



Otey Notes



Christmas Pageant

The children of Otey Parish presented a beautiful and sweet pageant on December 18, the last Sunday of Advent.

A hearty thanks to Kathy Sturgis for playing piano, to Barbara Prunty for leading singing, and to Anna Thomas, Farris Ralston, Carolyn Fitz, Brenda Matthews, Christina Higgs, Rob Lamborn, and everyone else who helped dress angels and shepherds and magi, rehearse lines, and line up children! Thanks also to the parents and children for your dedication.

Jeannie Babb
Christian Formation Director



TAKE NOTE

CHRISTIAN FORMATION SUNDAYS, 10 AM

Lectionary class each Sunday reviews that Sunday's Gospel lesson

ADULT FORUM SUNDAYS AT 10 AM

- ✓ Jan. 8 "Racism in the United States"
John Willis
- ✓ Jan. 15 Celebration of Martin Luther King Day
- ✓ Jan. 22 "Practicing Medicine as a Healing Ministry"

MONTHLY EVENTS

- ✓ Jan. 18 Otey Notes submissions due, 3 pm
- ✓ Jan. 19 Vestry Meeting, 5 pm, Adult Ed.

OFFICE CLOSURES

- ✓ Jan. 16 For Martin Luther King Day

Inclement Weather Policy

It will be Otey Parish's policy to follow the Franklin County School systems closures and delays for inclement weather. If Franklin County schools are closed, Otey Parish will be closed. The Community Action Committee will also be going by this policy. The Sewanee Children's Center will decide and announce its own cancellations.



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CHOIR IN TODAY'S CHURCH

Imagine that it's Christmas Eve. You and your family have just finished watching your favorite Christmas movie, donned your festive pj's, hung your stockings and shaken all of your presents one last time to venture a guess as to what's inside. And now, before the children go to sleep, it's time to read the Christmas story from the book of Luke. You read these familiar passages as your family listens intently. You begin to recall all those childlike images you've pointed in your head since your Sunday School days. And now it's the part of the story where the shepherds are keeping watch over their flocks by night.....but, there was no music. These men were moved by the words of a heavenly choir - a message delivered with the power of a "multitude" of angelic voices that inspired them so much that they quickly went to Bethlehem to see the newborn king. What difference does it make to the story?

Now let me assure you I am not against the modern worship movement. Music is a beautiful medium of worship and we should be thankful for the people who put the time and energy into preparing and leading our corporate worship.

However, it is important to notice the cultural shift that has/is occurring in many churches today. The scenery is changing, and many traditions that have been held by Christians for hundreds of years have all but disappeared. Many of our sanctuaries look less like sacred space set aside for encounters with God and more like theaters. Simple music stands have replaced lecterns and praise bands have replaced the choir. How does that impact your worship experience?

All across the country, schools are cutting music programs entirely and the modern church is following suit by watering down its music and worship programs because the "choir thing" isn't relevant anymore. However, for those of us who are crusading to recover, maintain, or restore the time-honored traditions of the Church, the choir is an essential part of the service. It is a hallmark of the Anglican worship experience. We even are provided a graded music curriculum through the Royal Academy of Music. So why are only some children involved with the program?

Among the many reasons the choir is vital to the life of any church, consider these three:

The choir is an opportunity for involvement. A church's ministry is only as effective as the people in its congregation who choose to get involved. Small groups, outreach teams, and the arts have provided great opportunities for congregants to sow into the life of their church's ministry, and the choir falls under all three of those categories. I've often heard the choir referred to as "the church within the

church". When you join a choir, you're not just singing notes together, you're doing life and ministry together.

The choir is an extension of the pulpit. There are so many fantastic songs that have been written for the Church and many that have yet to be written. But not all songs are necessarily suitable for corporate worship. There are songs that teach, encourage, compel, and call to action, and the choir is a marvelous mouthpiece for such things. By presenting these kinds of songs, the choir takes on a pastoral role, and it brings a rich dynamic to the theme or message of that particular service. This is especially effective in services with a focus or special services like those during Holy Week or the Christmas season.

The choir is a reflection of heaven. The prophet Isaiah gives us a glimpse into God's throne room with angels singing together, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty: the whole earth is full of his glory" (Isaiah 6:3). John paints a similar picture in the book of Revelation. There is a heavenly choir that sings God's praises for all eternity. When we see our friends and family in a choir singing in harmony of voice and spirit, I believe we are momentarily transported (even if only in our minds) to the throne room of heaven. Furthermore, we often see a wide array of ages, capacities, and cultural backgrounds on display in a choir. This, too, is a reflection of heaven - God's people, of every age and every race, worshiping together as one body. It takes a committed group of people to make this happen.

We must not discount the richness the choir brings to the church worship experience. I think many would be surprised by the long-lasting effect a choir program can have on their local church. If your church experience is anything like mine, the choir is a long-held tradition, and traditions enrich the life of the Church. Just because something is thought of as "traditional" doesn't mean it is not relevant for the body of Christ today. Let's strive to keep these traditions alive while moving forward together into a richer and fuller life with Christ!

Kathleen Sturgis



SEWANEE CHILDREN'S CENTER

In December the children of SCC were very busy to travel all around the world. But first, the children used safety precautions by sprinkling Grinch Dust around our school. We did not want the Grinch to steal our Christmas Cheer!

We had a lot to talk about and to celebrate like Christmas in St Lucia, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. We also had a special visit from St. Nicholas. The children especially liked his story about rescuing the boys who had been put into a pickle barrel by a "mean man". They also commented on his hat (miter), and St. Nicholas explained that is was the hat worn by bishops. We learned that St. Nicholas surprises children with little gifts and treats every December because he wants us all to remember that Christmas is a time to think of those in need and to do nice things for other people.

SCC hopes you had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017!



Sandy & the teachers

OTEY BUYS GOAT & CHICKENS

During Advent, we asked children and adults to find the loose change in their car and down in the couch cushions, hoping we could raise enough money to buy one goat through Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD). Instead you brought dollar bills. You contributed fives and tens and twenties!

On the first day of our drive, Ann Seiters brought a little goat cut out of cardboard, who traveled through Claiborne Hall collecting money in a basket. We gathered enough "change" to buy the \$80 goat.

Next we set out egg cartons to collect money for chickens, and you gave enough money to buy a flock and a half of chickens! A flock costs \$135, and can lift a family out of poverty.

A big thanks to Anne Griffin for the suggestion, and Ann Seiters for the artwork!

The Gifts for Life program of ERD is life-changing for individuals, families, and communities all over the world. It goes beyond the principle of "teach a man to fish" by providing the livestock, the education, and the ability to grow far beyond the initial gift.

Although we made this an Advent drive, ERD's Gifts for Life program is transforming lives year-round. You can honor loved ones with these gifts, or simply make a tax-deductible donation to help further the program by visiting: <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-you-can-do/gifts-for-life>.



Jeannie Babb

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN, VERSION 2017

Has 2016 got you down? Welcome to a brand new year! The Pattersons will be in Africa this semester, but those of us still on the mountain will engage in important ministry and exciting activities. The Christian ethos of loving others like ourselves is more important now than ever, and YOU are an important part of bringing that to being in this community and beyond. Here's what you can do:

- Like the Fire on the Mountain FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/fireonthemountainFOTM/>
- Join the email list to keep up with plans (Send your request to oteyformation@gmail.com)
- Work out your faith Sunday mornings in Brooks Hall, 10am
- Join us for activities like bowling, canoeing, and games

**First 2017 Sunday school class
Jan 8, Brooks Hall, 10 am with blueberry muffins**

**First 2017 Fire on the Mountain meeting
Jan 15, Brooks Hall, 4-6pm**

Jeannie Babb

Acting Youth Ministry Director

More Pageant Pictures



CAC—2016 IN PICTURES



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MANY



DECK THE HALLS



Otey Memorial Parish

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

The Rev. Robert C. Lamborn, D. Min.
Rector
oteyparishrector@gmail.com

The Rev. Elizabeth Carpenter, Deacon
CAC Director
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Frieda Hawkins Gipson
Parish Administrator, Newsletter Editor,
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Telephone and Fax
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Website
www.oteyparish.org

STAFF

Diane Fielding, Financial Adm. Assistant
oteyfinance@gmail.com , (931) 5985926

Diane's office hours—Wednesdays 2:30p—3:30p and by appt.

Neil Patterson, Youth Ministry, fotmotey@gmail.com
(931) 5985997 (on leave)

Jeannie Babb, Christian Formation Director,
Acting Youth Ministry Directory
oteyformation@gmail.com , fotmotey@gmail.com
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Kathy Sturgis, Organist musicotey@gmail.com
(931) 5985997

VESTRY

- Pamela Byerly, '17
- Shelley Cammack, '18
- Dorothy Gates, '17, Jr. Warden
- Timothy Graham, '19
- Claudia Porter, 19
- Barbara Prunty, '18
- Gary Sturgis, 19
- Rachel Suarez. '18
- Ken Taylor, '17
- Kathy Solomon, Treasurer
- Beth Wiley, Assistant Treasure
- Ann Aitken, Clerk

PRAYER LIST

Prayers requested: Kenny Alexander, Sr., Thad Andras, Caroline Baird, Kenneth Bentley, Stephen Carter, Linda Cheadle, Nancy Chase, Bill Dick, Sally Franklin, Hunter Hawkins, Phebe Hethcock, Linda Hutton, Patrick Irwin, Sylvia James, Mike Jones, David Kearley, Bob Keele, Elinor and Bob Lam-born, Howell Lynch, Flaget and Larry Nally, Julia Ramsey-Tharp, Doug Seiters, Virginia and Scott Sloan, Sam Williamson, Liz Workman, George, Karen,

Don't Forget!

The deadline for submissions for the February 2017 issue of Otey Notes is:

3pm Wednesday, January 18.

Email submissions to:
oteyparish@gmail.com



Thanks to all who helped with making our church so beautiful.

Sunday Altar Flower Dedications

If you would like to dedicate the Sunday altar arrangement as a memorial or a thanksgiving, please contact Diane Jones at [615-594-4805](tel:6155944805) (cell) or djones.sewanee@gmail.com. The cost is \$40, and your donation supports the Altar Guild.



JANUARY

	2-Jan	Christopher Van de Ven	18-Jan	Mickey Suarez
	4-Jan	John Bratton	18-Jan	Myrrh Thomas
	4-Jan	Carey Wofford	21-Jan	Calhoun Winton
	5-Jan	Lexi Phares	22-Jan	Myers Gorrell
	7-Jan	Karen Keele	23-Jan	Aubrey Black
	8-Jan	Amy Burns	25-Jan	Kathleen Sturgis
	8-Jan	Eleanor Dallas	25-Jan	Alice Cammack
	9-Jan	Joe Porter	26-Jan	Bronwyn Westling
	9-Jan	Lisa Howick	27-Jan	Anna Evatt
	11-Jan	Joel Cunningham	27-Jan	Margaret Wilson
	12-Jan	Marjorie Burnett	27-Jan	Katie Finn Hurst
	13-Jan	Glendon Smalley	28-Jan	Louise Irwin
	13-Jan	Waring McCrady	28-Jan	Conrad Fielding
	14-Jan	Deborah Jackson	29-Jan	Barbara Goodson
	15-Jan	Ward Cammack	29-Jan	Luciana Mollica
	15-Jan	Michelle Calhoun	29-Jan	Eleanor Calhoun
17-Jan	Noel Workman	31-Jan	Juliah Calhoun	