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CROSS-EXAMINATION Ready for Another Blessed Week in Belize

By Tim Bradford

Many of you may not realize that your congregation has a budding presence in the Central American nation of Belize, in which you can take part. Last year a small group of us traveled to Belize to complete phase one of a construction project for a new computer room at St. Paul=s School. If anyone had been doubtful and lacked faith in our work in Belize it was me. I would be the first to tell you that I did not really know what this mission was going to turn into. Nothing in the preparation seemed to go smoothly. Several people had to drop out at the last minute. Problems did not end upon our arrival in Belize where the Diocese of Belize volunteer coordinator was unable to meet us and her husband greeted us instead.

We left the airport and traveled north to Corazol. Upon arrival we had a wonderful dinner with our construction crew supervisor and the school principal. The next morning we shared Eucharist with our host parish and spent the day exploring the town. During that week we started each day with Morning Prayer. And perhaps God heard our prayers and blessed our week. Because suddenly everything turned around. Every single person on the trip worked well with each other. We could have been called the laughing construction crew because we laughed so much and so hard all day long. Except for Barbara Clarke, none of us had much construction experience. With the guidance of our construction supervisor, Chuck, we were able to dig ditches, tie rebar, mix and pour concrete, and other tasks necessary to lay the foundation of this school addition. We finished up the week with the construction project ahead of schedule.

I believe there is a reason Christ gave us a sacramental church. I believe most of us need something concrete and physical to show us that God is present and loves us.

No one would disagree that it would be more efficient to send a check to St. Paul=s for the construction instead of sending our motley crew. But it is our physical presence that is helping to heal wounds that were created long ago in this former British colony. Something happened during that week in Corazol. The townspeople noticed that Americans were down at the school doing some work. Total strangers who were not Anglican expressed gratitude for what we were doing at the school. The Diocese of Belize was also very grateful for our presence and work.

It wasn=t all work and no play. We took a boat ride into the jungle and climbed towering Mayan temples and saw exotic species of birds and other wildlife. This year we plan to return to Caye Caulker where we can enjoy coral reef snorkeling and perhaps do a little fishing.

I am truly looking forward to our second mission trip to Belize. Please consider joining us. You do not need great construction skills. You just need to have the intention of having a good time. I even know someone who is offering to give away a frequent flyer ticket for this trip. We are leaving on Feb. 24 and returning on March 4. For more information contact the church office or Tim Bradford at 344-5700.

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.

November 2, 2006, Vol. 46, No. 19

Sundays November 12 and 19, 2006 Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Sundays after Pentecost

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**
8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library
9:15 a.m. Nov. 19, Annual Meeting with continental breakfast and election, Hunter Hall
9:30 a.m. Adult Forum: Nov. 12, Parishioner Karen Glazier will speak on Spokes For Folks, a St. John=s community outreach effort. Team members and bicycle recipients will take part in the discussion, Room 109. Nov. 19, No Adult Forum due to Annual Meeting
9:30 a.m. Nursery Open B Babies to 2 years old, Room 297
10:10 a.m. Parents= Fellowship, Room 208
10:10 a.m. Chapel for Older Children, Room 225
10:30 a.m. Classes for Toddlers to Grade 5; Toddlers, Room 298; Godly Play, 4 to 8 years old, Room 299; St. John=s Eagles, 3rd to 5th grades, 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
4:00 p.m. Nov. 19, Ethel Caffie-Austin Concert
5:00 p.m. Nov. 12, Taize Service

The Rev. Dr. Karl D. Ruttan
Rector

The Rev. Elizabeth Hoster
Associate Rector

Brenda Vanderford
Director of Music

Erinna Deafor
Parish Director

Katherine Gillman
Christian Formation

Bob Westmoreland
Clerk

James Wilson
Custodian

vestry

Greg Clarke >08
priest=s warden

Lila Ramkey >07
people=s warden

Bren Pomponio >07
clerk

Becky Burns >06
treasurer

Ellen Archibald >09

Joe Howard >09

Cheryl Clements >07

Page Hamrick >08

Diane Hendricks >08

Ann Morris >08

Bob Swartz >07

Michelle Walker >08

David Ramkey
Assistant Treasurer

David Ramkey/Becky Burns
finance

Wanda Dettinger/Rose Smith
evangelism/new member

Mary Fitzgerald
parish life

Marv Barkalow/Donna Hamra
welcome

Bob Cochran/Dan McDonald
stewardship

Bob Swartz
podiatry

Nathan Annet
children=s christian formation

Melonia Knorr/Kasey Russell
youth/preschool formation

Diann Hendricks
confirmation

Marilyn Perry
marriage

Phyllis Atwood
pastoral care

Barbara
Bible Studies

Bob Swartz/Rob Miller
after school

Carter Blundon
after school

Beth Ann Loyd
worship

Martha Cole
registrars

Ann Caffie
the sacristan

Trini Stone
mission

Julianne Kemp
intentional director

Gospel Concert: Ethel Caffie-Austin, an outstanding gospel singer, will present a concert at St. John=s on Sunday, Nov. 19, at 4 p.m. A reception will follow in Hunter Hall. WIFFF and the New Member/Evangelism Committee are sponsoring the event to which all parishioners and their friends are invited

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Telephone:304/346-0359 Facsimile: 304/342-2810 Website: www.stjohnswv.org

Annual Meeting and Election: The annual meeting is scheduled for Nov. 19 beginning at 9:15 with a continental breakfast in Hunter Hall. We will elect vestry members and representatives to Diocesan Convention. Polls will open at 8:45 a.m. and close at 10:35 a.m. Persons unable to be in attendance for good cause may obtain an absentee ballot which must be turned in before Friday, Nov. 17, at noon. Those eligible to vote in the election are persons who have attained the age of 16 and for the past three months have been regular worshipers and contributors to the support of the parish and are known to the treasurer.

Vestry Nominees

Candidates for three-year terms on the vestry are profiled in their own words and are listed below in alphabetical order.

Cynthia Chilton Barrett: I have been a member of St. John=s since the age of 9. I have taught Sunday School, to preschoolers, volunteered in the nursery and toddler transition room. I started the POINTS program and ran the program for several years. I am active in Vacation Bible School as a teacher and organizer. My hopes and dreams for St. John=s follow closely with the mission statement of the church, *AWe reach out to the world in Christ=s name in the hope that all might find a home in God=s healing love.*@ In addition to following the mission statement, it is my hope and dream that St. John=s maintain an active enlivened and enthusiastic Christian Formation Program, with emphasis on multi-generational programs.

Cheryl Hamilton Clements: I have been a member at St. John's for almost eight years, having started attending when I was pregnant with my son, William. I am married and live in the East End. I began teaching Sunday school at St. John's in 2000, and have done so ever since. I have been a member of the Christian Formation team for several years; as well as serving as that team's leader and vestry liaison. I served on the search committee for our Christian education director and have volunteered at the last four Vacation Bible Schools, serving as co-chair one year and chairing a committee each of the other years. I have co-chaired the POINTS group in the past. Also I have helped plan and attend the fall retreats and several other family activities and have enjoyed hosting a Christingle preparation and Dinners for Eight kick-off in my home. In 2005 I was elected to complete Sam Kay's remaining year on the vestry and have found this to be a very rewarding endeavor, and very different from working with the children. I was honored to be asked to run for a three-year term. I am currently the vestry member in charge of New Members and Evangelism and hope to begin collaborating with Karl, Mary Coburn and the Property Committee on the re-decoration of Curt Coburn's office. I would be honored to serve on the vestry again, especially as we begin looking for Karl's replacement. In the immediate future I believe St. John's will be entering a critical time of reflection and growth as we search for a new priest. I hope that as we rise to this occasion, we will continue to be a leader in our community, especially with regard to taking care of our fellow citizens who are wanting or excluded through hunger, poverty, loneliness, or nonacceptance. I hope that St. John's remains strong, and a living example of God's love at work in the Kanawha Valley.

Harold Howie: Born and reared in Charleston, I attended Methodist and Baptist churches as a youth. I came to St. John=s more than 53 years ago and was married here in 1953. We raised our three children, my wife and I taught Sunday School here and I was on the vestry. We normally attend the 8 a.m. services. St. John=s certainly is much more than a community gathered in worship, but is a family gathered to live lovingly in the teachings of the Bible. We

are at a critical juncture now with Karl leaving and funds are always a problem. If I can help, humbly, to promote the absolutely positive message of love and appreciation, I will gladly do so.

Dan McDonald: Joan and I have been coming to St. John's since 1975, with a short break in the 1980s when we attended the Church of the Good Shepherd. I have been on the vestry several times and held various offices, and am a lay reader, chalice bearer and money counter. I am proud to be a member of St. John's and the Episcopal Church USA. Both are diverse, inclusive and out-reaching. We should maintain our beautiful church, continue our excellent music tradition, encourage and welcome families of all kinds and colors, and continue to feed the poor in the church. We want to make sure these goals are included in the new rector's leadership mandate.

Bob Rosier: I am a second-generation "cradle" Episcopalian, baptized and confirmed at Christ Church, Fairmont. I have been a member of St. John's since moving to Charleston in the 1973 and was appointed parish keyman by the Rev. Jim Lewis. Elected to two terms on the vestry in 1980s, I also served as clerk to the vestry between elected terms. I served on the past two search committees for Mary Adelia McLeod and Karl Ruttan and was appointed Interchange editor by the Revs. Mac and Mary Adelia McLeod on their arrival here. I was named chalice assistant by Bishop Bob Atkinson on recommendation of the McLeods; subsequently relicensed by Bishops John Smith and Mike Klusmeyer. After a "sabbatical" from editing Interchange, I took on that assignment again during the interim following the McLeods' departure at request of the vestry, continuing as editor during the first half of Karl's time here. I am a founding member of the local Integrity chapter in the 1980s and of the present Straight and Gay Alliance (SAGA). In addition I have served on many committees, including the 150th anniversary celebration, organ restoration fund-raising, and Honoring our Heritage Homecoming, and am a perennial cameo performer in Madrigal Feasts. As to my hopes for this church, I feel it is imperative that our next rector will be a person who strongly supports the outreach ministries of our vibrant parish, particularly keeping Manna Meal at St. John's and continuing our role as a welcoming congregation to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. I know many young families who have been attracted to our parish literally because of such community involvement. Our new rector should want to be among us for those same reasons.

David Vick: I=ve been a member of St. John=s for 15 years, having transferred my membership from the Church of the Good Shepherd in 1991. During that time I have served as lector/ chalice assistant; small group facilitator for Disciples of Christ in Community and for Journeys in Faith as well as a money counter and Manna Meal volunteer. I also participate in Taize, Wednesday Book Club and Wednesday Eucharist. I love my church exactly as it is: the dignity of the Mass, the passion of our clergy, the wonderful opportunities for meaningful worship and service. That being said, I would like to explore further opportunities for service to our neighborhood and find ways to encourage more interaction between our parish and the community.

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See back of Calendar for more announcements and birthdays.

Interchange Deadlines: The next issue of Interchange will be for the weeks of Nov. 26 and Dec. 3. Items may be submitted to julkemp@charter.net or bdearien@stjohnswv.org by Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 4 p.m.

Happy Birthday: Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating birthdays during the next two weeks: Nov. 6, Phoebe Crow, Herbert Jones, Sarah Korwan and Clara Midkiff; Nov. 9, Margaret Crow, Nancy Lince, Betty Jo Lloyd and Larry Rowe; Nov. 10, Frances Simone and Brenda Vanderford; Nov. 15, Christopher Gardner and Rick Wilson; Nov. 16, Alicia Lewis; Nov. 17, Rob Ferguson and Courtney Hamrick; Nov. 18, Priscilla Lawson, Tom Rardin and David Studivon; and Nov. 19, Marty Miller and Echezona Njaka.

Our Rector Receives Ecumenical Award: The Rev. Dr. Karl D. Ruttan was the surprise recipient of the annual Mary Virginia De Roo Ecumenical Service Award from the West Virginia Council of Churches during a luncheon Oct. 23 at John XXIII Pastoral Center. The award was given in celebration of Karl's work with the ecumenical community during his 12 years at St. John's. The event was part of WVCC's 126th annual assembly in which U.S. Sen. Jay Rockefeller was guest speaker at a prayer breakfast preceding the luncheon. The Rt. Rev. Christopher Epting, former Bishop of Iowa and now ECUSA's national ecumenical officer in the office of Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, New York City, was a special guest.

A Note from Liddy: Dear Everybody: Thank you so much for your cards, prayers, and good wishes! I'm mending slowly but surely -- and haven't had much patience with the "slow" part. All is going well so far, but it will take a few more weeks to get back on track. Please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers. I miss you and will be back soon.

Men Seeking God: West Virginia Institute of Spirituality (WVIS) will offer a workshop for men called "Men Seeking God: Archetypes and the Spiritual Journey" led by the Rev. Dr. Karl Ruttan. The workshop is scheduled for Nov. 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1601 Virginia St. E. Cost is \$35 including lunch. Scholarships are available upon request. Register through WVIS at 345-0926.

RCCR Beans and Cornbread Dinner: The Religious Coalition for Community Renewal will hold its annual fundraiser on Thursday, Nov. 16 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Timothy Lutheran Church. This is always a fun dinner, and 90% of the \$60 ticket price is tax deductible. This year's speaker is Dr. Dean Thompson, President of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Magician John Slicer will entertain. Tickets are available in St. John's office, from the RCCR at 346-6398, or at the door.