



Otey Notes



RECEIVING SCRIPTURE RIGHTLY

“The man who fears God seeks diligently in Holy Scripture for a knowledge of His will.” With these words St. Augustine begins an important discussion on how to interpret the Bible rightly; that is, reading not just the words on the page, but through the words discerning the mind of its Author, and being transformed by the encounter. For the church Fathers, and especially for Augustine, coming to a greater understanding of the Scriptures depends far more upon the quality of our hearts rather than the learning in our heads, and the result of such understanding is not merely to learn information, but to grow in Christian love, to the strengthening of our faith and hope.

With the birth of the modern university in 18th Century Germany, we began to be told that truly rigorous, ‘academic’ study of the Bible required us to treat the Scriptures as something not of our time and culture, as the ‘classics’ of foreign people who lived long ago, separated from us by great distances in time, geography, culture, and language. To span such great distances and arrive at an understanding of Biblical texts, we were told that great learning in the geography, culture, and politics of ancient Jews, Greeks, etc. was required before one could make any serious headway in understanding the Bible. The interpretation of the text was best left to the experts, to those who had enough knowledge to penetrate the hidden secrets of these ancient and foreign civilizations.

The legacy of this approach is now widely criticized; indeed, how could it not be? Arriving at a complete and accurate understanding of ancient Hebrew and Greek life is simply impossible. The ambiguities inherent in understanding even the physical remnants of the ancient world are profound, let alone the unending and even more-subjective task of trying to understand its thought-processes and culture. Tellingly, the ‘modern’ and ‘critical’ study of the Biblical texts, long-touted as the only sure way to arrive at their true meaning, has resulted in a bewildering array of divergent and contradictory interpretations. The continuing search for the ‘historical’ Jesus, which has produced dozens of versions of the ‘real’

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TAKE NOTE

JANUARY 5,

- ✓ Right Relationships, 10 a.m.
- ✓ Epiphany Pageant, 5 p.m.

JANUARY 12

- ✓ Hunger for clean water, 10a.m.
- ✓ Vestry Installation, 11 a.m.

JANUARY 19

- ✓ Panel on legal justice for the marginalized, 10 a.m.

JANUARY 25

- ✓ Betty Carpenter Ordination
11:15 a.m. St. Pauls
Murfreesboro
- ✓ Ordination reception 7-9
p.m. at Cravens

JANUARY 26

- ✓ Update Diocesan Conv.

JANUARY 31

- ✓ Faith and Film 6:30 p.m.-
“The King’s Speech”

FEBRUARY 28

- ✓ Faith and Film 6:30 p.m.-
“Amazing Grace”

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN

- ✓ JANUARY 12 Spring semester
kickoff - parents invited
- ✓ JANUARY 26: Youth lead
worship services at Otey
parish at 11:00 AM.
- ✓ FEBRUARY 2: Super Bowl
party. More information to
follow.
- ✓ FEBRUARY 28: Movie Night

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Jesus, is but one comical example of the futility of such inquiry as the way forward. In the end, we generally learn far more about these interpreters and scholars themselves than we do about the historical Christ or any other biblical figure. And I would suggest that recent efforts to correct this practice, through so-called “theological” interpretation, tend to be awkward and forced in spite of their intentions, and merely serve to illustrate that the gap between the academic interpretation of the Scriptures and the Christian faith is alive and well.

The academy might find the Bible to be a foreign text, but catholic Christians understand that the native land of Christian Scripture is the Church, in its ongoing life of liturgy and prayer and proclamation. In church, the Scriptures are at home; or rather, the Scriptures themselves are *our* home. In the heart of the devout Christian, the written Word of God is alive and friendly, timeless and ever-new, and it knows *us* even better than we know ourselves. And in showing us our true selves, through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit leads us to ongoing conversion, repentance, and transformation. **One might say that, when read in the Spirit, the Scriptures interpret us rather than we *them*, and show us the way forward by revealing what Christ is making us to be.**

This has been the approach of the Anglican tradition, historically. Our tradition’s understanding of why we pick up the Scriptures in the first place, and to what end, is found complete in a prayer within the [Great] Litany: “That it may please thee to give to all thy people increase of grace to hear meekly thy Word, and to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit; *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*” The correct reception of the Scriptures is enabled by grace, is characterized by a hearty desire for the truth, and produces in us right affections and virtuous works. Archbishop Cranmer expresses this more fully and to great effect in one of his homilies, where he instructs us on how to come to the right interpretation of the Scriptures:

“If you be afraid to fall into error by reading of holy Scripture, I shall shew you how you may read it without danger of error. Read it humbly with a meek and lowly heart, to the intent you may glorify God, and not yourself... and read it not without daily praying to God, that he would direct your reading to good effect; and take upon you to expound it no further than you can plainly understand it. For, as St Augustine saith, the knowledge of holy Scripture is a great, large, and a high palace, but the door is very low; so that the high and arrogant man cannot run in, but he must stoop low and humble himself that shall enter it. Presumption and arrogancy is the mother of all error: and humility needeth to fear no error. For humility will only search to know the truth...” (Homily 1, 12-13).

To know the truth, our Lord simply bids us ask: “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Mt 7:7). The humility of the searching heart is motivated by the love of God, by a hunger for his promises and blessings. This charity leads to true understanding of the Scriptures, and is the same charity which is itself the subject of all Scripture. In other words, it takes love to understand love, in order to grow in love. As St Augustine said, “Scripture enjoins nothing except charity, and condemns nothing except lust, and in that way fashions the lives of men.”



Rev. Dr. Jeremy W. Bergstrom, by permission, part two next month

Rev. Dr. Jeremy Bergstrom whose article on Scripture appears in Part I above, is currently a transitional deacon at Saint John’s Parish, Savannah. His doctoral work was concluded at Durham University, England, where he led seminars and taught before he did so again at Nashotah House. “My teaching and research interests are in Christian Scripture, and in late-antique Christian theology and practice, especially: Christology, prayer, asceticism, early Christian notions of marriage, hermeneutics, and the intersection of classical culture and Christianity.” Please look forward the second installment on receiving Scripture rightly next month.

GREETINGS TO ALL OTEY AND FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN MEMBERS:

I am honored to be the new Youth Director at Otey and I very much appreciate all the kind words and encouragement. Please keep the youth programs in your prayers.

Here's an initial basic plan for the year so that both youth and their families can make plans.

REGARDING FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN:

- We will have a Spring semester kickoff on January 12 at 4:15 p.m. Parents and youth are invited. I would like to get to know some parents – especially if you are interested in assisting with or otherwise supporting any youth events.
- I am hoping to do the ski trip again. Dates to be determined.
- I am looking at the week of Memorial Day for the mission trip. Site and exact dates to be determined (approximately May 28-31).
- January 26: Youth lead worship services at Otey parish at 11:00 AM. This is the day Ms. Betty is ordained as a deacon and there is a small reception after the 11:00 AM service.
- February 2: Super Bowl party. More information to follow.
- February 28: Father Reeves will give an introduction to Wilberforce, Equiano, and the movie **Amazing Grace**, which is a fine production engaging & inspirational for all ages.
- We are looking at doing a fundraiser on Friday February 14 (Valentine's Day). This is a "parents night out" event where we will kid-sit children so the parents can have a date (for a donation). More information to follow.

REGARDING SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will be having both high school and middle school Sunday school classes starting in January. I plan to teach one of the classes, but I am looking for someone to teach the other class. If you are interested in teaching or assisting with Sunday school (or if you know someone who would be interested in teaching or assisting with

Sunday school) please contact me. I would like to get input from the other teacher before making any major purchases of materials for Sunday school.

REGARDING CONFIRMATION CLASS:

Any youth who are interested in being confirmed (or if you want to know what confirmation is all about) please contact me or Father Reeves.

The Bishop will be visiting Otey Parish on April 27, so we will have approximately three months to prepare for confirmation.

Thanks again for all your kind words. I am very excited about continuing the youth program at Otey.

Sincerely,

Neil Patterson

931-598-3494 (home)

616-667-7439 (cell)

neelpeela@yahoo.com

God Willing
The Right Reverend John C. Bauerschmidt, D.Phil.
will ordain
Elizabeth Kincaid Carpenter
Charles Gus Grimes
Bonnie Jean Lloyd
William Burns Rogers
to the Sacred Order of Deacons
Saturday January 25, 2014
at eleven-fifteen o'clock in the morning at
St. Paul's Church
315 Main Street
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Clergy: White Stoles
Your prayers and presence are requested

ORDINATION PARTY IS ON!

January 25 from 7-9 P.M. at Cravens

LAISSEZ LES BONS TEMPS ROULER

 THANKYOU

Dear Friends

This is to acknowledge with gratitude that I received from Otey Parish Treasurer -Mr Roy Millar- your kind check donations totaling to USD 1,511 .

Kindly accept my appreciation to your generosity on behalf of the Patron Friends of Canon Gideon Foundation(The Right Reverend Bishop Wilberforce Kityo) Luwarila; The Chairman (-The Rt Rev Bishop Samuel B Ssekkadde), the Principal of the Hope Institute (Mrs Ruth Ninsiima Mbalinda) , The Hope University Founding Rector (Assoc Prof Grace Muwanguzi Kyeyune) the entire Board, Staff and Students who will benefit from your support.

A team of Sewanee Community friends led by Ms Sally Hubbard, Ms Laura Willis, Ms Kay Mackenzie , Ms Allison Hartley, Prof Amy Patterson and a team of Faculty are helping us to chart the way forward for the "Sewanee-Uganda -Eastern Africa Region Partnership" beyond the Fall 2013 stay and visit. Some are working to initiate the Friends of Canon Gideon Foundation, USA (FOCAGIFO, USA -non-profit) and to open an account with Sewanee Regions Bank where all these checks will be banked and the money transferred to Uganda through the Bank Wire transfer services. Please talk to Mr. Roy Millar with any questions regarding this.

Once we receive the money in Uganda, your kind donation will be spent on the proposal I presented during the Otey Parish discussions I co-facilitated with Prof Amy Patterson on "**Church & Faith Community Efforts to Address AIDS & Hunger Globally**"- on October 6th 2013.

We will then keep you informed on the progress of this important program in the life and ministry of FOCAGIFO Uganda towards

(a) providing holistic education, integrated training and practical support to orphans and other youths made vulnerable by HIV infections and deaths related to AIDS and other life-wasting realities on the ground-through the Hope Institute for transformational leadership & Development (HI-TLD);

b) Educating and training citizens and graduating them as AIDS competent , spiritually empowered, gainfully skilled, productively employed, social justice sensitive and environmental health aware leaders in their families, communities and countries-through the Hope University, Semuto (HUS);

c) Accelerating the local community, national, regional and global Pace in the Race to reach and sustain zero new HIV infections, zero stigma and discrimination and zero AIDS related deaths -through the member organizations, networks, faith communities and individual leaders that constitute Global Working Group on Faith, SSDDIM & HIV

Once again, thank you very much for your love, care and support which made me feel at home. Though they were only four months of Worship together; I felt like I had been an Otey Parish Member, for years.

I leave for Uganda encouraged, strengthened for service and ministry and with more and better hope for the future

Happy Christmas and A Blessed New Year
Respectfully and In Solidarity
Gideon

Rev Canon Dr Gideon Byamugisha
Sewanee Brown Foundation Fellow &
Visiting Professor , Fall 2013
Executive Director, FOCAGIFO, Uganda

 AREYOU WATCHING FOR THE STAR...?

Just like Santa's elves have been preparing for Christmas, our children, under the capable direction of Mary Beth Williams, are preparing for the arrival of the Star and the Magi in Bethlehem. Please plan to join us for the **Epiphany Pageant**, *Sunday, January 5, 2014 at 5:00 PM* as our children tell the story of Jesus' birth in word and song. Kathy Sturgis and Ruth and Sophie Swallow will provide wonderful musical accompaniment. Following the service, you are invited to celebrate with the children at a reception, coordinated by Jill Mollica and Kelley Black, in Brooks Hall.

 FOLK TALES FROM FOLKS AT HOME

My job is wonderful; I get to connect people in community and coordinate access to services. What could be better than that? “Folk Tales” are the stories of the work of Folks at Home (F@H) and our Timebank (South Cumberland Plateau Timebank).

Our Equipment Exchange is one example of how we connect community and coordinate services.

A Lift Chair was donated to us by a local family and a community member needed one.

Two men with a truck delivered and set up the chair as a Service Exchange with our Timebank.

I made a home visit later that day, met the neighbor admiring the lift chair, and spoke with the client about additional needs. I returned to the home for a 2nd time with additional DME (durable medical equipment) including a rollator walker with a seat. I then installed in the restroom: a tub transfer bench to make the bathtub shower accessible and “a frame with arms” over the commode to make use easier. Thanks to donations of equipment, time and skills, one person can remain home with increased access and safety. We also can provide a grab bar; let us know if you’d like to be a grab bar installer!

Transportation is a great way that community members provide service, either as service exchanges logged with our Timebank or as F@H Volunteers. We serve clients who need transportation to medical appointments, therapy, and grocery/pharmacy shops. Current transportation being provided (and in need of drivers) are trips to EHH and Grandview for therapy, to Monteagle on Thursday evening, and to Winchester and Monteagle for groceries. You may sign up and we’ll call to see if you’re available when a need arises.

Friendly Visitors are usually quite appreciated, especially for community members who no longer get out and about often. One F@H volunteer was matched with a local family and met with them weekly for a year, bringing groceries from CAC as well. Ten (10) University students participated with F@H through a CEL (Community Engaged Learning) course. Each was matched with a F@H client with whom they met 5 +

times, visited, and assisted with chores in the home or garden. This is a great intergenerational experience for everyone involved. If you’d like to be a friendly visitor, contact us.

Coordinating access to services and connecting community takes many shapes and sizes. People of all ages participate as donors and funders, as volunteers, and by making Timebank service exchanges. Vetted vendors are also available with skills for hire to meet specific needs; this supports our local economy too. Folks at Home and the SCPTimebank will connect you with the services you need.

Please contact Frieda, Susan or Kathleen for more information about services you need, membership, or how to become involved. Folks at Home, 931-598-0303, folksathomesewanee@gmail.com,

<http://folksathome.sewanee.edu>, 400 University Ave., P.O. Box 291, Sewanee, TN 37375-0291.

Let Heaven And Nature Sing

This year the carol JOY TO THE WORLD has been featured several times in our celebration of Christmas. The author of this hymn was Isaac Watts (1674- 1748) who penned over 700 songs for church use. Two of his others celebrated hymn texts were When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, and O God Our Help in Ages Past. All of his texts were paraphrase of biblical texts. Joy to the World is based on Psalm 98. The text first appeared in THE PSALMS OF DAVID, IMITATED IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT published by Watts in 1719.

Watts was a genius and a nonconformist. His father had been imprisoned twice for his religious views. Watts was fluent in Greek, Latin and Hebrew. He studied with a clergyman who hoped to inspire Watts to study and be ordained in the Church of England. Watts instead declined and attended a Nonconformist Academy in Stoke Newington in 1690. Later he joined an independent congregation in 1693. Given his religious views, that his hymn would become a favorite Christmas hymn seems rather odd. It doesn’t mention Mary,

Joseph, the shepherds, a manger or the wise men, yet it has become a prominent traditional carol. For more than a century the hymn was sung to numerous tunes which fit its poetic common meter. None illuminated the text to make it memorable.

One hundred years passed between the writing of the text and the tune that would make it so intriguing. Originally it was attributed to Handel because of its similar style. In fact the composer was an ardent fan of Handel and did incorporate themes from the MESSIAH by Handel in the piece. The composer even gave credit to borrowing his style from Handel. But the tune was written in 1836 by an American hymn composer of note, Lowell Mason (1792-1872). Mason was a Presbyterian and a music educator in Boston. In 1839 Mason published his setting of JOY TO THE WORLD. He called the tune ANTIOCH after the Syrian city where St. Paul left on his first missionary journeys. According to Acts: II:26, this was the first place where the disciples were called Christians. And the rest, as they say, is history. Mason's tune has now become indelibly associated with Watts text and a major inclusion in most hymnals. Of all of the sacred carols, "Joy" is possibly the most positive and uplifting declaration of the message of Christmas. Its original lyric was "Joy to the Earth" and later Earth was changed to World. Perhaps Isaac Watts envisioned spreading the WORD beyond this planet. Did I mention he was Genius? Perhaps he was a visionary as well. Happy New Year everyone!

Kathy Sturgis

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE EASTER SEMESTER

Our "Hunger: Faith in Action" series will address people's hunger for clean water and dignity and respect in end of life times, with the marginalized and often outcast. We will offer a new series, "Lent 4.5," which addresses how we might live lives of greater compassion and gratitude. We will review ways to be better consumers and stewards of our earth and natural resources each week. We will have a special project for our families and young children, "2 Cents a meal," to participate in our homes during Lent. We look forward to your joining us each week as we learn and then serve the hungry amongst us.

COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

The beginning of the new year offers the opportunity not only to look forward to exciting things to come but also to reflect on the events of the past year. For CAC, reflections of 2013 are sweet memories of the good work done by so many to sustain this important outreach ministry of Otey Parish. In 2013 CAC distributed over twelve thousand pounds of food and offered assistance to 150 families. The client base has increased and we are entering the new year with great hope that not only will we continue to offer help to all who come to us; but also expand the types of things we do. This way we can better equip our clients to help themselves. The completion of the new Parish Hall will offer endless possibilities for CAC to live out its mission.

Volunteers are always needed and a good New Year's Resolution can be to sign on with CAC. We need volunteers to:

- Pack Groceries
- Unload Food from Second Harvest 1x month
- Pick Up fresh produce 1x Month from Winchester
- Volunteer in the Office
- Help with the Community Garden Project
- Visit Clients
- Help with Fund-Raising

Start off the New Year by helping CAC the outreach ministry of our Parish

Betty Carpenter

FAITH AND FILM...

Our "Faith and Film" series continues the last Friday of every month at 6:30 PM.

Future offerings include:

JANUARY 31 "The King's Speech," hosted by Carol Sampson

FEBRUARY 28 "Amazing Grace," hosted by Fr. Jess Reeves

We are looking for hosts and hostesses for the following dates: March 28, April 25, and May 30. The host/hostess picks the film and provides any preview if desired. The Christian Formation Committee provides simple refreshments (popcorn, lemonade, coffee). These evenings are a wonderful time to fellowship with other Otey members and watch and discuss great films.

If you are interested in hosting a "Faith and Film" night, please contact Robin Reed at (636-0010).



NEW LEADERSHIP FOR TAKE THEM A MEAL MINISTRY

Ann Aiken, Shelley Cammack, and Carol Sampson will be working as a team leading the parish ministry of pastoral care for individuals or families needing supportive care and prepared food. The occasions for this ministry include serious illness of a family member, help for parents of a newborn, death of a loved one, and aging parishioners, to name a few of the most common instances.

We will continue to use the Take Them A Meal website (Takethemameal.com) to print any information on any dietary restrictions or requests, and most importantly, to post a schedule so anyone can sign up. The meal schedule is updated as people sign up. The names of persons needing meals will be put in the service leaflet each Sunday as a reminder. In order to use the website, type in the person's last name, and password of 'Otey' and view the meal schedule and other information such as address, days for receiving, dietary restrictions and contact information for person/persons receiving.

Lisa Howick has led this ministry for the past few years and served on the Otey Care Team. She developed this program in order to provide meals for parishioners, and she deserves our appreciation and admiration. Most important, others are needed to join in to expand while continuing this valuable meal ministry.

All requests for meals should come through the priest, from the recipient to Carol or Karen.

SOON IT WILL BE TIME to update our Parish Directory. Please check your entry information in your directory and let Frieda know if there are any changes. If you do not have the most current directory (March 2013) at home, come by the Otey office

Otey Memorial Parish

The Rt. Rev. John Bauerschmidt

Bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee

The Rev. Jess Reeves

Interim Priest

Frieda Hawkins Gipson

Parish Administrator

oteparish@gmail.com

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday

8:00 am – 12:00 pm

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Telephone and Fax

(931) 598-5926

(931) 598-9537

STAFF

Kathy Sturgis, Organist

Gary Sturgis, Choir Director

Betty Carpenter, Youth Ministry

campcc2@msn.com

Robin Reed, Christian Formation

DrRobinAReed@gmail.com

Betty Carpenter, CAC Director

cacoteparish@gmail.com

Sheila Layne, Nursery Director

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

Newly Elected

Larry Barker

Steve Ford

Laura Willis

*Term ends in January

The parish prayer list, Prayers of the People, e.g. need to be renewed and refreshed seasonally. Therefore, please notice that we will seasonally clear the list with the earnest invitation that if you have names that you would like included—you will need to submit or resubmit them. This will assure us a current list. Let us look forward to starting afresh on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2014.

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

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

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

Don't Forget!

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

Wednesday, January 15
Email submissions to:
spicergang@gmail.com

Please include "Otey Notes" in the subject.



January Birthdays

1/2	Chris Van de Ven	1/12	Marjorie Burnett	1/23	Willie SommerBlack
1/2	Zoe Grammer	1/13	Glen Smalley	1/25	Kathy Sturgis
1/3	Priscilla Fort	1/13	Waring McCrady	1/25	Alice Cammack
1/3	Mary Ellen Williams	1/14	Bobbie Ballard	1/26	Henry Agee
1/4	Doug Burns	1/15	Ward Cammack	1/26	Bronwyn Westling
1/4	John Bratton	1/15	Michaela Shackelford	1/26	James Williams
1/4	Carey Wofford	1/16	Mary Priestly	1/27	Anna Lee Eyatt
1/7	Karen Keele	1/17	Noel Workman	1/27	Margaret Wilson
1/7	Michael Hurst	1/18	Mickey Suarez	1/27	Katie Hurst
1/8	Amy Burns	1/20	Min Xi Huskey	1/28	Louise Irwin
1/8	Tessa Shackelford	1/21	John Jenkins	1/28	Browning Gorrell
1/8	Eleanor Dallas	1/21	Cal Winton	1/29	Barbara Goodson
1/9	Lisa Howick	1/22	Myers Gorrel	1/29	Luciana Mollica
1/11	Joel Cunningham	1/22	Griff Wilson		