

CrossRoads



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From the Priest

Did you ever return home after an absence—a week on a business trip, a semester at college, a tour of military duty—and want to sit down for a long, slow session of swapping stories to catch up with what the people you love have experienced in your absence? Sometimes I need just to sit there and babble, rattling off events and my thoughts about them till I stop spilling over. Sometimes I just need to feast on the inner movie that plays as my loved one recounts scene after scene from the episodes I missed in my absence.

This fall seems like a good time to kick back a little together, to listen, ask questions, dream, reflect, and get our souls' rockers moving in time to each other. What I find myself imagining is having some "fire-side chat" time with the parish. Some time to spread out our spiritual harvests in front of us and see what we've gathered in for the hungers ahead of us. We not only have spent three months apart. We soon will have also spent 6 years together, as of December 5, 2011—can you believe it?

Lots of things have changed. Newer families have joined us, and some stalwart members are no longer here. We've buried and birthed and baptized. We've added small groups for spiritual growth, like our Companions in Christ series, and for scriptural understanding, like our Kerygma survey of the Bible. We started a contemplative prayer group in support of some continuing education in which I was engaged, and we've continued to meet once a month and pray together for several years now. Our Prayers and Squares ministry is still cranking out quilts at an amazing volume, and the parish is still tying their prayers onto them. Our Ribfest has become a whopping success (food, crafts, music, and tours of the buildings and grounds—what a package—and with the money we've raised we're making plans to build another Habitat House in conjunction with another

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(Episcopal, we hope) church. We have hired a new Christian formation coordinator (Diane vanKoughnett) who has instituted our Family Fridays series, and a new nursery coordinator (Michele Mott), who is available to work with our children on special occasions, too. Krystal Marsh teaches our children Bible stories during Children's Chapel time while the adults listen to a sermon and pray and confess. We have started a chapter of Daughters of the King, and four more women will be installed in December during a Sunday visit from the DOK president at St. John's Cathedral. Our Pastoral Care team cooks, drives, sends cards, makes phone calls and visits that nurture us physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Our LAMS gathers food and bedding for animals at the shelter in hopes they can survive long enough to be adopted or moved to another long-term home. Our kitchen is new, efficient, and attractive. And it works! Our handicapped parking is much more welcoming and useful. Christmas wreath-making continues apace, complete with wrecked fingertips and astounded noses wakened with the scent of snow-covered northern woods. We've learned to sing Taize songs in worship, paring with folks from other churches. We even have a new bishop, George Young, who with the Rev. Kammy Young has visited several times for diocesan meetings and our Ribfest, then gave us a donation from their tithe. And our photographers have documented all this, plus a

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white dove on our steeple last Easter morning.

Yes, trees do fall and need to be cut up. Pipes do leak. Smells do arise from strange sewer vent connections. Locks fall apart, paint starts to flake, our few storage closets overflow with materials we need for all our activities. Every one of us gets tired and disgruntled every once in a while. We work, pray, cry, meet, bless, bury, and start over. One hundred thirty-three people worshipped and feasted here last Sunday. There are a lot of soulful stories in there somewhere. I'd love to hear them.

So here's what I propose:

Sunday, November 13 the leaders of our Ribfest efforts will lead us in a discussion during our adult Sunday School hour to brainstorm about how best to proceed with this powerful outreach ministry. Its fruits are not just dollars. The whole effort builds community, encourages teamwork, raises awareness of Resurrection in Loudon County—both via the event itself and the preparation for the event—and helps us remember that we are about mission in this world, not just maintenance of our own existence. It also is a costly ministry, in time, energy, and focus, not to mention human resources. For most of us, it has required only a few days of effort near the event. For some of us, it had been like a full-time job for several months. How can we best continue so that administering Ribfest does not lay too great a burden on anyone?

On November 20, we will prepare for Advent with adult activities and discussions about how this season can we a welcome respite from our cultural pre-Christmas craziness and a time of deepening trust in God.

Then comes a treat: the **first three Sundays of Advent (November 27, December 4 and 11)** the Rev. Jan Buxton-Wade, recently retired from Church Street United Methodist Church in Knoxville, will lead our adults in ***A Thrill of Hope: the Christmas Story in Word and Art***. This series uses the art of John August Swanson (we have several of his posters down in the Sunday School area of the parish hall) together

with DVD presentations by seminary professors at Candler School of Theology at Emory University commenting on the gospel stories of Jesus' birth.



During the **Sundays of Epiphany, (January 8-February 19)** let's light a fire in the fireplace at 9:15, have some coffee and tastymorsels, and sit around telling each other about the blessings we've shared here,

the moments when God has touched or called or held us. Let's see if we can uncover our hungers, too, our hopes for the future, even our fears for this community. We've reached a place like one of those spots on the trail up Mt. LeConte where we're ready to stop, take a few slow breaths, and look back and forward because we're up high enough to glimpse in both directions. What kind of study, discussion, prayer, worship, and work is our parish moving toward? Where do we see ourselves (together and as individuals) moving, given our current momentum? What do you dream of doing? Where, in other words, is the Spirit blowing among us? What is God whispering in your ears? We can call it ***Rocking with the Rector or Kaffee-klatching with Claire*** or . . . ??? Stay tuned for more information.

And then . . .

In Lent we'll use a study suggested by Jerry Ploeger—***Boundaries: When to Say Yes, How to Say No to Take Control of Your Life*** by Henry Cloud and John Townsend. This study refers to both Holy Scripture and to sound psychology to help us figure out when and how to help others and when and how not to. Every church needs this kind of work, and many churches have used this series. It includes video clips with group discussion and personal inventories to help with making these tough decisions and then following them up with our behavior. ***You definitely do want to be part of this class.*** Sounds like Jesus' time in the wilderness of temptation—perfect for Lent.

A fireplace, video, fun people to share it with . . . who's bringing the popcorn?

Peace and blessing,

Claire †

Children's Communion Class - December 3

All young children are invited to make bread and learn about communion with Mother Claire on December 3 at 10:30 a.m. Class will last about one hour. We will meet in our kitchen to pat out and bake bread dough, then take a tour of the vesting sacristy, and finally gather around the altar for a brief walk-through of communion. Then we'll go back to the kitchen to eat the bread and drink some juice before taking their bread home. A parent should accompany the children from each family. Please sign up in the great hall or phone the office to let us know you're coming—we want to have plenty of bread for everyone!



'Blessed Quiet:'

An Advent Retreat

Good Samaritan, Knoxville

Nov 19, 9 am - 2 pm - Lunch Provided

Register by Nov 10

Spiritual Director and Folk Artist Rara Schlitt, will lead the retreat in a time of preparation for the season of Advent. Please e-mail or call the church, goodsam@knology.net or 865-693-9591, by Nov 10 and let them know if you will be attending. There is no charge for the retreat. Good Samaritan is located at 425 North Cedar Bluff Road, Knoxville.



Paper Bag Pageant

Sunday December 18th - 5:30pm

"It makes my Christmas. It IS Christmas."

I didn't know anyone else felt the same way as I did until I stood there facing a gentleman with tears in his eyes as we were talking about the Paper Bag Pageant. I know my kids cherish it because every year they make the pilgrimage home. They make it home in time to help Frank Moore cook the hamburgers to serve to our guests from the Adult Group Home. What follows that is the most wonderful Christmas play. All the costumes are in a brown paper bag, simple ones that can be donned in seconds. The play is directed by Angel Gabriel and the story of Jesus' birth is read as carols are sung between scripture - so simple and so sweet. The last carol is, "Go Tell It On The Mountain", which leads us right in to St. Nicholas with bells ringing, bringing gifts that were bought especially for our guests. These guests LOVE Santa Claus! It is one of the most fun things to watch as each is called up to get their gift. Another one of the most fun things - reliving it over and over while you are driving home, around your own Christmas tree, and sharing these lasting memories with all. It IS Christmas - come and see.

-Millie Twiggs

Bishop's Letter



Dear friends,

We recently had our annual Clergy Conference in Gatlinburg, where there is a nice conference center with facilities that meet our needs very well. We have this conference every year in October, and it is an important time for the clergy of the diocese to be together, to share our lives with each other, and to focus on some priorities. I hope you support your clergy in being away for three days for this significant experience.

We spent time on various topics, and I want to share a bit about four of those. The first is my commitment to have a strong sense of community among the clergy of the diocese. This clergy conference is an integral part of that community, and this weekend I shared that I also want us to consider having a retreat together each Lent. It may be late to plan it for this next year, but hopefully it will work in the following year. Often, as clergy in parishes do much planning and staffing of extra programs and activities for the parishes during Lent, we get so busy that we don't leave time for our own spiritual activities for the season. A time away specifically focused on our spiritual lives would help that. Again, I trust you will eagerly support that concept as it develops.

We next devoted a section of our time, which we called "Living Intentionally," to examining our own inner, spiritual lives and disciplines. I believe, and I think you'll agree, that the first order of business for clergy is tending to their own relationships with God, and ordering their lives to make this a priority and guard space and time for it. And it's tough to do with the many demands on the time and energy of the clergy. We worked with a booklet from the SSJE Monastery (Society of St. John the Evangelist) which provided a format for thinking and praying and planning for our "rule of life." This is available to all, so please look at <http://www.ssje.org/> for more info.

Another priority for us can be called many things - I have been calling it "Congregational Vitality." How do we examine and improve and sustain the vitality of our parishes? Using an ENS (Episcopal News Service) article called "[Practicing Our Slogan](#)," we highlighted several aspects of hospitality to new people who come to our parishes. One practical item is thinking and talking about people who come as "guests" rather than as "visitors." "Visitors" suggest that they are on "our turf," and they're probably only visiting anyway. "Guests" invites us to consider them as people God has sent to us. St. Benedict says that we should "welcome all as Christ," which is good advice to us.

We remembered that the vast majority of people who come to our churches for the first time do so in the midst of some significant transition. It may be a new job, or a move to a new community, or the loss of a job, or a family crisis - divorce, illness, death of a loved one, or some kind of personal crisis. Whatever the issue is, these are folks looking for meaning in life, for community, for the presence and activity of Christ. That's what they're looking for, whether they realize it or not. Do we do all in our power to support them in finding this?

Fourthly, we spent some time in "Reasonable and Holy Conversation" about same sex relationships, as well as marriage. We heard personal sharing, we studied the Scriptures, and we examined the history and tradition of the Church. We had lively and respectful conversation. Several members of the [Bishop's Committee on Inclusivity](#) led us through this process, and one of the goals was to encourage this kind of conversation in all of the parishes. Members of the BCI are available to assist you in your parish to have these conversations, and your clergy have resources to lead these themselves.

This is important for at least a couple of reasons. One reason is that very likely the General Convention in July 2012 will approve a liturgy for same gender blessings, and we - the whole Church, as well as the Diocese of East Tennessee - will need to be prepared to make decisions about what that will look like in the future. Another very important reason is that the church needs to be a place where we can have open and honest conversations about serious and difficult topics. We need to have opportunities to have a safe place to talk, and have different perspectives, and still be the community of the Beloved. I hope you will be open to, and encouraging about, having these conversations in your parishes.

I hope you know that we have an excellent group of clergy in the Diocese of East Tennessee. They are a faithful, committed, hard working, imaginative, creative, and fun group. They are deeply committed to Christ, and to you! I hope you know, and honor, and celebrate that. We are very blessed in this diocese - with amazing clergy as well as amazing lay folks. Thank God! I do every day.

God bless you!

Calendar Reminders:

- November 4th - Family Friday Night - "Gathering God's Gifts" - supper & activities. Hamburgers & veggie burgers will be provided, please bring sides and a canned good. Sign-up sheet on the Join Us board in the parish hall.
- November 24th - Thanksgiving Day Service, 10:00am
- December 4th - Annual Parish Meeting & Vestry Election, One Service Only at 10:30am, Potluck and meeting to follow. Bring your favorite potluck dish to share.

Thank You Notes to Prayers and Squares and Members of Resurrection

The summer has passed since Prayers and Squares presented the beautiful prayer quilt to my wife. She is now in the arms of God and at peace. However, the prayers and love through your ministry continue to be present. The quilt remains a strong reminder of the shared love manifested in The Church of the Resurrection. Thank you so very much.

Thank you for the beautiful prayer quilt you made for me. The love and time in the quilt, made in the colors I love, give me extra comfort and energy each day. You are so kind to make this and I appreciate the lovely work and loving prayers in it.

Thank you so much for the prayer quilt. When I wrap it around my shoulders it is like a big hug and has been a comfort.

Thank you so much for the absolutely beautiful prayer quilt. We appreciate your craftsmanship, but especially your many prayers and support. May God bless you as you continue this wonderful ministry.

Vestry Nominations

Sooner than we think, our Annual Parish Meeting is approaching on December 4th. We need at least three nominees to replace the three vestry members rotating off. Talk to our vestry members and prayerfully consider if you might serve our parish in this ministry.



Toys for Tots

Hopefully by the time you read this all the Toys for Tots names will be taken from the fireplace mantle in the Parish Hall, everyone will have written down which name they took (so we know), and all will be merrily filling wishes for children. (If you were not able to take a name, there will be another opportunity to shop when its time for the Paper Bag Pageant)

Just a reminder - PLEASE have everything back PRIOR to Thanksgiving, in the corner down from the coffee maker, in the Parish Hall. Do not wrap toys, an open gift bag (no tissue) or a clear trash bag is fine. If you purchase a bike, please also purchase a helmet. Attach the stocking tag to your item. We will be adding toys from the Tellico Village Woodworkers to the bags after they go to the warehouse. If anyone has questions, please call Debbie Hines at 988-2300 at the Sheriff's Office. You will never know how much I truly appreciate everyone's help on this project.

Debbie & Mel

November

NOTE: Look for birthdays & anniversaries in bold!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1:30pm Bible Study 9:30am-1:00pm Pine Cone Workshops All Saints Day	2 10:00 am Holy Eucharist/Healing 9:30am-1:00pm Pine Cone Workshops	3 5:30 pm AA (women's group) 6:00pm Prayers N Squares Richard & Judy Keller	4 9:00 am Prayers N Squares 7:00 pm AA (open) 6:00pm Family Friday Night Gathering God's Gifts	5 Nelda Griffith Peggy McWilliams Katie Ann Twiggs
6 Holy Eucharist 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Holy Eucharist 10:30 All Saints Sunday	7 8:30 am Body Awareness for Healthier Living 7:00 pm AA (open)	8 1:30pm Bible Study	9 10:00 am Holy Eucharist/Healing	10 5:30 pm AA (women's group) 6:30 pm Contemplative Prayer Group Margery Allard	11 7:00 pm AA (open)	12 Debbie Montgomery
13 Holy Eucharist 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Holy Eucharist 10:30	14 8:30 am Body Awareness for Healthier Living 7:00pm AA (open) Kelly Johnson	15 1:30pm Bible Study	16 10:00 am Holy Eucharist/Healing 7:00 pm Vestry	17 5:30 pm AA (women's group) 6:00pm Prayers N Squares	18 9:00 am Prayers N Squares 7:00 pm AA (open) CrossRoads Deadline	19
20 Holy Eucharist 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Holy Eucharist 10:30	21 8:30 am Body Awareness for Healthier Living 7:00 pm AA (open) Paul & Gloria Andrzejewski David & Pam McAfee	22 1:30pm Bible Study Emily Fiebke Jane Mocolac	23 10:00 am Holy Eucharist/Healing	24 5:30 pm AA (women's group) 6:00pm Prayers N Squares Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist 10:00am	25 9:00 am Prayers N Squares 7:00 pm AA (open) Elijah Fiebke Pat Hinton Marcia Shelley	26 Carolyn Parker
27 Holy Eucharist 8:00 Sunday School 9:15 Holy Eucharist 10:30 LAMS Pet Food & Supplies Collection	28 8:30 am Body Awareness for Healthier Living 7:00 pm AA (open) Kendall Lloyd David McAfee Roger Phelps	29 1:30pm Bible Study	30 10:00 am Holy Eucharist/Healing Bob Haldi			

2011

Annual Parish Meeting - Sunday, December 4th
 One Service Only at 10:30am / Sunday School at 9:15am
 Bring your favorite potluck dishes and desserts to share

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE	6-November-11		13-November-11		20-November-11		27-November-11 Advent Begins Year B Begins	
	8:00 AM	10:30 AM	8:00 AM	10:30AM	8:00 AM	10:30AM	8:00 AM	10:30AM
Acolyte	Nancy Wart	Jack Lefler	Vera Mosey	Lisa Amelse	Andrew Wilkinson	Kelly Johnson	Kathleen Bailey	Monty Ross
Eucharistic Minister		Kelly Johnson		Monty Ross		Jack Lefler		Lisa Amelse
Lector	Peggy Rogers	Judy Egan	Glenn Boyles	Jane Andrews	TBD	Chip Parker	Glenn Boyles	Gloria Andrzejewski
Usher	Tom Wart	Tom & Nelda Griffith	Wayne Henry	Rame & Janey Coombes	Ron Bailey	Wayne Tolbert & Andy Hadjian	Jerry Ploeger	TBD & Bob Haldi
Coffee	Kathleen Bailey	Ronnie Doughty	Pat Hinton	Marie Kinnear	Jackie Trombly	TBD	Erllys Ploeger	Betty Anne Haldi
Offering Counters	Frank Richardson & Monty Ross		Will Heathcote & Dick Reardon		Jean Cardwell & Sarah Reynolds		TBD	
Altar Guild	Kathleen Bailey		Judy Egan & Janey Coombes		Donna Jackson		Dianna Stimpson	
Flower Guild	Rosemary Kitts		Dianna Stimpson		Sara Sampeer		Hannah Parten	
Readings	Revelation 7:9-17 Psalm 34:1-10, 22 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12		Judges 4:1-7 Psalm 123 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30		Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 100 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46		Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37	

Thanksgivings And Concerns

CONTINUED CONCERNS: Kim, Jerry, Margie, Adyson, Betty, Mary Elizabeth, Maria, Heidi, Ralph, Matthew, Rebecca, Sherri, Joseph & Yesenia, Sandy, the Butler family, Richard, Helen, Mary Levi, Claire, Jessie, Michelle, Sandy, David, Dan, Mary Lynn, Kristin, Herman, Brad, Chris, Peggy, Richard, Jeanne, Marty & Hayes & Phil, Ron

SERVING IN HARM'S WAY: Brent, Matt & Delta Company, Karson

VESTRY CONTACTS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
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Glorifying God by
Refreshing Souls, Bridging Communities,
Engaging People In Service

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Financial Snapshot

September 2011

Operations	Month	Y-T-D
Income	\$12,711.02	\$139,057.47
Expenses	<u>\$11,946.21</u>	<u>\$136,226.62</u>
Balance	\$764.81	\$2,830.85
Pledges		
Actual	\$10,994.00	\$119,412.00
Budgeted	<u>\$13,344.00</u>	<u>\$120,096.00</u>
Difference	(\$2,350.00)	(\$684.00)

Missing: A New Crossroads Editor



We need your help to locate, recruit, trace, place or - in other words - find a new editor for our Crossroads newsletter. Kelly Johnson will be stepping down from this position effective January 2012. Let her know if you would be willing to help.

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