



Otey Notes



You the Priest

The white collar that encircles my clerical neck is something for which I have high regard and suspicion. It has, PTL, shackled me to the Lord in a peace and freedom that is indeed wonderful. BUT, it stands out [horrors] and that causes me disquiet [stiff necks are where guilt is expressed]. It holds me to an accountability from which there is always shortcoming while subjecting me to expectations that are often untoward and misconceived.

For all of that, I used to not wear it while travelling. People treated me so differently in clerics, both exceptionally well, as is undeserved, and exceptionally bad, which is also undeserved. So I put off clerics in public forums for blessed anonymity. Then some years later an oft-acerbic though apt parishioner corrected me, her argument being I need to be a sign however that was taken or mistaken. Gulp. Righto. Correction made....most of the time.

My principal problem with reactions to the clerical collar was, remind people of what? Herein lies my suit: the priesthood of all believers. A doctrine long integral in our Anglican heritage but one which has had a hot and cold reception and usage. Therefore, when someone in noticing my dog collar asks me, are you a priest? I suppress the smart answer (*No, my head was almost sawed off and this is holding it in place*) and wish I could just say, *well, yes – aren't you?*

In our culture the word “priest” is as for much of human history primarily associated with a professional caste, and while that is a visible and functional expression, there is more to it than that. A study of the New Testament reveals that all Christians are priests. Peter said, “...You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” ^{1 Pet. 2:5}. Thus, all Christians are of that holy priesthood and can offer spiritual sacrifices (primarily themselves) to God. All have the right to go directly to God through Jesus Christ, our High Priest ^{Heb. 4:14-16}.

During the 16th century priests existed as a very large segment of society in Christendom, a quaint concept now. They were very influential, as the reverse of today, and ran most everything. As the modern world then developed, loyal Bible-reading Christians began to suspect that the specialization and segregated priesthood were erroneous and wayward. For, do not all who in integrity call Jesus “Lord” bear the privilege and responsibility to be His heralds in the world? Is not mediating the Christ, Jesus, a common vocation, applied differently in various circumstances? Our own modern Prayer Book in its Catechetical dilution states that all ministers of the Church, lay, bishop, priest, and deacon, have as their mutual first duty, *to represent Christ and His Church (BCP, pp. 855-6)*, functions differing.

All of which is to say, you and I were born again in baptism and bonded to Jesus Christ in baptism. You as every priest bear that anointing and thus bear the Christ, we all in our several capacities and ways. In our current baptism liturgy the whole congregation is called upon to say, “*We receive you into the household of God....share with us in His eternal priesthood.*” We are all to be as our Savior to each other, our families, and everyone else!

Take Note

CHRISTIAN FORMATION SUNDAYS, 10 AM

- ✓ Jan. 4 Dr. Amy Patterson — Trust and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa
- ✓ Jan. 11 Rector’s Forum
- ✓ Jan. 18 Fr. Bart Segu — Christians and Muslims: Peace-keeping in Tanzania
- ✓ Jan. 25 Bishop Otey Society Reception with Wayne Olson, speaker, “Leaving a Legacy” (pg 5)

OTHER EVENTS

- ✓ Jan. 1 Otey Office closed
- ✓ Jan. 4 Epiphany Pageant, 5:00 pm (pg 5)
- ✓ Jan. 18 Vestry Installation at 11 am service
- ✓ Jan. 21 Otey Notes articles due, 3 pm
- ✓ Jan. 25 The Rev. Dr. William H. Hethcock preaches at both services (pg 5)
- Jan 23-24 Diocesan Convention, St. Philip’s, Nashville

WEEKDAY HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

- ✓ Jan. 6 The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ, noon

Cont. page 2

Cont. from page 1

All of which is to say, Otey is Jesus' Church, and He designates you, collectively and individually, to administer it in His Name. Everyone has the responsibility to do their part to implement its ministry and mission – not just hire or elect someone to do it in our place. We are not an oligarchy nor a simply republican institution which pays away and delegates away its duties. That simply is a corporate model that does not apply here.

The shadow side of that great entitlement and license is the misuse in which each does what is right in his own eyes and goes his own way. That is a classic scriptural formula for error and eventual disaster [Proverbs 12, 21; Judges 17, 21; Deuteronomy 12]. When the limbs of the Body, by the Pauline metaphor, go each in their own direction, uncontrolled and uncoordinated, that is simply spastic. Common sense and common courtesy would not operate that way to begin with, and so much less should such qualities be foregone in Christ's Church. There is a sensible balance between mutual ministry and initiative, a cooperation which is both street-and theologically-smart.

Otey's ministries are not simply a corporate model or a family model but more an eclectic dance where there is give and take, always seeking balance and synchronization. Well, ideally....mostly, when you or I are not treading on toes! Yes, it is much harder that way, but it is without doubt the commission left to us, the faith as this church has received it, and any other expediency is unworthy of us as it is unworthy of Him. If it is high or hard of attainment, that is consummate with its holiness. You have every resource necessary to draw upon in this ambitious endeavor for the Lord is our Head and Provider.

So treat this church like you own it! Because you don't – He does.

JLR

*And the night-fires going out, and the lack of shelters,
And the cities dirty and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.*

*Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling of vegetation;
With a running stream and a water mill beating the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wineskins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.*

*All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt.
I had seen birth and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.*

Eliot's insight is that, no matter how hard or arduous the journey to a religious experience may be, the greater challenge lies in living in the light of that experience afterwards, among people who haven't shared it and cannot understand it. Bishop of Dudley, 2010

There is always a sense of letdown and "so what" after the exaltation of the holidays has simmered down. To go beyond the sentimental and the experiential thrill-ride, to find peace in daily piety and charity, to integrate into our mundane the deeper vision afforded by the Light that has broken into the world, tis' the challenge of the season. Welcome to Epiphany.

JLR

Epiphany

And then what?

The Journey of the Magi, by T.S. Eliot

*A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times when we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,*

**January 6, noon, The Epiphany of Our Lord
Jesus Christ, Holy Eucharist, Rite I**

Otey's Stained Glass Windows

Most of the stained glass windows in our church are believed to be about 125 years old. The best information we have is that the windows were installed when the church was built. A few of the windows dedicated to the memory of individuals are newer, but even those may be almost 100 years old.

In early November Scott Taylor, a stained glass restoration expert from Richmond, Virginia, came to Otey to evaluate our stained glass windows. The Rev. John Runkle, who had worked with Mr. Taylor on restoration projects at the National Cathedral and elsewhere, recommended him. Fr. Runkle knew that Mr. Taylor would be in our area this year because he was in the process of restoring the rose window at St. Paul's Church in Chattanooga.

Mr. Taylor determined that our rose window should be removed as soon as possible and the woodwork and stained glass restored. The stained glass itself in this window does not appear to be in



Rose Window



Rose Window Crack

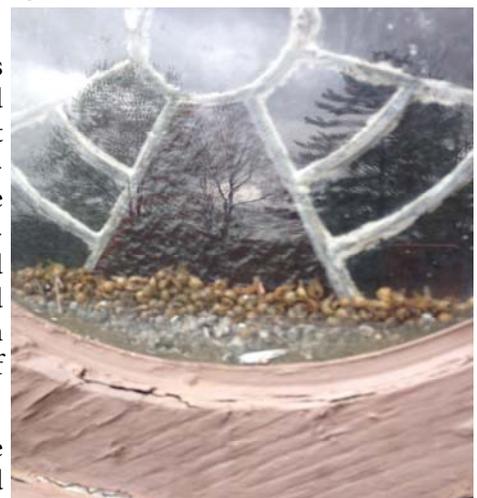
terrible shape, but the wood framing around and inside the window has deteriorated badly. Restoration of this window needs to be accomplished very soon (according to Mr. Taylor it would not have been premature to have begun the work months ago). The removal, restoration and reinstallation will be a joint project between stained glass and woodworking experts. The cost of this work is estimated to be \$10,000-\$20,000.

Significant restoration work is also needed on the three windows in the chancel. The St Luke/St Matthew window is by far the worst, but the other two show much damage also. There is bowing and bulging so severe that some panes of the glass have broken. Painted detail has been lost in all three windows. The estimated cost of the work on these three windows is \$20,000 - \$30,000. This work should be done within 2-5 years.

The good news is that Mr. Taylor suggests that we might be able to slow the deterioration of the chancel windows by removing the clear glass that was installed outside these windows. Mr. Taylor also encouraged us to caulk the gaps in the stained glass windows along the sides of the church to avoid the expense of re-leading them.

You might well wonder what prompted us to seek a stained glass expert at this time when we are trying to pay off the debt on our new parish house and searching for a new rector. The answer is the epic ladybug invasion of this past year. There were so many ladybugs in the church that daily sweeping or vacuuming was necessary. The organ tuner could not tune the organ because the pipes were full of ladybugs. (A volunteer with a vacuum cleaner solved that immediate problem so we were able to get the organ tuned.) The ladybugs will find any tiny gap to wriggle through, but we discovered that we had gaps in and around the stained glass windows that would have allowed creatures larger than ladybugs to enter. Our inspection of the windows told us we had a crisis of which the ladybug invasion was only a symptom.

We are forming a task force to address the stained glass restoration project. We will be doing research to find reputable contractors, getting additional bids and seeking sources of funding. Please contact Ann Millar or Anne Griffin for more information.



Ladybug invasion

CAC



We begin this New Year having just celebrated 40 years of outreach ministry in the greater Sewanee community. It is easy to name all of the past CAC accomplishments. There have been so many amazing things

done by so many amazing people and 40 years of service to the Sewanee community is just amazing. But Jesus does not call us to do the easy work. The hard work lies ahead as we re-imagine what the next 40 years will be. CAC is the outreach ministry of Otey Parish so how will we as a parish respond to our neighbors who live with hunger and poverty? Can we be the change so no child goes hungry and poverty ends in Sewanee? What will Community Action Committee be like in the next 40 years? God has given us this ministry and many saints have done the work for the past 40 years. Now new work begins and new opportunities will present themselves and new saints will appear. The work of CAC is so varied and diverse that it opens up endless opportunities to become involved. You are never too young or too old!

In prayerful consideration what role will you play?

Betty Carpenter

From CAC's 40th Birthday Celebration



Lighting Birthday Candles—CAC 40th Birthday Celebration



The range of CAC's volunteers.
Pictured Elliott Benson and Connie Gibson.



Looking Ahead in Christian Formation

In Advent, we began Lectionary Year B and the study of the Gospel of St. Mark. St. Mark's Gospel, one of the Synoptic Gospels, is thought to be the earliest one written, ascribed to an unknown author, and portrays Jesus as the Son of God. In St. Mark's Gospel, we will read this year, and the Lectionary class will explore, Jesus' role as a man of action who exorcises demons and heals the people. This Gospel portrays Jesus as a miracle worker and a suffering servant who comes to spread the Gospel and bring peace to the world.

In our "Blessed are the Peacemaker" series this Easter semester, we turn our focus to finding and creating peace with our neighbors and with God. On January 4th, Dr. Amy Patterson will share her experiences with the Trust and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. Fr. Bart Segu will be back with on January 18th us as a teacher as he explores how Christians and Muslims work toward peace in Tanzania. Looking ahead, Dr. David Meola will be with us February 1st to discuss the climate in Germany that allowed the Holocaust to occur. Ms. Cassie Meyer will be with us February 15th to talk about the Interfaith Youth Core, an organization which unites University students of all faiths to work together toward peace. And, on February 22nd, Rev. Bob Hughes and his wife, Barbara, will join us to describe their work on developing recovery programs in East Africa.

Please save these dates and plan to be with us each Sunday at 10:00 AM as we continue to learn about peace-keeping with God, our neighbors, and ourselves.

---Robin Reed

Buildings and Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds Committee is gathering pieces to hang and suggestions of what to hang in Claiborne Hall, and will begin putting things up at the end of January. If you have any items or suggestions, please contact Barbara Prunty at bprunty@gmail.com.

Otey's administrative office closed Thursday,
January 1, 2015.

Children's Corner-Epiphany Pageant



Children of all ages are invited to the Epiphany pageant on Sunday, January 4, 2015 at 5:00 PM.

Come join our children and youth as they help us follow the Magi to find the Star of Bethlehem and the Baby Jesus in the manger. This year, over 30 of our talented children and youth have been working faithfully to learn their lines and the songs for the pageant. A wonderful group of leaders including Kathy Sturgis (music), Lisa Hartman and Kami Spaulding (staging), Brenda Matthews (costumes), and Neil and Amy Patterson (line coaching) has been guiding and encouraging our children to enjoy learning and sharing the story. A reception, coordinated by Jill Mollica, will follow the service. Mark your calendars and come join us!!

Robin Reed

Bishop Otey Society



The Bishop Otey Society would like to draw your attention to the celebration of Bishop Otey's life and career and their meaning for today on Sunday, January 25.

James Hervey Otey became the first bishop of Tennessee when he was consecrated in 1834. The state was sparsely settled and Episcopal clergy and people were few and far between. He was truly a missionary bishop, planting parish churches across the state and in several neighboring states. From an early stage he sought to found a "Classical and Theological Seminary" in his diocese, an effort that succeeded in 1857 with the founding of the University of the South in Sewanee. He had the assistance of other southern bishops and their dioceses. Otey's energy, openness to new ideas, and willingness to work with others marked his formative work in the diocese and region.

To mark this occasion, the Reverend Dr. William Hethcock will preach at both the 8:50 and 11:00 a.m. Sunday services on January 25. Between services, at the adult education hour at 10:00 in St. Mark's Hall, there will be refreshments provided by Karen and Robert Keele. Wayne Olson will give a special talk with slides on "A Lasting Legacy." Everyone is cordially invited.

---Jay Fisher, Anne Griffin, Brown Patterson,
Leah Rhys, Douglas Seiters

Creche Service Images

From the Search Committee



The Search Committee is drafting the Parish Profile based on all the information we

have gathered during the past four months. Thank you for participating in the survey, the group conversations, and for your comments and suggestions to the committee.

As part of the Profile, we invite parishioners to submit photographs of their favorite time or events at Otey Parish, such as recent Shrove Tuesday parties, the Creche service, Epiphany pageants, parish picnics, receptions, baptisms, and the like. If you have something you'd like to submit, please email the jpg or scan of the photo to <oteysearchcommittee@gmail.com> by Jan. 16. Please identify the event date and the people pictured, if possible. If you do not have access to a scanner, just email the committee and we'll arrange for that for you.

If you were unable to attend a Parish Conversation gathering, please feel free to convey your thoughts to the Search Committee in writing. You may submit them through the website (go to Contact); via email to <oteysearchcommittee@gmail.com>, or snail mail via the Otey Parish Office. Additionally, if you would rather speak to someone in person, please contact a member of the Search Committee. Additionally we welcome any opinion beyond the scope of these topics, in writing or in conversation with any member of the Search Committee.

Updates and information are always available at the Search Committee's website. Go to <oteyparish.org> and click on the Search Link on the top left of the page.

We continue to ask for your patience, your prayers, and your trust. Thank you.

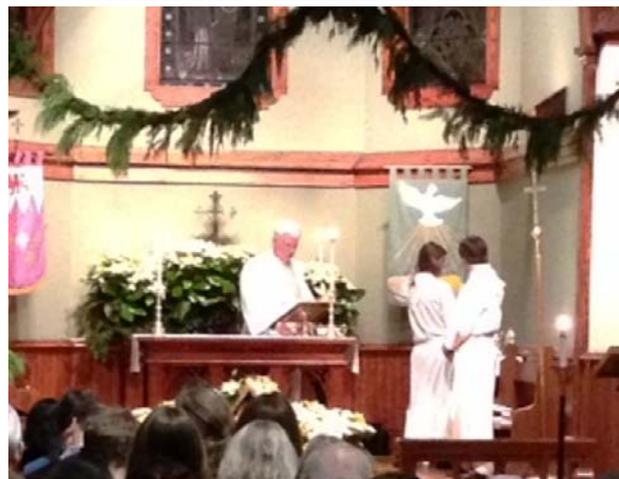
The Search Committee



C
R
E
C
H
E

S
E
R
V
I
C
E

2014



“Centering Prayer as an 11th Step” .St. Mary’s

**Centering Prayer
as an 11TH Step Practice**

“Sought through prayer and meditation
to improve our conscious contact with God...”



Members of any 12 step program
are invited
to

St. Mary’s Sewanee Retreat Center
Sewanee, TN

on
Friday, March 27 – Sunday, March 29, 2015

Fee: \$450 (Single)
For more information or to make a reservation
www.stmaryssewanee.org
800-728-1658 or 931-598-5342

*Out of respect for anonymity, attendance at this retreat
is limited to those who are currently in one of the 12 step
programs of recovery.

Otey Memorial Parish

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

The Rev. Jess Reeves
Interim Priest

The Rev. Elizabeth Carpenter
CAC Director
(931) 598-5927
cacoteyparish@gmail.com

Frieda Hawkins Gipson
Parish Administrator, Newsletter Editor
oteyparish@gmail.com

Church Office Hours
Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

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

Website
www.oteyparish.org

STAFF

Diane Fielding, Financial Adm. Assistant
oteyfinance@gmail.com , (931) 598-5997

Neil Patterson, Youth Ministry fotmotey@gmail.com

Robin Reed, Christian Formation
cfcotey@gmail.com

Kathy Sturgis, Organist
musicotey@gmail.com

VESTRY

Doug Seiters, ‘15
Alexander Bruce, ‘15
Carol Sampson, ‘15
Larry Barker, ‘16
Steve Ford, ‘16
Laura Willis, ‘16
Pam Byerly, ‘17
Dorothy Gates, ‘17
Ken Taylor, ‘17
Beth Wiley, Treasurer
Ann Aitkin, Clerk

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Peggy Bonds
Shelley Cammack
Margaret Donohue
Steve Ford
Tim Graham
Lisa Howick
Linda Lankewicz
Pratt Paterson
Haynes Roberts
Laura Willis

Parish Life

Host Families needed to host a dinner at their home. Choose the date, provide as much or as little as you choose, (all pot luck, you provide the entree or all the food). Choose a date in January, February or March. Get to know your neighbors! Please respond to: lynnstubblefield@gmail.com with questions and dates. If you wish to host a dinner but do not have enough space you may use Saint Mark’s (providing the space is available). This event is sponsored by Parish Life and has been the most requested event thus far. Parish Life will provide baby sitting. As always our door and arms are always open to any participation or ideas you may have.

Prayer List

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING AND THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED OUR PRAYERS: Laird Almy, Caroline Myers Baird, Paul Beich, John Bohannon, Jonathan Burnett, David Burnett, Robby Capel, Stuart Cook, Suzie Coughlan, Jackie Faircloth, Bob Keele, Howell Lynch, Julie Marsman, Kenneth Moore, Cameron Sandefur, Catherin Sandefur, Mary Sears, J. Carlton Smith, Dessie Taylor, Greg, Edie, Suzanne, Charles, Michelle, and Anchi. We pray for those serving in our armed forces and for their families.

The prayer list will be cleaned and refreshed on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2015. Names for the prayer list will need to be submitted/resubmitted to Frieda Gipson at oteyparish@gmail.com.



Happy New Year!

Don't Forget!

The deadline for submissions for the February 2015 issue of *Otey Notes* is:

3pm Wednesday, January 21

Email submissions to:
oteyparish@gmail.com

Please include "Otey Notes" in the subject.



January



- | | | | |
|--------|------------------------|--------|--------------------------|
| 2-Jan | Christopher Van de Ven | 17-Jan | Noel Workman |
| 2-Jan | Zoita Grammer (Zoe) | 18-Jan | Mickey Suarez |
| 3-Jan | Mary Ellen Williams | 18-Jan | Myrrh Thomas |
| 4-Jan | Doug Burns | 20-Jan | Avery Milford |
| 4-Jan | John Bratton | 20-Jan | Min Xi Huskey |
| 4-Jan | Carey Wofford | 21-Jan | John Jenkins |
| 7-Jan | Karen Keele | 21-Jan | Cal Winton |
| 7-Jan | Michael Hurst | 22-Jan | Stephen Alvarez |
| 8-Jan | Amy Burns | 22-Jan | Myers Gorrell |
| 8-Jan | Tessa Shackelford | 22-Jan | Griffith Wilson |
| 8-Jan | Eleanor Dallas | 23-Jan | Aubrey Black |
| 9-Jan | Joe Porter | 25-Jan | Kathleen Sturgis (Kathy) |
| 9-Jan | Lisa Howick | 25-Jan | Alice Cammack |
| 11-Jan | Joel Cunningham | 26-Jan | Henry Agee |
| 12-Jan | Marjorie Burnett | 26-Jan | Bronwyn Westling |
| 13-Jan | Glendon Smalley (Glen) | 27-Jan | Anna Evatt |
| 13-Jan | Waring McCrady | 27-Jan | Margaret Wilson |
| 14-Jan | Elizabeth Adamson | 27-Jan | Katie Finn Hurst |
| 15-Jan | Ward Cammack | 28-Jan | Helen Irwin (Louise) |
| 15-Jan | Michaela Shackelford | 29-Jan | Barbara Goodson |
| 16-Jan | Mary Priestley | 29-Jan | Luciana Mollica |