



Otey Notes



What's New in the New Year?

The turn of the year brings new faces to positions of leadership as terms reach their completion. At the Annual Parish Meeting on December 6, **Shelley Cammack, Barbara Prunty, Rachel Suarez, and Tim Graham** were elected to the **Vestry**, and will assume their offices on January 1. Many thanks are due the offgoing members of the vestry: Alex Bruce, Steve Ford, Carol Sampson, and Doug Seiters. Guiding a parish through a transition in clergy leadership is never easy, and these members of Otey completed the task with commitment, skill, and grace. Later in December, the Vestry ratified my nomination of **Dorothy Gates, Kathy Sturgis, and Laura Willis** to serve as lay delegates to **diocesan convention**. They will join me in representing Otey at convention in Nashville January 22-23.

At its December meeting, the Vestry adopted the **2016 budget**, balanced as required by the terms of the loan for the construction of Claiborne Hall. Despite the progress we are making in reducing the amount of principal through regular payments and gifts directed specifically to debt reduction, servicing this loan remains the largest non-salary item in our budget. Balance was achieved both through the positive results of this year's stewardship campaign and a series of difficult cuts in expenses. We kept our payment to the Diocese of Tennessee at the same level as 2015, more than \$10,000 less than our assessment. We continue not to have a line item for major repairs, and a number of other requested increases were not implemented and smaller cuts made.

The part-time position of **Director of Christian Education**, vacant since Robin Reed moved away earlier this year, is not currently funded in 2016. For me, this was the most difficult of the cuts to make. The Christian Formation Committee has done an excellent job maintaining positive momentum, but should not be expected to do so indefinitely. I ask your prayers and suggestions for restoring funding of this position as soon as possible, given the importance of Christian Education in the lives of our children, and as a reason people join Otey.

Since before arriving at Otey, I have been asked whether I would **move the parish offices to Claiborne Hall**. After taking time to get a feel for the situation, I found the advantages of moving far to outweigh the disadvantages, so we will make the move between the beginning of 2016 and Ash Wednesday. We'll keep you posted on progress; once the move is complete, parish offices will be entered through the second door on the right in Claiborne. It will be a blessing to work in closer proximity to Otey's ministries going on during the week, and to make the lower level of Brooks Hall again available for uses better suited to its architecture.

On a personal note, I am delighted to relate that my wife, the Rev. **Amy Bentley Lamborn, Ph.D.**, has been called as **Vicar of Southeast Tennessee Episcopal Ministry**. STEM, as it is known, consists of five churches: Epiphany, Sherwood; Trinity, Winchester; Christ Church, Alto; Holy Comforter, Monteagle; and Christ Church, Tracy City. This collaboration was established a number of years ago by the Rev. Bill Barton in cooperation with the Diocese of Tennessee. The Vicar oversees all five churches, and leads services at as many as two per Sunday. The other three are covered by a rotation of supply clergy of familiar priests who live on the Mountain. Amy is excited to undertake this new ministry beginning January 1.

Rob Lamborn

TAKE NOTE

CHRISTIAN FORMATION SUNDAYS, 10 AM

Lectionary class each Sunday reviews that Sunday's Gospel lesson

- ✓ Jan. 3 Rector's Forum
- ✓ Jan. 10 "George Herbert's Poetry: Presumption, Anxiety, and Praise"—Jennifer Michael

MONTHLY EVENTS

- ✓ Jan. 20 *Otey Notes* submissions due, 3pm
- ✓ Jan. 21 Vestry Meeting, 5:30pm

SPECIAL EVENTS

- ✓ Jan. 22-23 Diocesan Convention, St. George's Church, Nashville

SPECIAL SERVICES

- ✓ Jan. 10 Epiphany Pageant, 5:00 pm

OFFICE CLOSURES

NEW YEAR'S DAY—JANUARY 1

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY—JANUARY 18

OTEY'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON, 2015

If you were unfortunate enough to miss the Otey Christmas luncheon on Sunday, the 20th of December, you should make plans now to be at next year's luncheon for sure. Over 100 joyful eaters gathered last week after the 11:00 service, and the tables, down the length of St. Mark's Hall, groaned with delicious food. Six 20-pound turkeys had been purchased, and six hearty volunteers got up in the middle of Saturday night to put a turkey in the oven, then bring it warm and browned to Claiborne the next morning. Master carver Gary Sturgis took over from there and beautifully carved the turkeys, as well as several hams. Parishioners brought casseroles and desserts, obviously made by special delicious recipes for the holiday season. The Episcopal Green Bean Casserole made its usual welcome appearance. The eggnog added festivity, as did the piano music provided by Ryan Currie. Not to be missed was the Chopsticks duet, sensitively played by Rob and Caroline Lamborn.



None of this would have been possible without the hard work of the Parish Life Committee members. They are beautifully organized, full of volunteer spirit, and able to interest others in helping out, whether it's for cleanup, chair set up, or other behind-the-scenes activities that make a party a success. As you may have read in the Annual Parish Meeting Report, over 2400 people have been served and welcomed at social events this year. And that was before the Christmas luncheon! Hats off, thank you, and three cheers for Parish Life!



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A THURMOND LIBRARY ADVENT STORY

The new shelves in Thurmond Library were filling fast, thanks to the community’s response to the 5th graders wish list. Volunteers stopped in Chattanooga and bought 54 chapter books for new readers and used up our last McKay’s Bookstore credit the same week that Joan Blocher and Jim Dunkly donated an even larger credit.

CAC decided to showcase the crafts of clients during the Art Studio tour and it seemed like a good idea to set up a table to sell Peggy Rhys’ art books that her family had donated. While we were planning that adventure and hoping to bring in \$100, Bev and Henry Chase were packing to move to NC and offered boxes of nearly new books for Thurmond Library to shelve or sell. Thus, we created the holiday book sale with free gift wrap on what proved to be a glorious and generous weekend.

The volunteers who set up the sale joyfully bought books and helped others buy more. Customers were so delighted with their selections that the art books brought in more than \$400 for Otey; the Chase books earned \$1200 for Thurmond Library. Yes, the library needs another bookshelf, but a woodworker who came to buy books offered to build one for the cost of the materials.

What seemed too good to be true, truly was a gift that left all involved feeling so richly blessed that we decided to give all \$1200 to the Claiborne Debt Reduction Fund in honor of Henry & Bev Chase, and in thanksgiving for the hospitality Otey Parish has given Thurmond Library since 1902 .

“Come to us, O blessed Jesus,...But in us, thy loving children, Come bring peace, good will to men.”

Trudy Cunningham



FOOD PLAN FOR INCLEMENT WEATHER

When extended snow days kept children out of school last year, it was decided to prepare “Emergency Food Bags” for children and families. The bags will be distributed from 3 sites: CAC-Otey Parish, St. James, and Jump Off Fire Station. We will coordinate with a site representative to make sure those in need get food. Please consider making up a bag and marking it

“Emergency Food” with the following items:

- Peanut Butter
- Crackers
- Tuna
- Small Canned ham
- Nuts
- Canned Fruit
- Nutri-Grain Bars
- Canned Chicken
- Dry Milk

*These food items are suggestions, keeping in mind we may not have inclement weather, but it is good to be prepared.

Betty Carpenter

UPDATE FROM THE GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Around the first of the year, the Vestry approved a landscape design for our new spaces. By now, I am sure that most of you have seen the plan which has been on display in the Parish House since that time. Last spring we had enough money from generous donations to install most of the plants recommended for either side of the entrance to St Mark’s Hall. We have slowly accumulated more funds from donations, memorials, and honorariums that made it possible to implement more of the plan. The 6 trees on either side of the sidewalk from the church to Claiborne Hall are American Hornbeam which will eventually form an allée. The 3 large plants to the left of the stone path from Brooks Hall to St Mark’s Hall are Witch Hazel plus a Green Shadow Magnolia at the upper end of the green space. We still lack many plants to complete the project. Anyone wishing to give a memorial or honorarium plant or plants may contact me to look at and choose from the remaining plants. Betty Barton Blythe, [931-205-3949](tel:931-205-3949) or [423-837-4515](tel:423-837-4515)

Betty Barton Blythe

CAC

A WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP



“I was hungry and you gave me food, Christ said, “I was a stranger and you welcomed me...I was sick and you visited me”.
(Matt.25:35-36)

As CAC begins the New Year, it is with every expectation that this will be the best year ever. For forty-two years, this outreach ministry has served the Sewanee Community in countless ways. In the beginning, it was the simple act of giving away day-old bread, to the present time where we are known as the place people in need can come to get help. If it is beyond our capacity we provide the necessary resources to point our clients in the right direction.

As 2016 unfolds we will be looking at next steps in the fight against poverty, and developing ways to not only feed the hungry but enable those in need to transform their lives in positive ways. No easy task to change a culture, but there are baby steps, and CAC is totally committed to taking these necessary first baby steps. Please continue to pray for those who live in poverty and for those who seek to end it.

In an effort to engage social media and with the help of Bonner Leaders, we now have a Face Book page so please... “like” us on Face Book and check out the new web page. Still a work in progress but completed enough to check it out;

www.communityactioncommittee.wordpress.com

Thank you, thank you Trudy Cunningham our new CAC treasurer. She brings skills and compassion to the task and we are grateful to her for sharing these gifts of ministry.

Betty Carpenter

THE CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE TO BENEFIT CAC WAS a huge success this holiday season because of the hard work and dedication of Cindy Potter. Using her wreath sale expertise, she graciously offered to promote and sell fresh balsam Christmas wreaths...the wreaths that our community has grown accustomed to having for the holidays. Organization and dedication made for a very successful sale and CAC says“ THANK YOU CINDY!!!”

Several of the women in our parish are interested in forming a women's spirituality group for purposes of nurturing and sharing our faith. We have thought about basing our sharing on prayer and reading of books, whether novels or spiritual reflection writings.

We are recommending the book "Pastrix: The Cranky Beautiful Faith of a Sinner and Saint" by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Nadia is a pastor in Denver. She has been interviewed by NPR and is often invited to churches as a speaker. Her writing is in many ways outrageous and stereotype smashing, but her book succeeds as a remarkable memoir, and as a sermon of love to all of us who are both saints and sinners. Nadia is tattooed to the hilt and pulls no punches, but her desire to follow Christ's message is inspirational and funny.

An organizational meeting will be held on January 10th at 1:00 p.m. Small sandwiches, fruit, and tea will be provided for a light lunch. We will discuss a time and frequency of meeting of the group. Our hope is for the group to provide a continuous opportunity for us to know and care for one another while deepening our faith in Christ."

Carol Sampson

Thank you, Cindy Potter



How Do Christians Respond to the Daily News of Devastating Violence Around the World?

As the news of the Paris attacks spread, our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry released a video calling for prayers for those who were harmed and for those who lost loved ones in the massacres - it can be found online at <https://www.facebook.com/episcopalian/videos/vb.93121952924/10154862632867925/?type=2&theater>. Then, amid the concern about how to respond to the Syrian refugee crisis, Presiding Bishop Curry advises us that our fears are real but that our ultimate security comes from God. You can read his statement, "Be Not Afraid" online by going to <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/episcopal-presiding-bishop-michael-curry-addresses-syrian-refugee-crisis-%E2%80%9Cbe-not>

"The Meaning Of...?"

We've heard a lot lately about our new Presiding Bishop Michael Curry - his installation and more recently his thoughts on news in the world. So what is a Presiding Bishop?

The elected head of the Episcopal Church; the chief administrator and spiritual head of the Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church does not refer to its head bishop as an archbishop.

Now that brings us to what is an archbishop?

The primate of the Church of England; the honorary spiritual head of the entire Anglican Communion.

OK - it only seems right to move onto Anglican Communion.

The 38 provinces around the world, plus extra-provincial churches, that are in communion with the See of Canterbury. Member churches are independent but share a common heritage concerning Anglican identity and a commitment to scripture, tradition, and reason as sources of authority.

Whew! I think we'll leave more to another time when we explore the meaning of words/titles used in the Episcopal Church.

Dorothy Gates



Otey Memorial Parish

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

The Rev. Robert C. Lamborn, D. Min.,
Rector
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Frieda Hawkins Gipson
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Neil Patterson, Youth Ministry fotmotey@gmail.com

Kathy Sturgis, Organist musicotey@gmail.com

VESTRY

- Larry Barker, '16,
- Pamela Byerly, '17,
- Shelley Cammack, '18
- Dorothy Gates, '17
- Timothy Graham, '16
- Barbara Prunty, '18
- Rachel Suarez, '18
- Ken Taylor, '17,
- Laura Willis, '16,
- Beth Wiley, Treasurer
- Ann Aitken, Clerk

PRAYER LIST

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

PRAYERS: Gay Alvarez, Lydia Burroughs, Canon Gideon Byamagishu, Ed Camp, Nancy Chase, Stuart Cook, Finnegan Davis, Jackie Faircloth, Mary Frances Gallagher, Bob Hughes, Patrick Irwin, Angela Jacobs, Bob Keele, Howell Lynch, Ellon Meeks, Kathleen Kelleher O'Connor. Francis Ridpath, Almeda Roberson, Henry Schneider, Mary Sears, Laura Stravo, Clifford Tomes, Liz Workman, Kathy, Cameron, Suzanne, Karen

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.

Epiphany Pageant 2016. Our annual Epiphany pageant, a one-act play, will be held on January 10 at 5:00. A signup sheet will be in the narthex and at Saint Mark's Hall. All interested children will be given parts. Parents and other adults who are willing to take a part are also very welcome. We also need volunteers to assist with costumes, the set, lighting, and program.

There will be two rehearsals, on Sunday, January 3 at 3:00 and on Saturday, January 9 at 10:00 AM. Please be sure that you and or your child will be able to attend rehearsal before signing up! Contact Shelley Cammack, shelley@wardcammack.com

Don't Forget!

The deadline for submissions for the February 2016 issue of *Otey Notes* is:

3pm Wednesday, January 20

Email submissions to:
oteyparish@gmail.com

January

	2-Jan	Christopher Van de Ven	15-Jan	Michaela Shackelford
	2-Jan	ZoeGrammer	16-Jan	Mary Priestley
	4-Jan	Doug Burns	17-Jan	Noel Workman
	4-Jan	John Bratton	18-Jan	Mickey Suarez
	4-Jan	Carey Wofford	18-Jan	Myrrh Thomas
	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	23-Jan	Aubrey Black
	8-Jan	Eleanor Dallas	25-Jan	Kathleen Sturgis
	9-Jan	Joe Porter	25-Jan	Alice Cammack
	9-Jan	Lisa Howick	26-Jan	Henry Agee
	11-Jan	Joel Cunningham	26-Jan	Bronwyn Westling
	12-Jan	Marjorie Burnett	27-Jan	Anna Evatt
	13-Jan	Glen Smalley	27-Jan	Margaret Wilson
13-Jan	Waring McCrady	27-Jan	Katie Finn Hurst	
14-Jan	Elizabeth Adamson	28-Jan	Louise Irwin	
15-Jan	Ward Cammack	29-Jan	Barbara Goodson	
15-Jan	Michelle Calhoun	29-Jan	Luciana Mollica	