

Otey Notes



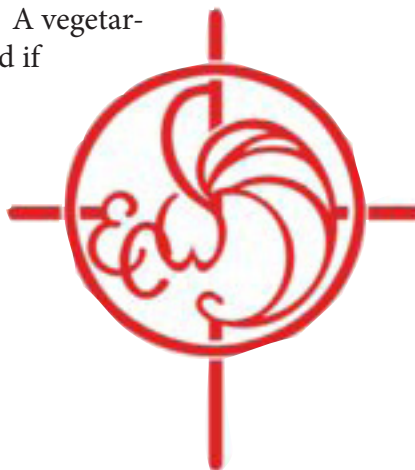
**BROWN PATTERSON
TO SPEAK AT EPISCOPAL
CHURCH WOMEN
MEETING NOV. 5**

The Rev. Dr. W. Brown Patterson, well-known scholar, writer and clergyman, will be the speaker at the luncheon meeting of ECW on Nov.5. Continuing the program

theme of the year, "Notable Women of Faith", Dr. Patterson will talk about St. Margaret of Scotland.

Dr. Patterson, the Francis S. Houghteling Professor of History Emeritus at the university, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters on Founders Day this fall. As a university student (class of '52), he was the ninth Sewanee student to be awarded a Rhodes Scholarship.

All interested persons of the area are invited to join in the fellowship and learning experience of the 12:00 noon meeting at St. James in Midway. Reservations for the \$10 catered luncheon may be made by calling Peggy Lines at 598-586 or e-mailing her at plines@sewanee.edu by 6:00 p.m. on the Saturday prior to the meeting. Working women are encouraged to come and stay as long as they can for the approximately one hour meeting. A vegetarian meal or child care will be provided if requested at the time of reservation.



FROM THE RECTOR.....

It's almost November, so, of course, all the Christmas decorations are decking the aisles of the discount stores and department stores! I hope you'll forgive me for bringing up Charles Dickens' wonderful story, "A Christmas Carol," a bit early. But it is Stewardship season, and although he never uses the word, Dickens' story is about stewardship. It is about the joy of giving.

Scrooge is not a good steward. He hoards what he has been given (time, talent and treasure) and he buries his gifts deep within himself. He cannot give or share, and the result is a twisted, self-absorbed misery. Along with his gifts and talents, Scrooge accumulates and hides all the hurts, resentments and disappointments of a lonely lifetime. In the end, nothing makes him happy. Nothing gives him peace.



There is only one thing that can save this miserable old man from the hell he has made for himself. GIVING--- open, generous, unrestricted giving is the only cure

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FROM THE RECTOR

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for the likes of Ebenezer Scrooge. As long as he holds back --- asking “What’s in it for me” or “What have you done for me lately”--- Scrooge is condemned to live the life that he has made for himself through years of self-centeredness.



Fortunately, Mr. Dickens believed in a God who is generous and forgiving. Old Scrooge is given one last chance to experience life as it was truly meant to be lived. The spirits who visit Scrooge (including Jacob Marley, a former business partner now condemned to haunt the spirit world in chains of his own making) help Scrooge to face painful truths about himself. And by caring enough to confront him with his selfishness, the spirits give Scrooge something far more valuable than all his gold--- they give him a glimpse of who he was, who he is now, and who he can become. That is, who he can become if only he will let go of his bitterness and embrace the joy of giving.

Remember how, following this change of heart, as he hurries to join his nephew’s family for Christmas dinner, Scrooge encounters one of the two “portly gentlemen” who had asked him for a charitable contribution the day before (that day Scrooge threw them out). After greeting the gentleman so warmly that the man barely recognized the old miser, Scrooge whispers in his ear the amount of his pledge. “My dear Mr. Scrooge, are you serious?” cries the gentleman, “as if his breath were taken away.” “Not a farthing less,” says Scrooge. “A great many back-payments are included in it, I assure you. Will you do me that favor?” he pleads.

And then the most amazing thing happens. As the astounded solicitor tries to express his gratitude, old Scrooge says it for him: “Thank you,” says Scrooge. “I am much obliged to you. I thank you fifty times. Bless you!”

In “A Christmas Carol”, Dickens wants each of us to discover what old Scrooge had to learn the hard way: that the only way to hold onto something is to give it away. This is the paradox of giving: the one who gives a gift, from substance and without counting the cost, is the one who is most grateful. Besides being a donor, the generous person is also the beneficiary. That’s why Scrooge says thank you “fifty times” and also why he asks the gentleman, quite sincerely, to do him a favor by accepting the gift.

You have received a Pledge Card for 2013. Please complete it, prayerfully consider increasing your pledge to the work of God at Otey Memorial Parish, and return the card to us as soon as possible. Give back to God from the gifts God has given you. Otey needs your gift, and will use it well--- allow me to say thank you “fifty times.”

Ever afterwards, Mr. Dickens writes, it was said of Scrooge “that he knew how to keep Christmas well.” Like any good steward, Scrooge kept it well by giving it away. And so, as Mr. Dickens observes at the conclusion of his story, “May that be truly said of us . . . every one!”

As we complete our Pledge Cards for 2013, “May that be truly said of us . . . every one!”

God bless you every one.

Joe

WHAT'S NEW IN CHRISTIAN FORMATION....

Our new Christian Formation program, "The Gospel and Its Apps," is focusing on God's call to us to be and become Jesus' disciples as we live our lives each day and strive to love our neighbors.

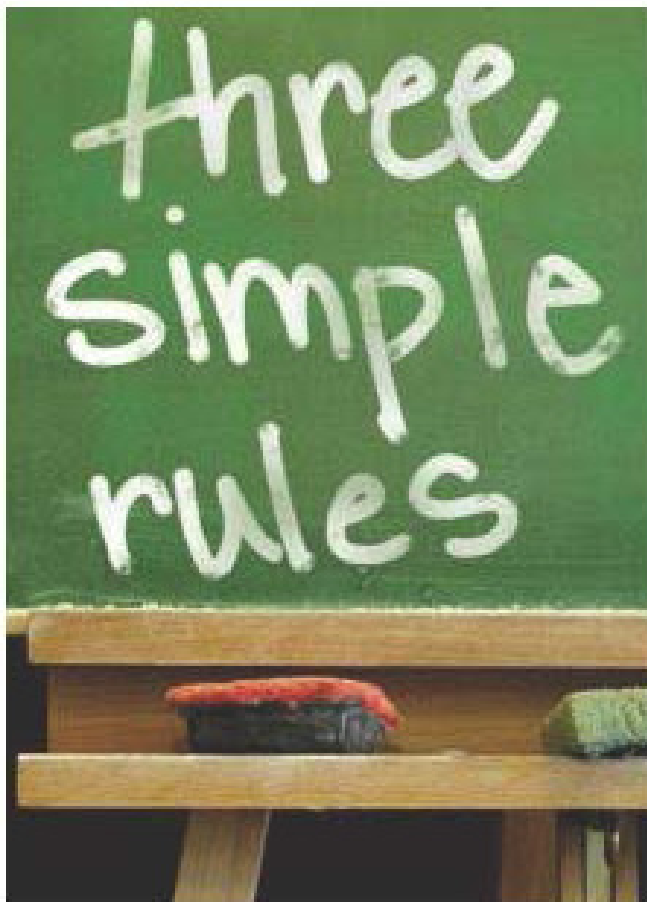
A new series, "Three Simple Rules," was launched for our adults and youth beginning Sunday, October 21st. Based upon a book by The Revs. Rueben Job and Jeanne Torrence Finley, the study offers an interpretation of John Wesley's General Rules for living: Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love with God. This study calls us to mutual respect, unity, and a deeper relationship with God. Both the rules and their applications to daily living will be explored. Adults will be led by Brown Patterson (October 21st), Robin Reed (October 28th), and John Grammer (November 18th). Youth will be led by Alex and Kathryn Bruce. Sunday, November 25th we will combine groups and have a discussion of the Three Simple Rules: how we are called to live and how our love blessed with God's grace can manifest in our hurting world.

Our children, especially those in the Godly Play III class (grades 3-5) are also studying how to be disciples by learning from the saints. Kana Goldsmith, lead teacher, shares:

"For the Advent semester, Godly Play III has been focusing on saints. We have learned about modern and ancient saints as well as how we can be one too. For the next twelve weeks, our class is studying the lives of the twelve apostles, twelve of our first saints in Christian history. It is remarkable how each apostle's life mirrors something in our own day to day experiences. The saints of old may have lived in different cultures in different times but they were patient, brave and true and devoted their lives to following Jesus. And as the favorite hymn reminds us They lived not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still, the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will. You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or shops, or at tea, for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too."

As we move toward our All Saint's Day celebration, November 4th, please consider joining us for the "Three Simple Rules" series or visiting a Godly Play class where the youngest saints are being formed.

----Robin Reed----





YOUTH MINISTRY

The Episcopal Church is a church steeped in tradition. Fire on the Mountain youth group has over the years, established some traditions which enrich lives and teach invaluable life lessons. One such tradition is the annual Halloween Party down at Blue Monarch. Begun as a party for the children of Blue Monarch, it became evident early on that most of the women there had never experienced good old Halloween fun. Bobbing for apples, pumpkin carving, face painting and outdoor games, the things we take for granted, had been absent from the residents' childhoods. So our party has become a Moms and Kids party with everyone benefiting from the exchange.



Another of our youth group traditions is the holiday cookie delivery to senior citizens and shut-ins in

and around the Sewanee community. These visits have connected us with so many interesting individuals and from our visits lasting friendships have developed. And the stories we have heard over the years and the homes where we have been.....priceless! As we continue with another year we will hang on to our old traditions and perhaps some new traditions will emerge. We continue to ask your prayers for the leaders and youth who participate in our programs. It is going to be a great year!



COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE

It has been a little over a month that I have had the privilege of serving our parish as Interim Director for Community Action Committee (CAC). There has been a whirlwind of activity and a long list to check off. I am working my way through the list with the help of long time volunteers and am reminded on a daily basis why CAC is so needed, why it thrives and what as the Body of Christ we all can do to see that the good work continues. As an important outreach ministry we offer food and assistance with electricity, propane, water, medical and dental expenses. Since its founding, the CAC motto remains the same: "A Place to Turn in Times of Need".

We are temporarily housed in the little yellow house but the outreach ministry is far from temporary. The needs of families are greater now than ever before. CAC is the common thread that links our whole community on so many levels and there are many ways to help. Help comes by way of your prayers, time, energy, financial support and willingness to be flexible in this time of transition. It takes all of us to care for those who are scared, hungry, sick or destitute. From serving 20 families at its founding in 1974 to serving over 200 families today, we continue to offer help and hope to those who come to us. Consider a gift of time, talent and financial assistance knowing that it will be a gift that helps those whose needs are great.

Betty Carpenter

NOVEMBER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Nov. 12 Pick Up at Second Harvest-Nashville
- Nov. 13 Pack Groceries-Set Up for Thanksgiving Lunch
- Nov. 14 Thanksgiving Lunch Turkey Give Away



A group of people that has been quietly working behind the scenes has come together to form a team. It's called the Otey Care Team because the work of the team is caring for Otey parishioners and others with needs. Team members are Ann Seiters, representing Stephen Ministries; Kathleen O'Donohue, with Folks at Home; Carol Sampson, who is responsible for Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV's); and Lisa Howick, who arranges for meals to be delivered to parishioners in need. The team meets every few months with our rector, Joe Ballard, and with the chair of the team, Karen Keele. Outside of meetings, the group keeps in close touch by e-mail. Often when a person is in need of one of our services, other needs are ascertained. Through close team communication those needs can also be met.

You are invited to contact any member of the team whenever you need its services. Or notify a team member if you know of someone else who might benefit from them. If you would like to volunteer your time with any of the groups, your help would be more than appreciated. Watch this space for complete descriptions of what each Care Team member's group does.

Think about CAC the next time you are at the grocery store and help restock the shelves .

- Tuna Fish
- Soup
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables

Otey Memorial Parish

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

The Rev. Joe Ballard
Rector

Frieda Hawkins Gipson
Parish Administrator
oteyparish@gmail.com

Church Office Hours
Monday – Friday
8:30 am – 12:30 pm
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Telephone and Fax
(931) 598-5926
(931) 598-9537

STAFF

Lisa Rung, Financial Secretary
lhrung_otey@bellsouth.net

Kathy Sturgis, Organist

Gary Sturgis, Choir Director

Betty Carpenter, Youth Ministry
campc2@msn.com

Robin Reed, Christian Formation
robinrs_otey@bellsouth.net

Betty Carpenter, CAC Director
cacoteyparish@gmail.com

Sheila Layne, Nursery Director

Amy Spicer, Newsletter / Website
spicergirls@nerdshack.com

VESTRY

Ann Millar, Senior Warden

John Solomon, Junior Warden, New Construction

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:

Marilyn Apirian, Don & Sue Armentrout, Barbara Ball, Elvie Biddle, Louise Blount, Richard Blount, Jane Bonin, Dwayne Brewer, Ann Brewster, Jonathan Burnett, Chris Cameron, Brownie Carney, Willie Cocke, Michelle Cooper, Suzie Coughlan, Yvette Cowell, Meta Crane, Louvica Davis, Maureen Donohue, Jim Franklin, Sally Franklin, Ward Goodman, 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, Ray Meeks, Moses Mulovi, Sheila Naidu, Mary Bethany Neal, Rod Nunley, Marion Rectenwald, Michael & Miranda Rectenwald, Michael Rusin, 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. We pray for the victims of war.

Don't Forget!

The deadline for submissions for the December 2012 issue of Otey Notes is:

Wednesday, November 21

Email submissions to:
spicergirls@nerdshack.com

Please include "Otey Notes" in the subject.



Otey Memorial Parish
216 University Avenue
P. O. Box 267
Sewanee, TN 37375-0267
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