

Otey Notes



CAC

As we end this year of transition at CAC I would like to thank everyone for your help and support. We are very fortunate to have a core of dedicated volunteers, hard working board members, enthusiastic college students and a generous faith community. These are all positive assets which ensure the continuation of this vital ministry of our parish.

As the new year approaches, please consider becoming involved at CAC, the possibilities are endless. It is a great way to learn about the needs of others who so desperately need our help. CAC needs drivers for Second Harvest food pickups, grocery bag packers, office organizers, dreamers and visionaries. A dollar spent at Second Harvest Food Bank buys four dollars worth of food, in other words more bang for your buck. Monetary donations allow us more purchasing power for food items which helps in this economy. We need food donations for the shelves empty quickly. We need you, it will be an experience you will not regret.

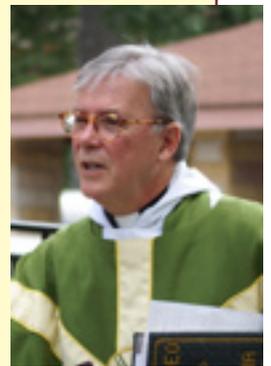
Betty Carpenter



Girl Scouts, Dixie Knight, Rylie Grandmason, & Brooklynn Grandmason help out stocking the shelves.

FROM THE RECTOR.....

It is Friday December 21st. This morning, at 8:30, my friend Roy Millar and I were in the Bell Tower of Otey Parish, ringing Otey's Church bell twenty-six times, once for every victim of the Newtown, CT, tragedy. This was at the request of Connecticut Gov. Malloy, who asked that Church bells across the nation ring today at 9:30 a.m. EST (8:30 CST) to mark the one-week anniversary of the tragic deaths at Sandy Hook Elementary School. I know that the bell of the Chapel of the Apostles rang concurrently with ours, as I presume did many on the mountain. I heard a correspondent on the news saying that it will take a "long time for the families in Newtown who lost a loved one to get over this" -- I know that reporter wishes she could take those words back, as we know that there are some things we NEVER get over. By the grace of God, over time, we simply learn to live with them.



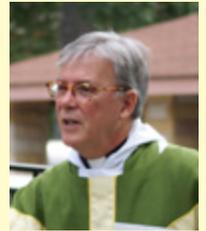
This is the world, two thousand years ago, into which the Christ Child was born. It seems terrorism isn't new. The holy birth occurred in

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FROM THE RECTOR

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Bethlehem because of an act of oppression, and a threat of violence, when Mary and Joseph were forced to travel from Nazareth to their ancestral home of Bethlehem by a decree of an occupying army. In the final days of Mary's pregnancy, no less. And, hauntingly, the massacre of innocent children is woven into the story. On Dec. 28th, in Lesser Feasts and Fasts, we remember "The Holy Innocents," the other children of Bethlehem, the ones slaughtered by King Herod in a fearful rage when Joseph fled with Mary and Jesus to Egypt following the warning of an Angel. Our Christmas story is miraculous--- it is not benign, or cute.



The birth of the Christ Child does NOT render the presence of evil in the world impotent. The birth of the Christ Child does NOT relieve us of the reality of the world we have made of God's Creation. But the birth of the Christ Child DOES call us to wake up, to look around us, and to participate in the work begun when a babe was placed in a manger by his Holy Mother on an undoubtedly tense and awkward night 2,000 years ago. The birth of the Christ Child is a call to action--- a call to take and active part in the continuing unfolding of the glorious Kingdom of God.

I wish you a Merry Christmas--- a Christmas where you see a chance to make the world a better place, and take it. A Christmas where you see a chance to reach out to your family, and those who have do not have family, and to offer them love, hope and joy, and take it. The birth of the Christ Child is a call to action--- every day at Otey Parish we try to answer that call, we try to be doers of God's word, not merely hearers. A worthy goal--- to know God's will, to have strive to have the resources to accomplish it, and make it happen.

And so it feels we can have, despite the evil events in Newtown, a Holy Christmas, indeed. Please do continue to keep those men, women and children in your prayers. You are in mine.

God's peace,

Joe

CELEBRATING ADVENT.....



“It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year”... sang the late Andy Williams. And at Otey Parish, this has been and is a wonderful time of year. During Advent , we have waited with longing and anticipation for the birth of the Christ child and experienced the tension with remembering His birth and awaiting His second coming. We have experienced the tension between keeping the sacred and enjoying the secular in our lives. We have waited with Mary for the moment that the world would be changed forever.

And, then before we know it, Christmas Eve is upon us! And we can embrace the most wonderful news: Christ is born in our hearts! Christ, who was born to the Virgin Mary so long ago, becomes incarnate, so that He might live and breathe life in us this Christmas season and always. Each year, our children remind us of this blessing as they lead us in welcoming the birth of the Christ child at Christmas. At the early Christmas Eve

service, the children tell the story of so long ago: Mary and Joseph came to Bethlehem only to find a lowly stable for the birth of their son, Jesus, the Christ child.

With our children’s wonder, joy, and enthusiasm we welcome the Christ child and the season of Christmas. Finally, we can embrace our favorite Christmas hymns that we have waited so patiently during Advent to sing. And, the sound of those hymns sung by young and old fills our church with wonderful memories and music!



All during the Advent Season, our children, under the gifted direction of Mary Beth and Jay Williams, have been preparing to tell the story of the Epiphany... the coming of the Wise Men, the Magi, to Bethlehem. As the baby Jesus welcomes the Magi to Bethlehem, the wonderful message our children learn and share is that Jesus Christ welcomes all... Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female, young and old, gay and straight, black and brown and white at the manger and into His loving arms.



Please come celebrate the magic and the mystery, the joy, enthusiasm, and inclusiveness our children offer at the Feast of the Epiphany. Over twenty of our children ages three to eleven will be telling this story... you won't want to miss it! The Feast of the Epiphany begins at 4:30 PM, Sunday, January 6, 2013. After the service, a reception for the children and their families will be held in Brooks Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to bring friends and neighbors to this joyous service!

----Robin Reed----



LOOKING AHEAD IN CHRISTIAN FORMATION....

ADULTS-----"A Journey with Luke"...January 6 - February 10th examining Luke's travels led by a team of scholars; "The Messiah, Part II" with Rev. JoAnn Barker during Lent

YOUTH and ADULTS---- Confirmation Class, led by Fr. Joe Ballard and Betty Carpenter...
time to be announced



your prayers.

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN closed out the first semester by visiting the hospital and singing Christmas carols for all of the patients. It has been a great experience to work with kids who give willingly of their time to help others. Highlights of our outreach for the fall include the Blue Monarch party, cookie delivery to senior citizens and shut-ins and Christmas caroling at the local hospital. As we close out 2012, I give thanks for the opportunity to work with this outstanding group and look forward to the exciting events planned for 2013. We resume our activities with the Epiphany Service and plans are in the making for a ski trip in late February. Keep us in

Betty Carpenter



A Report on Lay Eucharistic Visitor ministry as part of the Otey Care Team

The Lay Eucharistic Visitor ministry is alive and well at Otey Parish. When this group started, inspired by Louise Irwin's example, we had five to six very dedicated parishioners. This past fall, five new persons offered their time. Currently, we have twelve visitors and one permanent substitute. Our effort is to take Holy Communion to those who cannot be with us in church on Sundays or have a special need.

This is a very rewarding and blessed ministry because you are entrusted to take the sacrament of Christ's body and blood and administer it with prayers and thanksgiving. You also represent the body of Christ as a member of the church as you come to the receiver in the name of Christ. In case you are interested, the liturgy for Communion under Special Circumstances begins on page 397 in the Book of Common Prayer. Anyone who is a communicant of Otey Church can become a Lay Eucharistic Visitor.

There is training involved with explanation of prayers and responses and of the responsibilities of the ministry. We have two meetings a year; one in January and the other in the early autumn for purposes of fellowship and renewing our gifts as ministers.

The names of the present LEVs are: Anna Kathleen Ambrose, Margaret Donohue, Glen Graczyk, Susan Holmes (substitute), Louise Irwin, Brenda Matthews, Carrie Mauzy, Bill Mauzy, Barbara Prunty, Robin Reed, Carol Sampson, Mary Sears, and Lynn Stubblefield.

The original organizers and trainers of our LEVs were The Rev. Bill Hethcock and Carol Sampson. Starting in January, 2013, Mary Sears will replace Carol Sampson as lay leader and coordinator of the LEVs.

Otey Memorial Parish

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

The Rev. Joe Ballard
Rector

Frieda Hawkins Gipson
Parish Administrator
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Roy Millar, Treasurer

Henry Chase, Assistant Treasurer

Amy Burns, Junior Warden, Existing Buildings

Steve Blount

Alexander Bruce

Theresa Shackelford

Carol Sampson

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

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

Don't Forget!

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

Wednesday, January 16

Email submissions to:
spicergirls@nerdshack.com

Please include "Otey Notes" in the subject.



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