEAKS TO HUNGER: FAITH IN ACTION CLASS

On October 6, the Hunger: Faith in Action class was honored to have as its guest the Reverend Canon Gideon Byamugisha, a Uganda priest, activist, and theologian. Canon Gideon (as he has told everyone to call him, no doubt because we Americans were butchering his last name) is currently the Brown Fellow for the fall semester at the University of the South, where he is teaching a politics class on Religion, AIDS and Activism in Africa. Canon Gideon has been a regular worshiper at Otey Parish, taking the Otey family as his own parish while away from Uganda. He is a dynamic speaker, and he enthralled his audience during the 10 am Sunday school hour.

Canon Gideon is the first African religious leader to publicly declare that he is HIV positive. When he made this disclosure in 1992, there was no AIDS treatment available and an HIV diagnosis was tantamount to a death sentence. In the mid-2000s, AIDS treatment became more readily available in Africa, though only 56% of Africans who need these medicines can access them. The Canon formed the Africa Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV and AIDS in 2002 (ANERELA). Today the organization is a global network. Canon Gideon has been honored by the US White House, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, the United Nations, and several private organizations for his global activism on AIDS and his fight for the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS.

During the presentation, Dr. Amy Patterson (Professor of Politics at University of the South and herself a researcher of AIDS, politics and religion in Africa) first presented statistics about the global AIDS epidemic and more specifically, about AIDS in Africa. She reported that two-thirds of the world's 34 million people living with HIV are Africans and



Africa experienced 1.2 million AIDS deaths in 2011. While HIV prevalence (or the percentage of people aged 15 to 49 who are estimated to be HIV positive) has declined in some African countries, prevalence has increased in Uganda. In a Question-Answer session led by Patterson, Canon Gideon spoke about his decision to disclose his HIV status. After his wife died of AIDS (which he learned after her death), Canon Gideon was tested for the HIV virus and discovered he too was infected. He decided that as a leader in his community, he needed to speak out. He saw that others were in pain in his parish because of the disease it either affected them personally or it was killing their family and friends. Canon Gideon added, "I was also selfish in this

decision. I needed people to pray for me and to walk with me as I dealt with AIDS. I couldn't have that support if I didn't tell people." When asked how his church reacted when he shared the news, Canon Gideon stated that he divided the church with his disclosure. Some thanked him, because he gave them hope through his honesty. Some said that AIDS was not something that should be discussed in the church. These individuals echoed

a common belief that AIDS was a disease that only infected immoral people, or those who had engaged in promiscuity or prostitution. Canon Gideon also said there were a lot of people who just didn't care that he had disclosed: perhaps they had not been affected by HIV/AIDS or they felt that it was a private decision for the Canon to make.

When asked why disclosure of one's HIV status is so important in the AIDS fight, Canon Gideon replied that not everyone can disclose publicly, because in doing so, one becomes the focus of attention. For example, people always ask Gideon, "How did you get it?" Or they ask him other personal questions about his relationships with his wife and children. (Canon Gideon remarried several years after his first wife died. His second wife is also HIV-positive,

though their two daughters are HIV-negative.) “Not everyone can be in the limelight,” the Canon remarked. “But people who are HIV positive do need to disclose to someone they trust: a sister, mother, child, friend, or co-parishioner. People who are HIV positive need someone who can help them should they fall ill and someone to give them social and emotional support.” Yet, disclosure of HIV status can be tricky for women, particularly when they disclose an HIV positive status to a partner or husband. Women are often blamed for bringing HIV into the marriage. In reality, most of the growth in HIV prevalence in Uganda, Zambia, and several other African countries is within the context of marriage, indicating that women who are married are at greater risk for HIV infection than single women.

Patterson questioned Canon Gideon about the relationship between poverty and AIDS. In his response, the Canon pointed out that Africa is not poor in its resources, people or spirit, but that it has been made poor by corrupt political leadership and ill-designed donor policies. As such, health services are in disrepair, unemployment is high, governments provide inadequate water, sanitation, housing, and educational services, and income inequalities are increasing. Poor health care makes people more vulnerable to health problems, including late diagnosis of HIV. Unemployment may lead people to engage in risky sexual activities, which increase the risk of HIV infection. Canon Gideon suggested that in the long term, addressing AIDS in Africa will require that governments become more accountable to their people and more concerned about broad-scale development.

Canon Gideon also pointed to limitations in donor policies to address AIDS in Africa, specifically the focus on what has been termed the

“ABC” approach. ABC stands for Abstinence, Be Faithful, Use a Condom and this strategy became popular with the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) which began in 2003 to address AIDS in 15 African countries, including Uganda. While ABC is “not wrong,” it is incomplete and it does not take into account larger cultural and socioeconomic factors that may affect people’s sexual activities. Moreover, some donor programs have put a focus on “high risk groups” (i.e., those

groups that are at greater risk of HIV infection), such as sex workers and intravenous drug users. But, according to Canon Gideon, by labeling these groups as “high risk,” they immediately become stigmatized. It then becomes even more difficult for these groups to access the health services and information about HIV protection that they need. In the process, their human right to the highest standard of health care possible is violated.

Patterson wrapped up by asking, “As Christians, we are called to be the people of hope

in a dark world. Why should we be hopeful in the fight against AIDS?” In response, Canon Gideon pointed to a recent scientific discovery that has the potential to turn the tide against AIDS: Researchers discovered that an HIV-positive person on AIDS treatment is much less likely to transmit the HIV virus to another person than an HIV-positive person who is not on treatment. In fact, the risk of HIV transmission from the person on treatment decreases by 96%. Thus, the goal is to test more individuals so they are aware of their HIV status (currently only about one-third of Africans have been tested for HIV). Knowing one’s status and starting AIDS treatment has the potential to greatly reduce transmission. But, as Canon Gideon point out, African governments and the international community must have the political will to capitalize on this scientific *Continued on Page 6*

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CANON GIDEON

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knowledge. They must provide greater access to HIV testing, greater access to AIDS treatment for those who test positive, and greater support for people living with HIV and AIDS to adhere to their AIDS treatment. But, as Canon Gideon concluded, "I named my youngest daughter 'Hope' to symbolize my hope that one day we will have a world without AIDS."

Canon Gideon also will make a presentation in honor of World AIDS Day at Gailor Auditorium on Monday, December 2. His story is also published in 28 Stories of AIDS by Stephanie Nolan (New York: Walker Publishing, 2007).

COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

The month of December is a wonderful time to consider the needs of others. As I have learned over this past year, there are so many in need of so much right here in our community. This past month CAC distributed 104 bags of groceries and 500 pounds of fresh produce. Our monthly food order exceeded one ton of food. With the cut in food stamps we anticipate more requests for groceries in the upcoming year.

we take the needs of this community very seriously. We will soon have several opportunities to offer assistance to two client families who will be moving into new housing. Check with CAC on the status and progress of the construction to see the ways to help these families. The holidays are upon us and the winter months mean larger utility bills. We have so many opportunities for ministry through CAC and we always can use a hand.....will it be yours?

In this season of giving consider a gift to CAC. Stop by the little yellow house on the corner and give a gift of your time and learn of ways that you can make a difference. Truly "Hunger is Not a Game" and at C A C

Betty Carpenter

Groceries to 104 families
Utility Assistance-\$1528.61



GLORIA IN
EXCELSIS
DEO ☆



Advent is upon us and soon we will be deeply into the many preparations for Christmas. As I considered a hymn to highlight this month, I reflected on how important music is to the Christmas season.

Many of us await the singing of our favorite hymns like a visit from a long cherished friend. Without those carols, for many of us Christmas just isn't complete. Memories accompany much of the music we hear. It takes us back to family and traditions long a part of our lives. It can be a bittersweet experience or a warm, wonderful time for remembrance.

This month's hymn, ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH, is a hymn with treasured memories for me. Gary and I served at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Coral Springs, FL for 35 years. During that time, "Angels" came to represent a high point in our Christmas celebration. It just wasn't Christmas to our choir and our family until we sang that hymn.

LES ANGES DAN NOS CAMPAGNES (ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH) is literally translated "Angels in our countryside" from French. In addition to French, the carol has been translated into English, Scottish Gaelic, Portuguese and German. Bishop James Chadwick, Roman Catholic Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle, translated the carol to English in 1862. It became a favored carol in West England very quickly.

The most common tune is called GLORIA and was arranged by Edward Shippen Barnes. The text is taken from the Gospel of Luke and is the first line of the song the angels sang at the birth of Christ. Probably the favorite part is the melisma (many notes per word) sung on the "Gloria in excelsis" section of the carol. It almost makes you feel like you are actually there and a part of that first angel chorus.

We will be singing ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH (hymn 96) on Christmas eve. I hope to encourage others to love this carol at Otey Parish. Whatever your favorite carols, I encourage you to sing them frequently during this holy season and with joy in your heart. As we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, may God fill your home and your heart with peace. Have a blessed Christmas everyone!

Kathy Sturgis



The Otey Care Committee continues to work quietly behind the scenes and you may not be aware of its offerings to the Otey family. Committee members want the parish to know whom to call when care is needed. We try to keep in touch with needs in the congregation, but urge you to inform any of the members about a pastoral care request.

-Lisa Howick is in charge of meals for those who need a home-cooked boost because of illness or loss. She posts the name of the recipient on a web site called "Take Them a Meal". Then she lets the congregation know of the need, so they can respond to the on-line calendar for delivery dates. The delicious meals have been a joy to create and an even greater joy to deliver.

-Kathleen O'Donohue, the director of Folks at Home, reports that more people are taking advantage of their services than ever before. In one recent 24-hour period, there were five new enrollees! F@H helps those with disabilities or illness to remain in their own homes as long as possible. Equipment that helps achieve that goal is available for lending.

-Ann Seiters represents the Stephen Ministry program. There are a number of people trained to go out as Ministers, and there are others now going through the training program. Stephen Ministers visit those who would like a companion because of illness, crisis, a change in circumstances, and the like. Ann can give you more information on training or receiving care.

-Carol Sampson serves as a visitor to newcomers and represents the ministries at Otey. She takes them a bag of Otey literature and includes a loaf of homemade bread. Carol is a lay chaplain in Chattanooga so is familiar with situations where one may be needed here at Otey. She often provides the committee with new and important ideas for pastoral care.

-Mary Sears schedules the Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs), who, after Sunday services, take Communion to shut-ins who request it. She now has 6 LEVs and would like to have more. A short training period is required, and you can suggest which Sundays are best for you to deliver. Let Mary know if you are interested.

- The Rev. Bill Hethcock has been the link between Joe Ballard's resignation from Otey and the arrival of Jess Reeves as interim rector. Bill and other Sewanee priests have been visiting home-bound parishioners. Father Reeves, who is deeply interested in pastoral care, will be a welcome addition to this committee and we plan to meet with him in January.

Karen Keele, Coordinator

NEW YOUTH DIRECTOR NAMED

Otey Parish is pleased to announce that Neil Patterson has been named youth director. The youth director will coordinate all middle school and high school age youth programs, including Sunday school, Fire on the Mountain, and confirmation classes. Patterson follows Betty Carpenter, who after many years of service as youth director, has transitioned into her role as director of the Community Action Committee. Neil is also on the faculty at Cowan Elementary School. At previous homes in Illinois and Michigan, Neil has served as a junior and senior high Sunday school teacher, church youth group leader, Boys Club leader for 6th-8th grade boys, and is the founder of a YMCA dads/kids playgroup. He holds graduate degrees from Ball State University and the University of Illinois. Neil attends Otey Parish with his wife, Amy, and daughters, Sophia and Isabelle. "I'm honored to be offered this position and I'm eager to meet the youth and continue the great work that Betty and her team of volunteers have been doing," adds Patterson.



We are creating another banner for Otey Parish and we would like your input. Please contact Diane Jones at 423-837-6205 with your suggestions or questions.

Otey Memorial Parish

The Rt. Rev. John Bauerschmidt
Bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee

The Rev. Jess Reeves, Jr.
Interim Priest
jessreevesjr@aol.com

Frieda Hawkins Gipson
Parish Administrator
oteyparish@gmail.com

Church Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:00 am – 12:00 pm
1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Telephone and Fax
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STAFF

- Kathy Sturgis, Organist**
- Gary Sturgis, Choir Director**
- Betty Carpenter, Youth Ministry**
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- Robin Reed, Christian Formation**
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- Amy Spicer, Newsletter**
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VESTRY

- Ann Millar, Senior Warden**
- Roy Millar, Treasurer**
- Amy Burns, Junior Warden**
- Steve Blount**
- Alexander Bruce**
- Doug Seiters**
- Carol Sampson**
- Karen Keele**
- Pratt Paterson**
- David Spaulding**
- Beth Wiley, Clerk**

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING AND THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED OUR PRAYERS:

Lloyd Apirian, Linda Bachand, Amanda Bailey, Elvie Biddle, Carl Bloeser, Rob Boatner, Ann Brewster, Frankye Bright, Jonathan Burnett, Meta Crane, Sally Franklin, Brooks Gunn, Shannon Hackett, Dennis Hastings, Nelda Hastings, Patricia Hawkins, Patrick Irwin, Robert Jones, Marion Kearley, Lisa Keele, Howell Lynch, Mary Farris Lynch, Julie Marsman, Ruth Matlock, Ray Meeks, Cheri Peters, Jennifer Roberts, Marion Rectenwald, Dessie Taylor, Lethia Watson, Elizabeth Wells, and Kathy Woods.

We pray for those serving in Afghanistan and for their families, especially Cole Adams, Dan Chiriboga, and Nick Bauer

Don't Forget!

The deadline for submissions for the January 2014 issue of Otey Notes is:

Wednesday, December 18

Email submissions to:
spicergang@gmail.com

Please include "Otey Notes" in the subject.



December Birthdays

12/1 Shelly Cammack
12/1 Susan Holmes
12/2 Sarah Ward
12/3 Jane Longhurst
12/6 Eric Naylor
12/6 Frank Lankewicz
12/6 Rick Ball
12/6 John Grammer
12/7 Zell Hoole

12/10 Gail Parsons
12/11 Laurie Ramsey
12/12 Kevin Colvill
12/13 Libby Neubauer
12/14 Carolyn Fitz
12/14 Eliza McNair
12/15 Rachel Lynch
12/18 Kathy Solomon
12/23 Carol Sampson

12/24 Robert Black
12/24 Addison Willis
12/25 Doug Williams
12/25 Bill Davis
12/26 Nick Evans
12/27 Rick Sommer
12/29 Terri Williams
12/29 Mary Gatta
12/30 Matthew Mollica

