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CROSS-EXAMINATION

Lift Up Your Voice and Sing!
The Rev. David R. Hackett

Every September the school year in a parish church is marked by a renewed, reinvigorated program of events and ministries. Some places call this ARally Day,@ others, AMinistry Festival,@ and here at St. John=s, AKick-Off Sunday.@ It is a time to celebrate the many opportunities we have as Saints of John to serve God and our neighbors and to resume our Christian Education/Formation activities.

This year the initial event will occur on **Thursday, Sept. 13, at 7 p.m.** with a concert by **Fran McKendree**. Our theme for the concert: **A Celebration of Community**. If you want to enjoy an evening with the Saints of John, if you want to lift up your voice and sing, if you want to celebrate this unique community of faith called St. John=s Church, then plan to attend. During this time of transition between rectors this is just what we need to help us celebrate this outstanding parish and its ministries.

I first encountered Fran McKendree at a diocesan event in East Tennessee several years ago. I most recently enjoyed his talents at a diocesan clergy conference in Southern Virginia last fall. Without fail he engenders a wonderful sense of joy and wonder and delight in God=s goodness as expressed in the community of faith we call church. A talented musician, Fran is gifted in bringing a group together in song and story. I urge you to be a part of this evening.

This event is for all age groups. Eat dinner before you come. There will be light refreshments offered at intermission. Childcare for our youngest children will be available, but we really want everyone of every age to be present for **A Celebration of Community**.

David H

AFran McKendree is a virtuoso musician and composer. His theological insight, poetic gifts and musical originality are enhanced by a luminosity of soul.@

Bennett J. Sims, Bishop Emeritus, The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta

AFran McKendree will make your heart sing, your feet move, and your soul open. Through song, story, and life experience, Fran brings an authenticity that truly inspires every gathering.

Brian N. Prior, Rector, Church of the Resurrection, Spokane, WA

The Rev. David R. Hackett
interim rector
The Rev. Elizabeth Hoster
associate rector
Brenda Maurice Vanderford
organist/choirmaster
David Morton
assistant organist/choirmaster
Brenda Dearien
parish administrator
Katherine Gillman
Christian formation
Bob Westmoreland
verger
James Wilson
custodian
vestry
Greg Clarke >08
priest=s warden
Michelle Walker >08
people=s warden
Becky Burns >09
treasurer
Ellen Archibald >09
Cynthia Barrett >10
Joe Howard >09
Cheryl Clements >10
Peggy Hamrick >09
Diane Hendricks >08
Dan McDonald >10
David Vick >10
Ann Morris >08
David Ramkey
Assistant Treasurer
David Ramkey/Becky Burns
Wanda Dettinger/Rose Smith
evangelism/new member
Beth Marnhart
parish life
Donna Hamra/Mary Fitzgerald
outreach
Bob Cochran/Dan McDonald
stewardship
Bob Swartz
Nathan Annet
children=s Christian formation
Sara Walker
youth Christian formation
Daphne Brooks
Marion Perry
Phyllis Howard
pastor of care
Barry Owees
Adolescents
Bob Swartz/Bob Miller
Carr, Pundon
Beth Jo Lloyd
respite care
Matha Cole
Ann Sarcobor
Thrift Shop
Lulanne Kenor
interchange editor

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.

August 23, 2007, Vol. 47, No. 14

Sundays September 2 and 9, 2007 Fourteenth and Fifteenth Sundays After Pentecost

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion,
library
10:30 a.m. Chapel for Older Children, Room 225
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, with choir
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Hunter Hall

(Adult Forum and Sunday School classes will resume Sept. 16)

Clergy On Call: During the week both of your clergy are available to you for pastoral care. Please call the church office to talk to either priest. Both try to take Fridays as their day off. But on weekends, in a true emergency, you may contact as follows: Sept. 7 and 8, the Rev. David Hackett, 347-0986; Sept. 14 and 15, the Rev. Elizabeth Hoster, 925-3675; Sept. 21 and 22 and Sept. 28 and 29, David Hackett.

Interchange Deadlines: The next issue of Interchange will be for the weeks of Sept. 16 and 23. Items may be submitted to julkemp@verizon.net (note new address) or bdearien@stjohnswv.org by Tuesday, Sept. 4, at 4 p.m.

St. John=s Mission Statement:
We reach out to the world in Christ=s name
in the hope that all might find a home in God=s healing love.

Established 1837 Present building consecrated 1901 A Jubilee Center since 1985
Please address correspondence to: 1105 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV 25301-2493
Telephone:304/346-0359 Facsimile: 304/342-2810 Website: www.stjohnswv.org

Saint John=s Interchange

Search Committee Progress Report

The Search Committee is alive and well and continuing to meet regularly to work through the prescribed process for calling a new rector for the Saints of John. Our parish profile has been completed and is ready to be sent to the Episcopal Church office computer in New York.

The many talents and skills of the committee have expedited this portion of the process and our ongoing guidance from Archdeacon Faith Perizzo, deployment officer for the Diocese, assures that we should soon be receiving information on candidates who are interested in the particular ministry of St. John=s.

This is an exciting time for our parish. Each of the committee members accepts this responsibility with humility and prays for the grace of wise discernment. The loving support of the congregation is invaluable. Keep this most important mission in your prayers.

--Phyllis Atwood, Chairwoman

WIFFF Luncheons Resume: Women in Fun, Faith and Fellowship will begin the fall session of monthly luncheons on Sept. 13 at 11:30 a.m. in Room 209. Our interim rector, the Rev. David Hackett, will give an informative talk concerning his role in the interim ministry and how it works in finding and calling a new priest. Suggested donation for lunch is \$5. A short business meeting will follow. Please make reservations with the church office, 346-0359, by Sept. 11. The Shawl Ministry will meet afterwards and all needle workers are welcome.

Adult Forum: The Adult Forum will reconvene on Sunday, Sept. 16. Your suggestions and topics are most welcome. Contact Marion Perry at 343-9391 or the church office, 346-0359.

Birthday Wishes: Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating birthdays during the next two weeks: Sept. 1, Chuck Bird and Catherine Korwan; Sept. 2, Anna Barrett and Dan Taylor; Sept. 7, David Cooper, Brenda Loving and Jesse Lowe; and Sept. 8, Lauren Arnett, Mary Knighton and Nathan Wilson.

New Members= Luncheon: A light lunch will be served for prospective members of St. John=s on Sept. 23 after the 10:30 a.m. service in Room 209. Our clergy, staff and vestry will be in attendance to tell about our church and membership. Please let Brenda Dearien know if you plan to attend by calling the church office, 346-0359, by Sept. 21.

Shall We Dance? Maggie Johnson of St. Matthews Episcopal Church on Norwood Road has agreed to offer dance lessons in preparation for the Bishop=s Ball and for those who just like to dance. The ball will be sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia at Stonewall Resort on Oct. 12. The ballroom lessons will be held on Sundays from 5 to 6 p.m. in the gym of Mathes Hall at St. Matthews from Sept. 9 to Oct. 7. Cost is \$30 per person. For more information, call Maggie at 342-1694 or Gale Lea Rubrecht, 343-9394.

From the Archives: Did you know? We have in the archives files a letter dated Aug. 8, 1921, telling us that the Ladies Aid Society of St. John=s church paid for the Apaving on Broad Street@ now known as Leon Sullivan Way.

It Took a Village
By Dr. Jo Blackwood

I=m packing away the camouflaged drop cloth, putting rocks back on the patio, and basking in a few quiet minutes of reflection about the Vacation Bible School that ended today. All six of our grandchildren were involved in some way. From their point of view and mine, VBS was a great success. Kathie Giltinan, Director of Avalanche Ranch, worked endlessly and recruited a superb group of volunteers who gave so much of their time and effort to pull off the week. On our most crowded day, we served more than 60 children -- not counting our teen-age helpers. On the day with the lowest attendance we served 40. A five-day event doesn=t just happen; we planned and gathered props and materials to create a memorable experience for the children. A list of more than 50 generous volunteers has been posted on the St. John=s web site.

Each day opened with music and a skit introducing the day=s Bible verse, theme and Bible buddy. Guy Vitaglione acted the role of Rowdy the Cowboy in the daily skits. Margaret Lieberman and Maggie Morris (who also traveled with the crews) were responsible for teaching the songs and preparing the final performances. Following this opening, the children went with small Acrews@ to activity stations where the theme and Bible verse were reinforced. Margaret Leef and her sister-in-law, Allison Corbin, prepared matching craft activities; Cynthia Barrett led the crews in creating chuck wagon chow snacks. Nathan Arnett refereed the games, tied into the days= themes; Susan Ferguson hosted the daily cliff-hanger Chadder video theatre.

Phyllis Atwood and I put our all into reenactment of Biblical scenes such as the walls of Jericho falling. Probably the most challenging was the Pre-School group (up to 18 on some days). Fran Simone, Lisa Cline, and Sally Love were assisted by Caitlin Cline, Rachel Lee and Jessi Anderson. Teen age volunteers for the crews also had their hands full as they led the children through the stations: Maggie Morris, Gabi Lewis, G. W. and Corey Morris, Khaki Blackwood, Jackson Newsome, Cagney Holbrook, Kathy Anderson, and Grace Underhill. Younger volunteers Evan and Molly Blackwood helped as assistant crew leaders.

On Thursday, the golden eagle Spirit mesmerized the group. (One of the Bible buddy characters was an eagle, and seeing this 7-pound raptor up close was one of the week=s highlights.) Friday was Showtime Round-Up, a recital for parents and friends. Even though I had heard the children learning the songs all week, I was astounded with how well (and with what deep feelings) they would present them. Those of you attending the 10:30 service on July 29 got a taste of their musical accomplishments. Following Friday=s music was a ranchBstyle picnic. The picnic committee composed of Beth Marquart (who also did publicity), Steve Thomas, Karen Glazier, Sandy Morris, and Brenda Dearien provided hot dogs and burgers for the participants and their families. In addition, we had decorating help from the Vitaglione family, the Coffield family, Corey and G.W. Morris, Robert Jones, Joe Mullins, Wanda Dettinger, Julianne Kemp, Mary Coburn, Robin Lester, Darlene Daneker, Sandy Morris (who also helped Betty Jo Lloyd with photos), and Jackson Newsome. After our busy week, everyone was happy when Michelle Walker showed up to help with cleaning up.

Helping with registration and check-in were Georgia Hamra, Sandy Morris, Beth Hamrick, Linda Cooper and Louisa Swift. Donations of toiletries went to Covenant House and monetary donations went to the Three Rivers Avian Center, home of Spirit the eagle. As Saints of John, we need to be proud of our support and congratulate Kathie and all the volunteers for providing this outreach and educational experience. Even though it required extensive effort and dedication, seeing my grandchildren and the others singing with gusto AOur God is an Awesome God@ made it all worthwhile.