



Otey Notes



SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER

Fire on the Mountain got a jump start on the Holidays with visits to our senior citizens and shut-ins. It was a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon delivering cookies and connecting the generations. Beginning at the hospital in Winchester and working our way up the mountain, this outstanding group of youth spread joy and love to many of our beloved citizens.

December 2-Lessons and Carols
December 9-Caroling at the Hospital

Betty Carpenter



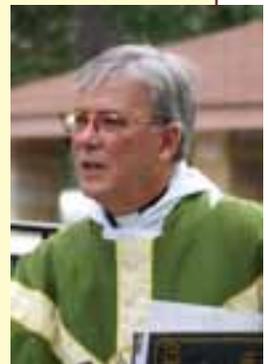
Fire on the mountain visits with Frankeye Bright, Dessie Taylor, Jim And Sally Franklin, Trink Beasley, Mary Collins, and Ann Boykin.



FROM THE RECTOR.....

Theologian and author Fredrick Buechner tells the story of a special insight he had one Christmas Eve in Vermont many years ago. He and his family were at home and had finished all the Christmas Eve stuff. They'd been to church, and heard the story they loved of the Christmas child "wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." The children were in bed, the presents were placed beneath the tree, and a cup of cider and cookie were placed on the mantle for Santa.

Although Buechner was bone tired, just before he climbed the stairs to go to bed, he remembered he had promised a neighbor that he would feed their sheep while the family was away. It was snowing heavily, so he and his brother, who was visiting for the holidays, put on heavy boots and winter coats for the one hundred yard trek to the neighbors' farmyard. Once inside the barn they hauled out a bale of hay, loosened the ties, and began forking the hay into the manger.

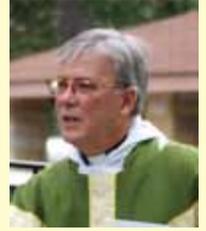


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FROM THE RECTOR

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The sleepy sheep began bumbling their way to the musty smelling hay when Buechner suddenly realized the truth of the moment--- all the world is a manger, and it always will be. That Christmas Eve in Vermont as he forked hay into the manger while heavy snow fell outside, he realized that God is always entering his Creation.



How does God enter our lives? Is there a manger for the Christ Child, for the Incarnation, in our hearts? Do we see Christ in each other as we help with CAC and visit sick friends and shut-ins? Do we see Christ in our lives as we deliver presents to family and friends and share in the decorating of the Church? If your answer is yes---- good. If not---- hmmm.

This Christmas Season, let us each stop and remember: All the world's a manger, and it will be forever and ever.

God's peace,

Joe

UPDATE FROM THE CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

Understanding that this process is still in motion, and subject to change, the following is an update on where we are:

After extensive talks with the chosen contractor (American Constructors, Nashville) , a call was made to another contractor (RVC, Winchester) to see if there was an interest in providing Otey Parish with an alternative proposal. They (RVC), expressed a willingness to do that, and are in the process of compiling numbers for us to consider. The construction committee provided to RVC the architects plans and vestry approved budget. The indication is that they can proffer us their cost by the end of November. We have also asked American Constructors to continue to refine their costs. The projected construction time is estimated to be seven months. If we can be resolved by the middle of December, all our support groups and parish family can be in new quarters by end of summer.

We have been preparing for construction for some time and will continue to do preparatory work such as asbestos removal and tree removal (those marked with yellow tape), so as to not delay work beginning asap.

The construction committee asks your prayers and continued patience with our efforts.

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Bob Burns | Bill Mauzy |
| Roy Millar | Barbara Prunty |
| Drew Sampson | Mickey Suarez |

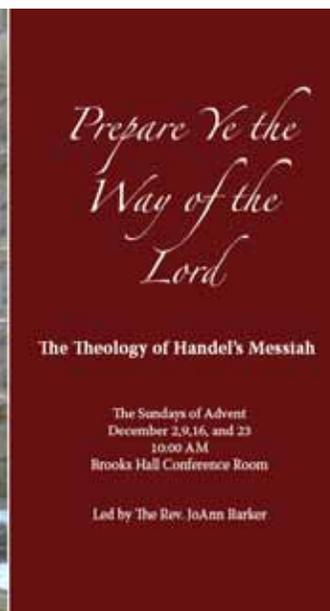
CELEBRATING ADVENT.....

As the Christian year comes to a close, we turn our hearts and minds towards the season of Advent. Advent which means "coming" is a season of expectant waiting and preparation.

In her book, *Awaiting the Child*, Isabel Anders reminds us that we can imagine Advent to be like a triptych. Advent images of old, today, and the future are held in tension. We remember Christ's birth in Bethlehem, our daily experience of Christ in our hearts by faith, and Christ's second coming in glory: Christ who was born, Christ who is alive in our hearts, and Christ who will come again! Reflecting upon these mysteries takes time and an attitude of intention and openness. This is quite challenging in our secular culture that declares Thanksgiving Thursday to be "Black Friday" even before the day is over!!

At Otey Parish, we encourage you to join us in time honored traditions and rituals to help quiet your mind and open your heart to the mystery of this season. Listen, watch, and sing as we celebrate the "hope" of Advent with blue paraments and clergy vestments and special Advent hymns. Enjoy the growing light from our large Advent Wreath each week. The Advent Wreath, which represents eternity, has five candles which symbolize the coming of Christ's light in the world. Each week, candles will be lighted in succession: the first, second, and fourth weeks' will have purple candles, while the third week will have a pink candle for Rose Sunday. These candles symbolize hope, love, joy, and peace. A fifth, white candle, placed in the wreath's center, represents purity and will be lighted on Christmas Eve.

Weekly reflections for Advent, based upon Mary's Magnificat, will be available in the church narthex and the



front tables in Brooks Hall. Please take one home to use with your Advent Wreath each night and enjoy the daily Bible Readings with your family. On Sunday mornings in Advent, please join The Rev. Jo Ann Barker in Brooks Hall Conference Room as she leads "The Theology of Handel's Messiah." Adults and Youth will listen to and study perhaps the greatest religious

composition of all time. Jo Ann will show how deeply integrated the Biblical texts are with this moving music. You will never listen to this exquisite music quite the same way again! Your faith will be enriched by a deeper appreciation of both the words and the music to this profoundly spiritual oratorio!

The Children, with their wonder and awe, will be preparing for the Epiphany Pageant during the month of December. Please encourage them to sing and sing with them as we prepare for the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Be sure to mark your calendars for Monday, December 24, at 4:30 PM as the children lead us in the annual Creche service.

In the midst of the busyness of this holiday season, may you take time each day to remember the mystery of Christ's birth, His presence with you each day, and His coming in glory.

Happy Advent! -

----Robin Reed----

COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE



What does it take to feed the hungry? What does it take to care for those who live in poverty? What does it take to attend to the needs of those who struggle? Who will do the work? These are not trick questions but questions I ask myself on a daily basis. I have answers to some of these questions and it is clear to me that it takes ALL of us working together in the spirit of compassion so that we can rest assured that the work continues.

A recent example of what that looks like was our Thanksgiving Feast where over 100 people participated and included university students, clients, University Catering, parishioners and community volunteers. Buy local emphasizes support of local farmers and businesses. I say we think "GIVE LOCAL" to support the work of CAC as we reach out to those of the Sewanee community who are in desperate need of food and assistance with utilities, housing, medical and dental care. In the spirit of thankfulness, please consider a monetary gift to CAC this year and volunteer your precious time. The needs are never ending, the work is never done and the shelves are quickly emptied.

Betty Carpenter



*Volunteers Jimmy and Gary cutting up in the kitchen.
And a fine feast it was!*



Volunteers pulling together for CAC Thanksgiving feast.



Volunteers unloaded 1800 pounds of food.



Members of TKP sorority help stock shelves.

 FOLKS AT HOME

Folks at Home (F@H), a sponsored project of Otey Memorial Parish, is growing, changing, and continuing our mission as a local nonprofit organization developed for and dedicated to assisting its members in continuing a dignified and comfortable lifestyle in the community through coordination of services they need during elder years. Anyone of any age is invited to participate. The support of individual donors and volunteers, with support from the Community Chest and the Dandridge Trust, is what makes the work of Folks at Home possible.

Over the past year F@H scholarship services have blossomed from 2 full-time members to over 25 scholarships, ranging from 1 month to ongoing monthly service assistance. Examples included:

- Collaborated with the CAC and Senior Center to assure that groceries and a daily meal made it to the home of a person who was disabled, homebound, and unable to get to the store or afford the daily meal.
- A home visit and needs assessment was completed and follow-up phone calls continue.
- Responded to a call for durable medical equipment (DME) from a person awaiting discharge from the hospital. A home visit evaluation was done, and 2 items from the F@H Equipment Exchange were installed in the bathroom. A visit to the patient in the hospital revealed the need for another DME item that was not covered by insurance and was cost-prohibitive, which F@H got to the home.
- After hospital discharge, a Volunteer student made a friendly visit to ask if all needs were met.
- Otey parishioners asked F@H to assist a person post surgery. A home visit and needs assessment was completed, and DME placed in the home. This grandmother raising grandchildren had multiple health and stress challenges. F@H collaborated with multiple entities to get respite scholarship money to pay for a week of summer camp for the 2 children. F@H continues to work with this family through regular phone calls, home visit volunteers, information and referrals, and continued collaboration with others.

Folks at Home has been awarded a grant from the CFSCCP to start and incubate a regional Time Bank. Here are the broad goals of this regional Time Bank, also known as a service exchange network.

“A Time Bank matches organizations and individuals in need of assistance with people who can provide it. The Timebank catalogs individuals’ and organizations’ strengths, skills, and willingness to help others, and then links these organizations and individuals together to help meet their respective needs. Time Banking is a community development tool and works by facilitating the exchange of skills and experience within a community. It aims to build the ‘core economy’ of family and community by valuing and rewarding the work done in it. Time Banking values everyone’s time as equal, 1 hour equals 1 hour, or 1 credit. For every hour you spend helping someone in your community you are entitled to an hour of help in return. All manner of skills are recognized from walking with someone to baking a cake. Organizations and community groups can also be members of a Time Bank. They can use Time Banks to trade skills, expertise, and additional hours of volunteer help when needed.” The universal core values of Time Banks are: Assets, Reciprocity, Redefining Work, Community, and Respect. For more information on Time Banks, visit the website of TimeBanks USA <http://timebanks.org/about>. Other model organizations, quoted above, are the Visiting Nurse Service of NY (VNSNY) Community Connection TimeBank <http://www.vnsny.org/community/in-the-community/community-connections-timebank/>, the largest in the U.S., and the Rushey Green Time Bank <http://www.rgtb.org.uk/index.html>, the largest time bank in SE London, UK.

People of all ages are invited to join Folks at Home as Members, Vendors, Volunteers, Donors, and as Advisors, Board, or Committee Members. Your support, questions and suggestions are welcome. Our office hours vary on Monday through Thursday, as we are in and out from 9:00am to 5:00pm. For more information, you may call, e-mail, come by, or visit our website at <http://folksathome.sewanee.edu> Please contact us, Kathleen O’Donohue, Director, Folks at Home, 400 University Ave., P.O. Box 291, Sewanee, TN 37375. (931)-598-0303 folksathomesewanee@gmail.com



**THE EPIPHANY PAGEANT IS AROUND
THE CORNER!!**

Children, ages 3-11, come one and come all!! Mark your calendars for The Epiphany Pageant on January 6, 2013 at 4:30 PM. Look for the sign up sheets which will be distributed in your Godly Play classes, on the tables near the entrance of Brooks Hall, and also sent out via e-mail. Mary Beth and Jay Williams will be leading you again this year as you help us tell the story of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. You can sign up for a speaking part or an angel, shepherd, or animal of your choice.

Have your parents or grandparents help you complete the form and return to either Mary Beth or Jay Williams or deposited in Robin Reed's box in Brooks Hall. We'll have singing practice in the church the mornings of December 9 and 15 during the Sunday School hour. On Saturday morning, January 5, 2013 we will have our dress rehearsal with the time to be announced. Children, if you would rather watch The Epiphany Pageant, we will have one Godly Play Class (for children in Godly Play I, II, and III) in the Godly Play II room on both December 9th and 16th.

If you have parents or older brothers and sisters who wish to be either in the Epiphany Pageant or assist with costumes, management, etc. you are welcome to bring them to join in the fun!



Questions/concerns: Mary Beth and Jay Williams (636-3736).



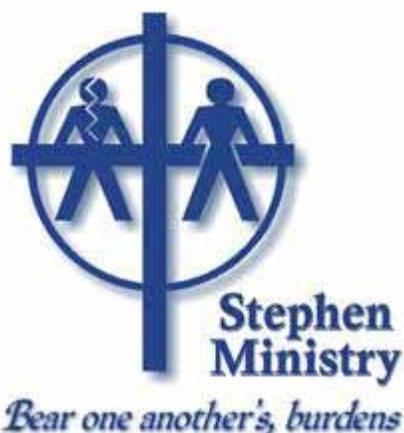


Stephen Ministry News

We are excited to announce that a new training class for Stephen Ministers will start this January 2013. Several folks have shown interest in this training and I imagine many more have thought about this ministry; so perhaps now is the time for us to act upon our inner calling to think seriously about doing this wonderful form of ministry, and take advantage of the Otey training class.

What exactly is Stephen Ministry? It is all of the caregiving and leadership that the Stephen Series brings to a congregation. Also, Stephen Ministry refers to the one-to-one caregiving that Stephen Ministers provide. This training prepares one for helping those in need, including persons coping with things like loss of a loved one, loneliness, unemployment, empty nest, hospitalization and other life transitions. After training, Stephen Ministers typically are assigned one care receiver at a time and meet with that person for about one hour each week. Stephen Ministers usually serve for two years, which includes the initial 50 hours of the terrific training followed by twice monthly supervision and continuing education sessions.

During the month of December there will be an interviewing process for those interested. The interview dates will be announced by our all parish e-mail, church web page, service sheet and some by phone. If you would like to know more about Otey's Stephen Ministry please contact Joe Ballard, Ken Taylor, Lynn Taylor or Ann Seiters.



Otey Memorial Parish

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Bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee

The Rev. Joe Ballard
Rector

Frieda Hawkins Gipson
Parish Administrator
oteyparish@gmail.com

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1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

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Sheila Layne, Nursery Director

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VESTRY

Ann Millar, Senior Warden

Roy Millar, Treasurer

Henry Chase, Assistant Treasurer

Amy Burns, Junior Warden, Existing Buildings

Steve Blount

Doris Carlisle

John Grammer

Karen Keele

Pratt Paterson

David Spaulding

Beth Wiley, Clerk

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

Don & Sue Armentrout, Barbara Ball, Elvie Biddle, Louise Blount, Richard Blount, Jane Bonin, Christine Booth, John Bordley, Dwayne Brewer, Ann Brewster, Frankie Bright, Jonathan Burnett, Chris Cameron, Willie Cocke, Michelle Cooper, Suzie Coughlan, Yvette Cowell, Meta Crane, Louvica Davis, Jim Franklin, Sally Franklin, Ray Green, Allison Greene, John Green, Brooks Gunn, Amy Hanna, RJ Hughes, Patrick Irwin, Richard Jones, Robert Jones, Howell Lynch, Mary Farris Lynch, Julie Marsman, Ruth Matlock, Patty Mayeux, Ned McCrady, Sally McCrady, Penny McIntosh, Ray Meeks, Moses Mulovi, Sheila Naidu, Mary Bethany Neal, Rod Nunley, Marion Rectenwald, Michael & Miranda Rectenwald, Margot Reed, Brian K. Smith, Barbara Springer, Sarah & Gavin & Ryan & Jon Stewart, Dessie Taylor, Lethia Watson, Tyler White, Jane Williams, Kathy Woods, and Harry Yeatman.

We pray for those serving in Afghanistan and for their families, especially Kevin Stewart.

Don't Forget!

The deadline for submissions for the January 2013 issue of Otey Notes is:

Wednesday, December 19

Email submissions to:
spicergirls@nerdshack.com

Please include "Otey Notes" in the subject.



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