

THE COMMUNICATOR

WORK BEGINS IN MAY ON SLIGHTLY ALTERED PLAN

In the next 12 months, Church of the Holy Communion will live into a dream it has been imagining for years. Construction on the \$7 million renovation project, the largest in the church's 65-year history on Walnut Grove, will begin in May.

The new spaces are on target to be revealed by Easter next year.

"By then, Holy Communion's facilities will have been given an entirely new life," says the Reverend Sandy Webb. "Our ministry spaces will be completely new, but our spirit will be the same as ever. Opportunities like this only come about once every two or three generations."

The project is now slightly different than the renderings the congregation saw more than a year ago.

"The vestry chose to adjust the project and stay within our means," Sandy said.

Fleming Architects retooled the plans to reduce the build-out on the south side of Blaisdell and restructure the sweeping open stairway and second-story balcony in the welcome center.

"Those changes saved us \$1 million," Sandy said. "By doing this, we avoided having to build a new foundation. We avoided heavy steel work. We avoided cutting into the slate roof and taking down and rebuilding the porte cochere."

The rest of the savings was achieved by putting a few other items on a list of alternate projects that will be completed when funds are available.

The actual cost of the project, due to increases in materials,



Photo by Jane Roberts

Revisions to the renovation plan shaved \$1 million off the cost. Most of the savings will come from a reworking of the reception area.

labor and some additions to the plan, including enhanced handicap-accessibility, had risen to nearly \$8 million. The Vestry has approved a budget of \$6.8 million.

In January, the vestry voted not to incur long-term debt and asked the Renovations Committee to find savings.

"We said, 'What are the goals of our project?'" said Maryanne Macdonald, chairperson. "The goals were to have a clear north-south entryway, well-designed spaces for youth and children, adequate office design, a beautiful welcome center and good meeting rooms. We meet those goals with this budget."

"The architects presented something that really is beautiful. The

welcome center in particular is so different from what we have," she said.

As soon as school is out for St. Mary's Episcopal School, the first step will be to remove the hazardous materials from the Blaisdell and Greenwood buildings, both which were built while asbestos and other dangerous materials were in widespread use. By early July, interior demolition will be in full swing.

Once the work in Blaisdell and Greenwood is complete, the new music suite will be constructed on the upstairs level of Cheney Parish Hall.

In mid-April, the final construction plans will go out for bid. When the bids are received, Linkous Construction will be able to give the Vestry a guaranteed maximum price.

If it is low, the renovations committee will rank the alternate projects, including the elevator in the new lobby.

(Renovation continued on page 7)

MINISTRY LEADERS MEET TO UNDERSCORE SERVICE

When one's mission is being invested in peoples' lives and helping in times of crisis, the atmosphere tends to be charged with finding the most efficient ways to help.

It's a complex job in metropolitan Memphis, where nearly 20 percent of the city lives at a level of poverty that threatens nearly 30 percent of its children.

As Hester Mathes takes on leadership in the church beyond coordinating outreach, Sherry Murphy is stepping in to run the backstop, which means helping connect people in the pews to the ministries that will give them the most joy.

She doing it with a smartphone and skills she used every day as head of customer service at MLGW.

"I am hoping more people will get involved," Murphy said. "Unless they are really motivated, it's hard for lots of people to engage by just reading something in the service bulletin or the E-communicator. But if they get a personal call or email, 'Hey, I am going to do this, would you like to do it with me,' that feels different."

The two are leading the Outreach Roundtable, a meeting of the parishioners who lead Holy Communion's signature ministries. They talk over what's happening in their areas and where they could use more hands. The conversations strengthen the historic ministries but also include time to look at new ministries bubbling up in Memphis.

"People might bring up what their biggest challenge is and how we can help," Murphy said. "We've got some ideas we are working on, like for Meals on Wheels. We want to introduce more people to it. A good way is a ride-along. Amanda (Goetze) is offering to take people on her route."

Murphy has written a series of "appeals" for the congregation, including one that starts with: "People who volunteer live longer... really."

The beauty of the group, Hester says, is the power of the brains and enthusiasm around the table.

"Great things happen a room is filled with parishioners passionate about outreach," she says.

"These are the people who know the ministry areas. So, for

instance, when we realized we wanted to target some of the cooking opportunities for Family Promise at Second Baptist, we could ask Barb Boucher which of her More Than A Meal volunteers really like to cook for a group.

"Sherry can send them a personal invitation to help. It doesn't poach on Barb's volunteers because Family Promise is something we will be doing only three times a year," Hester said.

Family Promise is a recent example of what can come from a concerted approach to gathering volunteers. The ministry offers shelter to homeless families, important because most shelters take only men or women, not both, and not families. It's new to Holy Communion.

Ten people responded to Murphy's personal emails for help, including several who volunteered to be overnight hosts.

Second Baptist has been serving families through the ministry for more than two decades. It has compiled the list of volunteers it needs each day, the exact time they need to arrive, what they will do and procedures for accommodating people overnight.

Many of Second Baptist's volunteers have been with the ministry for years and are now in their 80s.

"Second Baptist, which has the space, needs volunteers. Holy Communion will not have space for a year, but we have volunteers," Hester said.

"It's a perfect way for us to learn the ropes. After our renovation is complete, it's possible we will be able to be a Family Promise site, and we will have all these experienced volunteers.

"This all came from our working together on the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service," she said. "Not only are we encountering Christ in the margins, but also in our ecumenical partnerships with our neighbors across the street."

For now, Murphy is the contact for Family Promise. She is shepherding the connecting process until the partnership gets off the ground and a Holy Communion leader emerges.

Another connection from the Outreach Roundtable benefits Team Read, a ministry that helps second-graders master the dozens of words young readers need to immediately recognize in order to improve reading fluency.



Photo by Cindy McMillion

Team Read volunteer Amy O'Dell works with children at Emmanuel Center. Mayor Strickland mentioned Team Read's importance when he visited in February.

MEMBERS CARRY LIBRARY HOME IN THEIR HEARTS

If Peggy Barrett could have been in the library on Palm Sunday, she surely would have smiled to see so many people gleefully enjoying the space she loved.

All day, parishioners milled in and out, bagging up books for their own libraries.

"I found three or four books by Frederick Buechner, who was a favorite of Reynolds Cheney. I thought I would read something that appealed to Reynolds," said Charlie Caldwell, who came early to avoid the crowd.

Caldwell was hoping to find a few Paul Tillich books, including his seminal trilogy on theology, but considered it a win when he found several books that contained Tillich sermons.

"I want to learn more about him. He taught at Union Theological Seminary in New York, and a good friend of mine went there," he said.

The renovated spaces in the church will have books in the meeting rooms. There will not be a room set aside for a library because people tended to use the room for meetings and not checking out books.

Emmanuel Center, churches in the diocese and Memphis Theological Seminary will also be invited to take books. Those left will be donated to the Memphis Public Libraries.

To honor the library and the fond memories parishioners have of it, Holy Communion made a commemorative bookmark, featuring the portrait of Peggy Barrett that hung there for years. Peggy was the wife of former rector, the Reverend Harold



Photo by Jane Roberts

On Palm Sunday, parishioners selected treasures from the Peggy Barrett Memorial Library, filling the room with warmth.

Barrett. She died while he was serving this parish.

Dr. Steve Sittnick found a book of daily prayers and discipline, which he tucked in his bookbag for Holy Week.

"Taking a book home from the Barrett library felt like I was bringing a bit of my church into my home," he said.

Kaitlyn Boling left with 20 children's books, including *Priscilla and the Pink Planet* and sat happily in the hallway outside, perusing her treasures.

Mary Henry Thompson has found solace in the library since her father left her there to wait

as a girl while he met with Reynolds Cheney.

"Inevitably, their discussion would jump down many rabbit holes, and we would be at CHC for what felt like an eternity. Being surrounded by books and having a cozy couch to sit on made the wait seem shorter and the time much more enjoyable," Thompson said.

"My mother always taught me that you could never be lonely if you have a book to read. To this day, I can't resist a book!"

"Walking in on Palm Sunday and removing books from the shelf made me feel like I was taking a little piece of history with me. Those books have brought strength, comfort and distraction to many, and stood as sentries for scores of people who have 'waited in the library.'"

Thompson added her "new, old books" to the shelf behind her desk at work "so that I might continue to find the strength and comfort that I found in that room as a child."

Outreach *cont'd from page 2*

Holy Communion has volunteers at Shady Grove Elementary and the Emmanuel Center. Until the roundtable formed, the team leaders barely knew each other.

"Now, that they are at the same table, if we have someone who can't be at Shady Grove at 8:30 a.m., we'll be able to offer them Emmanuel," Hester said. "Another benefit is that they both now know each other and can talk about other things we could be doing."

Mayor Jim Strickland mentioned the power of Team Read when he spoke at the church in early February. Within weeks, Murphy and Charlton Lyons had met with Father Colenzo Hubbard at Emmanuel to talk about what else the church could do, possibly with next year's third-graders.

"We'll be building a rapport with more kids and involving more parishioners," Murphy said. "You like to see results in this work, and that's how you do it. If we have more people

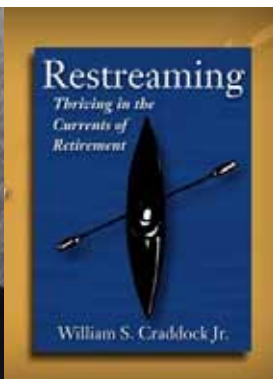


Photo by Jane Roberts

Barb Boucher, Hester Mathes and Don Paterson work at Camp Able.

involved, and they start spending more time with the same children, pretty soon, you can see and feel the difference."

SPRING AT HOLY COMMUNION...



SUNDAY MORNING RECTOR'S FORUM

APRIL

April 1 | EASTER SUNDAY (*No forum*)

April 8 | Mountaintop Speech Father Sandy offers the last installment of our MLK50 observance, an in-depth exploration of Dr. King's last speech, given in Memphis the night before he was killed.

April 15 | Restreaming: Thriving in the Currents of Retirement Retired wellness professional Bill Craddock will speak about being intentional about living with purpose and meaning, particularly in later life.

April 22 & 29 | How Shall We Then Live? Shari Ray, head of the English department of St. Mary's Episcopal School, is offering a two-part study on how others, in times of tumult, have answered life's deep questions. The

questions are: How shall we then live? (from the book of Ecclesiastes); What sort of man are you? (from Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*).

MAY

May 6 | Our Really Big Renovation Architect Scott Fleming and construction manager Rusty Linkous leading this discussion on what to expect during construction and beyond.

May 13 & 20 | What We Need to Know About the General Convention It is the Episcopal Church's top governing body. The group meets every three years to establish policy and refine our mission strategy. Father Sandy explores its storied (and sometimes hilarious) history and discusses several of the matters coming before it this summer in Austin, Texas.

Bishop's visit is April 22

The Right Reverend Don E. Johnson, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee, will be with us to confirm and baptize.



Words³ writers are

reading from their work on **Silver Linings**. All are welcome, including listeners. | April 25 at 5 p.m., Room 307. Free snacks!



Young Adults Activity | April 12 | Theology Live with Rabbi Micah Greenstein at Church Health Center community room in Crosstown Concourse. 6:30 - 8 p.m.

GROUPS A

<p>All Saints' Guild <i>Second Tuesday</i> 10:30 a.m. Carrick Room</p>	<p>Brotherhood of St. Andrew <i>Second and fourth Saturday</i> 8 a.m., Chapel</p>	<p>Centering Prayer <i>First Saturday</i> 9 a.m., Chapel</p>	<p>Daughters of the King <i>Second Sunday</i> noon Carrick Room</p>	<p>Knitting Ministry <i>Third Tuesday</i> 11 a.m., Room 307 <i>Every Wednesday</i> 6:30 p.m., Room 307</p>
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Tell Your Story | Take a Journey | Make a Difference



Here@HolyC Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m.

Come and enjoy our brand of family-style dinner, followed by compline and small-group discussions. All the choirs practice, plus, there's Zumba, activities for children and Bring It Food Hub pickup. Repeat each week!



Intergenerational Mission Trip to Houston

June 3 - 8 | Holy Communion is going to Houston to help with cleanup and rebuilding after Hurricane Harvey.

Open to members of the church and friends.

Group will stay at Christ Church Cathedral, and will work with the Cathedral Urban Service Experience.

Cost is \$500 per person. Scholarships are available. *To reserve your spot, please send \$50 deposit to Matthew Arehart.*

2018 SPRING SPORTS

SOCCER: Games run through mid-May

SOFTBALL/T-BALL

Boys & Girls K – 4th grade

Games run from May to early June

Register online or contact Julie Fike, jfike@holychurch.org.



Exercise Schedule at Holy Communion			
Beginner's Gentle Yoga	Intermediate Yoga	Tai Chi	Zumba
Mon. & Wed. 4:15-5:15 p.m. Room 308	Tues. & Thurs. 4:15-5:15 p.m. Room 308	Mon. & Wed. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 308	Mon. 6:15-7:15 p.m., Gym Wed. 6:30-7:30 p.m., Gym Sat. 9:30-10:30 a.m., Gym



FEED THE HUNGRY THIS SPRING

1 Learn about our Food Pantry Ministry at St. Luke's Methodist

Volunteer opportunities on Thursdays, April 12 or 26, 9:30am-noon. Email Hester at hmathes@holychurch.org.

2 Ride-along on our MIFA Meals on Wheels route

Parishioners deliver Meals on Wheels to senior citizens on the first and third Fridays of each month. Ride-along with Amanda Goetze on May 4. Contact Amanda at amanda.goetze@gmail.com.

3 Feed a student during summer break

Enjoy church dinner on Wednesday nights and provide meals for students over the summer break!

Here@HolyC dinners cost \$8.50. Starting in April, every dollar donated over base price goes to the Mid-South Food Bank's Kids' Cafe summer food program.

AND GUILDS

Men's Bible Study <i>Friday</i> 7 a.m. Room 214	More Than a Meal <i>First Sunday</i> after 10:30 service at Grace-St. Luke's	The Reading Life <i>First Tuesday</i> 11 a.m. Carrick Room	Sandy and Mimsy's Biblical Adventure <i>Thursday</i> 10 a.m. Room 308	Words ³ (Words, Cubed) <i>April 25</i> 5:00 p.m. Room 307
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VESTRY SERVICE DEEPENS TIES THAT BIND

In a church of busy families, the job of building the candidate list for Vestry elections comes down to making dozens of calls and a dog-eared church directory.

Amanda Goetze is chairing the Nominating Committee this year. The committee will begin meeting in April, half a year before the work is traditionally done.

“Starting the nominating process earlier in the year allows current Vestry members more time to educate future members about the many exciting and rewarding opportunities to serve our church in such an important capacity.”

Vestry members who rolled off in January say the top lay job gets a bad rap because it requires a three-year commitment and night meetings. But if parishioners knew how enriching the experience is, more would accept the call, they say.

“It was good for me physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally,” says Lattie Michael, who’s served on numerous boards, including for nonprofits.

“Quite frankly, it enhanced my life. One of the reasons it was so good is Sandy’s ability to be a leader. I’ve been involved in a lot of business associations and in companies. Holy Communion is more organized; Sandy is more organized than any of the CEOs of the boards I sit on.”

Sarah Cowens has served two terms on the Vestry, each remarkably different, she said. Each time, she was struck by how the experience broadened her personal relationships.

“The Vestry is such a wonderful microcosm of the bigger church,” she says. “It’s so nice to be in an intergenerational group. People are at different places in their lives, and we all are there for the common purpose of serving in a leadership role.”

“The relationships you make are very meaningful, and they strengthen your relationship to the church. The more connections we make, the stronger our church is.”

What inspired Bill Bateman was the selfless leadership.

“It certainly reinforced the idea that serving is not seeking credit but lifting others up and supporting them,” Bateman said. “I saw that in spades. The leaders on the staff and Vestry give so much to the church in time and economic resources. It motivated me to try to do more because they do so much.”

The experience gave Jeffrey Block a way to see how much

people do for the church “that I didn’t even realize before.

“For me, it was learning about what it takes to run the church and be part of making those decisions and seeing how much people care. Holy Communion is very important to me and deeply important to so many people. It’s humbling how much people give of themselves.”

Block was elected to one full term on the Vestry and was appointed to fill an unexpired term in 2017. The second experience was easier, largely because the church is on a stronger footing now, he said.

“It’s exciting to see where we are now,” Block said.

Bateman came to the job realizing the Vestry has to confront issues that have the potential to be divisive.

“It gave me an appreciation of the different perspectives of what should be the church’s role in serving the community and how should we serve.

A young adult couple with young children is going to have different priorities than someone who is single and elderly. Both are completely legitimate views.”

The challenge, and ultimately the collaboration, Bateman said comes with consensus through compromise.

When Michael was elected to the Vestry, he laughingly says he knew the men in Robert Propst’s Book It 5K running group and few others.

“You get to meet a meet a lot of people you have never met,” he said.

That changed his life. And so did learning more about faith in general and the differences in faith traditions.

“I am not a Bible scholar, but I learned more about the workings of the church and about Holy Communion and the differences in other churches I have been in.”

For people who say they can’t commit three years to serving, Cowens asks them to reconsider.

“It sounds daunting and too much. I might have thought that way myself the first time I served. It really was a very meaningful three years. Sandy does such a nice job leading the meetings and works very hard to have a collaborative and congenial decision-making process. Everyone gets heard.”

Bateman is aware of the lasting joy every week in church.

“The most enjoyable part was getting to know people in a more personal way, learning about their history, the experiences that modeled and influenced their lives. It makes sharing communion with them more meaningful.”



Bill Bateman



Sarah Cowens



Lattie Michael



Jeffrey Block

“We have the shaft in the building design but the price does not include the elevator machinery,” Sandy said. “The expensive part of an elevator is putting in the shaft.”

“The additional projects will be designed and ready to implement,” Macdonald said. “If there were additional funding, the builders would be ready to go immediately.”

In the meantime, the children’s, youth and music programs will all move to their temporary homes around the church over the next few weeks.

“We want them to move one at time so that each has time to adjust and we don’t add confusion,” Macdonald said.

In May, the parish staff will move to temporary offices in Moss Hall on the north campus of St. Mary’s Episcopal School.

“Few thought that a project this ambitious would even be possible, much less that we would see it happen so quickly,” Sandy says.

Improvements to the nave are also in the works. The church received a generous lead gift to support renovation work in the nave and in Quilling Memorial Chapel. The vestry is working with architects and designers on an updated plan that will be shared in the fall.

“If work in the nave can be achieved, all of the parish’s facilities will be restored to like-new condition before the construction trailers pull off campus,” Sandy says. “Work in the nave will never be easier or less expensive than it is right now.”



Photo by Cindy McMillion

“The architects presented something that really is beautiful. The welcome center in particular is so different from what we have.”

—MARYANNE MACDONALD

Under the revised construction plan, the existing porte cochere will be preserved. The back doors, where light now floods into the reception area, will be replaced by a large set of doors on the south side of Blaisdell.

Teen’s memories of Holy Week rooted in sacrifice, awe and tradition

By Marshall McGahey

When I think of Holy Week, I immediately think of last year when I gave up sugary foods like cookies and brownies. This was really hard for me because I have a really big sweet tooth.

I would be at school or somewhere and all my friends will try to rub it in, which in retrospect, is funny.

Praying and looking to God for guidance really helped me through this. I ended up being really glad I sacrificed because I appreciated Easter and Holy Week so much more.

My next thought goes to the Maundy Thursday service, and when my grandmother first took me a few years ago.

I remember seeing the altar being stripped down and bare, which actually



Marshall McGahey

made me cry.

I really don’t know why, but it really is an emotional service.

After Maundy Thursday, I think of Good Friday. My mom took me last year, and honestly, I don’t think I really wanted to go, and my mom ended up dragging me, but I remember being really glad I went.

I have never been to the service on the Saturday before Easter, but I look forward to going this year. It is one of my mom’s favorite services in the year.

After Good Friday and Holy Saturday, the long-anticipated Easter

Sunday arrives. I remember last year, the feeling of the honest self-satisfaction of completing my goal when Easter came.

(It also might have just been a sugar rush after eating basically every sugary item in sight, but I’m going go with self-satisfaction!)

The Easter Sunday service is one of my favorites because it is so happy, and everyone is celebrating Christ’s rising.

Overall, if you gave something up for Lent or not, Easter and Holy Week is a great time in the Church, and I am looking forward to all of the services.

(Marshall McGahey is a seventh-grader at St. Mary’s Episcopal School.)

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WORSHIP TIMES

Sundays: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
Weekdays: *Monday through Friday 8:10 a.m.*
Wednesday 12:15 p.m.

CLERGY

The Reverend Sandy Webb, *Rector*

The Reverend Hester Mathes, *Senior Associate Rector*

The Reverend Dr. Randy McCloy, *Deacon*

VESTRY

John Lewis, *Sr. Warden* + Mike Murphy, *Jr. Warden*

David Visinsky, *Treasurer* + Marlene Shaw, *Clerk*

Debbie Campbell, Mike Driscoll, Amanda Goetze, Hugh Holt,

Nat Johnson, Dale Jones, Tracy Killen, Tim McCormack,

Anne-Morgan Morgan, Cava Sittnick, Richard Williamson,

Christy Yarbro and *Youth Representative* Evelyn Roberts

LAY STAFF

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Facilities Staff

Director of Recreation & Wellness

Assistant Minister of Music

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Assistant Minister of Music

Assistant Minister of Communication

Facilities Staff

Minister of Music and Liturgy

Receptionist

Minister of Communication

Sexton

Sexton

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Memorials & Honoraria

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**In celebration
of and thanksgiving
for the marriage of**

**Jessica Johnson and the
Reverend Sandy Webb**

Sarah & Tom Cowens

Amy O'Dell

In memory of Roy Bell, Jr.

Barbara McCaull

Bailey J. Farrin

Mrs. Snowden Boyle, Jr.

Dr. Bob & Susan McGowan

Mary Lou Adams

Donald & Jane Menendez

Ann Duncan

Margaret Clifton

Paul & Rosanne Anderson

Camille Hutton

Mr. & Mrs. Allen Morgan, Jr.

Sarah & Tom Cowens

Tay & Claude Chafin

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Haddow

Shade Robinson

In memory of Jackson Roberts

Barbara McCaull

Guy & Christina See

Dr. & Mrs. Robert Andrew Crone

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce J. Landau

Kathy & Ben Adams

Paul & Rosanne Anderson

Maija Holsti & Brad Anderson

Sarah & Tom Cowens

Sharon, Scott & Melanie Rankin

John & Connie Frazer

Julie & George Ellis and family

Wendy, Ed, Elizabeth & Will Ansbro

The Buckmaster Family

Mr. & Mrs. Lon Magness

Jim & Bond Moore

Sharon & Richard Shaknis

Carol & Ryland Scott

Lea C. Davis

Tay & Claude Chafin

Patti, Richard, & Olivia Trippeer

Deborah Kuykendall

Church of the Holy Communion, an Episcopal Church in the center of Memphis,
seeks to be a sacred presence, grounded in the servant ministry of Jesus,
offering spiritual growth opportunities for all.