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Charleston, WV

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

### Helping Africans Help Themselves

By James Thibeault

This is a story about not losing hope in a world dominated by corporate and political forces. It is a story of contradictions, humor and love. It begins at the end of the British Colonial era in the shadow of Mount Kenya in Africa. Isabel is the youngest of eight children. Everyday she spends hours going for water and wood, carrying the babies on her back, cooking and driving cows to the river. As a teen she does casual work in Nairobi, attends secretarial school and lands a job with an Anglican sponsored craft cooperative. She works hard, learns fast and rises to run one of Africa's largest exporting craft co-ops.

Then the Chinese enter the global market working cheaper and faster. The HIV/AIDS epidemic hits and death is everywhere. Terrorists bomb the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi. Her Anglican church breaks communion with the U.S. Episcopal Church. Isabel's ability to help her people is gone. As a final straw she uses her car as collateral and the bank repossesses it. In spite of these obstacles, COLA (Colors of Life Africa) went on giving \$2,000 to the U.S. Episcopal Relief Fund for Tsunami victims which they earned from making banana boxes filled with Tsunami debris and strings of beads.

Having volunteered with Isabel in 2003 I was able to communicate her story to St. John's Outreach Committee. They responded by bringing the products of Colors of Life Africa to the United States. St. John's called on other West Virginia Episcopal churches with the help of the Bishop's mini grant. The effort led to the marketing of nearly 1,800 boxes filled with crafts. One hundred percent or approximately \$25,000 has been sent to Africa. This success story has made news in Kenya where government and foundations efforts often end in disappointment.

In November, Isabel was named Kenyan Business Woman of the Year by the United Nations Development Corporation for innovative marketing benefiting HIV positive women and artisans. Her bank asked her to present Melinda Gates with one of the COLA boxes. Next month you will have a few opportunities to meet Isabel and learn more about St. John's Outreach effort that speaks to small efforts with global impact.

- **Sunday, June 4**, Adult Forum
- **Monday, June 5**, 9:30 a.m. to noon, a Green Day at St. John's where Isabel will address small business people and non-profits to share the challenges faced here in Appalachia or in Africa. Ten groups will participate and the governor has it on his calendar.
- **June 13 to 23**, St. John's Outreach volunteers and Isabel will attend the General Convention in Columbus, Ohio. Together we will be reaching out to other Episcopalians to help Africans help themselves.

# Saint John's Interchange

The parish newsletter for the people of God called to form the Christian community of Saint John's Episcopal Church, Quarrier at Leon Sullivan Way, Charleston, West Virginia.

May 11, Vol. 46, No. 10

## Sundays May 21 and 28 Sixth and Seventh Sundays of Easter

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**  
**8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion**, library  
**9:30 a.m. Adult Forum, May 21**; The Rev. Dr. Karl Ruttan will discuss the General Convention in Columbus, Ohio; **May 28**, Dr. Charles Stebbins, provost of the University of Charleston, will address "Terrorism and WMD", Room  
**10:10 a.m. Chapel for Older Children**, Room 225  
**10:10 a.m. Parents' Fellowship**, Room 208  
**10:30 a.m. Godly Play**, Rooms 299 and 223  
**10:30 a.m. Sunday School**, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Room 221  
**10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist**, with choir  
**11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour**, Hunter Hall  
**11:45 a.m. Rite 13 & Journey to Adulthood**, Room 208 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> Grades  
**5:00 p.m. May 21, Last Taize prayer service of the season**, Chapel

*The Collect: O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Established 1837 Present building consecrated 1901  
Please address correspondence to: 1105 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV 25301-2493  
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The Rev. Dr. Karl D. Ruttan  
rector  
The Rev. Elizabeth Hoster  
associate rector  
Brenda Vanderford  
director of music  
Brenda Dearien  
parish administrator  
Katherine Giltinan  
christian formation  
Bob Westmoreland  
verger  
James Wilson  
custodian  
Greg Clarke '08  
vestry  
priest's warden  
Lila Ramkey '07  
people's warden  
Bren Pomponio '07  
clerk  
Becky Burns '06  
treasurer  
Ellen Archibald '09  
Joe Bolvard '09  
Cheryl Clements '07  
Pete Hamrick '08  
Diane Hendricks '08  
Ann Morris '08  
Bob Swartz '07  
Michelle Walker '08  
David Ramkey  
Assistant Treasurer  
David Ramkey/Becky Burns  
finance  
Wanda Dettlinger/Rose Smith  
evangelism/new member  
Mary Fitzgerald  
parish life  
Mary Barkley/Donna Hamra  
Bob Cochran/Dan McDonald  
new members  
Bob Swartz  
Nathan Arnett  
children's christian formation  
Melonie Knorr/Kasey Russell  
Katie Keese/Kristy Russell  
youth christian formation  
Dawn Hendricks  
adult forum  
Marilyn Perry  
parish care  
Phyllis Atwood  
Ben Owens  
Bob Swartz/Rob Miller  
pastors  
Carter Blundon  
altar guild  
Betty Jo Lloyd  
worship role  
Maurea Cole  
restoration  
Ann Carleton  
Prayer Shop  
Julianne Kemp  
interchange editor

**In-Gathering of the United Thank Offering is May 21:** Through the United Thank Offering, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who participate in the United Thank Offering discover that thankfulness leads to generosity. All offerings are used to support grants for ministries at home and overseas as an outreach of the Episcopal Church. Prayers and offerings make it possible for the UTO mission to stretch in unexpected ways. Bring your offering to church on Sunday, May 21, or send your check payable to St. John's and indicate it is for the United Thank Offering/2006.

**Memorial Day Picnic:** The entire church is invited to a Memorial Day picnic sponsored by the Christian Formation Team. The Gorman Shelter at Coonskin Park has been reserved all day on Monday, May 29. Come early and play games and the actual picnic will begin about 4 p.m. Please bring a covered dish to share. Bren Pomponio will be at the grill cooking hot dogs and hamburgers provided by the church. Please come and bring the entire family.

**Sundae Sunday:** June 4 is Sundae Sunday when we recognize our Sunday school teachers and honor our children. We will also recognize our acolytes and graduating seniors. We will have sundaes for all after church at coffee hour. Let us know if you or someone in your family is graduating so that we can recognize them. Hope you can join us.

**Summer Movie Night:** Enjoy the award-winning, uplifting and unflinching documentary "Murderball" about wheelchair rugby on Sunday, June 11, in Room 209 at 7 p.m. Due to adult content, teens must be accompanied by a parent/guardian and if you are bringing younger children, you must notify Brenda at 346-0359 by June 7 so child care can be provided in another room.

**Is It a Bicycle Wheel or a Rose Window?** You decide! These specially designed T-shirts benefit the Spokes for Folks bicycle collection, repair and giveaway program. They are available for \$15 and come in sizes small to 2X. Please stop by at coffee hour or give the church office a call.

**Happy Birthday:** Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating birthdays during the next two weeks: May 16, Zeb Wright; May 17, Jutta Bannerot, Rachel Coffield, Gwyn Warner and Bob Westmoreland; May 18, Edward Hilts; May 21, William Clements; May 22, JoAnne Christian and Joseph Farris, III; May 23, Ann Morris; May 24, Andrew Hendricks, Barbie McCabe and Jeanne Skaggs; May 25, Nelle Chilton; May 26, Galen Crow and Elizabeth Hoster; May 27, Mary Price Rattie and Margaret Workman; and May 28, Giles Snyder and Peggy Snyder.

**In Memoriam:** We are sad to report that Shelby Phillips, mother of parishioner Lora Thompson, died on May 2. *May light perpetual shine upon her.*

**A Different Taize Service:** The last Taize Prayer service for the season will be held on Sunday, May 21, at 5 p.m. It will be a little different in format and will take place in the chapel.

**Confirmation Class:** A large group of confirmands and others wishing to reaffirm their faith was received on Sunday, May 7, with Bishop W. Michie Klusmeyer officiating. Those confirmed were Charles Bird, Barbara Clarke, Anna Clarke, David and Linda Cooper, Margaret Crow, Darlene Daneker, David Scott Farris, Alexandra Gibson, Jesse Lowe, Joanna Holstein, Sarah Mangus, Cynthia Miller, Caitlyn Nelson, Caroline Nelson, Echezonachukwu Njaka, Joyce Rockwell, Carrie Swing, Robert Terpening and Adrienne Walker. A reception followed in Hunter Hall. Our congratulations and best wishes to each of them. Special thanks to Diane Hendricks for preparing our J2A confirmands.

**Convention Update:** There is still time to make plans to attend the General Convention June 13-23 in Columbus, Ohio. The General Convention, which makes decisions about every aspect of our church, is the primary governing body of the Episcopal Church made up of bishops, clergy, and lay representatives from each diocese. This convention will be an especially important one as the church addresses issues of mission strategy, church unity, sexuality, clergy discipline, and the election of a new presiding bishop. Visitors can register by going on line at [www.EpiscopalChurch.org](http://www.EpiscopalChurch.org). For more information or if people are interested in organizing car pools or obtaining hotel rooms, please see Karl Ruttan.

**Women's Retreat Oct. 24-29, 2006.** We're taking reservations for our annual pilgrimage to St. Helena's Convent in Vales Gate, N.Y. We'll arrive Tuesday evening, practice silence Wednesday – Friday; spend Saturday in New York City and travel back on Sunday. Our retreat leader will be the Rev. Sr. Claire Lofgren, assistant rector of St. John's in the mid-'90s. Some of us will travel by car and there is a conveniently located airport for those who prefer to fly. Reservations and a \$50 deposit need to be in by June 1; thereafter reservations will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis. Questions may be referred to Karen Glazier or Beth Marquart.

**From the Archives:** A reminder: June 9, 1901, a significant date: The first St. John's Church was built starting in 1834 and consecrated Nov. 10, 1837. The site was on the northwest corner of Virginia and McFarland Streets. In 1880 action was begun to build a new St. John's. In 1883 the Ladies Guild contributed to the purchase of Lots 5 and 6 of the Fitzhugh property on the southeast corner of Broad and Quarrier Streets. Over the next seven years the building was completed, the debt paid off and on June 9, 1901, the consecration service took place.

**Book Store Closing:** The Diocesan Book Store located in St. Elizabeth Life House, 1109 Quarrier St., is closing in June. There are some great bargains on religious books and books of interest to the Episcopal Church. Hours are Tuesday and Thursday, noon to 3 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Episcopal Life:** If you wish to continue your subscription to Episcopal Life, please let Brenda Dearien know as soon as possible. If you would like to start getting this paper, the cost is \$10.

**Interchange Deadlines:** The next issue of Interchange will be published for the weeks of June 5 and 12. Please submit items to [julkemp@charter.net](mailto:julkemp@charter.net) or [bdearien@stjohnswv.org](mailto:bdearien@stjohnswv.org) or call the church office, 346-0359, by 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 23. (346-0359).