



December 2017 | Issue No. 111

A Sacred presence
in the center of Memphis

THE COMMUNICATOR

WHAT IS OUR COMMUNITY AND HOW DO WE CONNECT?

By The Reverend Sandy Webb



Photo by Jane Roberts

The Reverend Deacon Robert Zito gives the All Saints' Sunday lecture at Holy Communion.

My grandfather and I are different kinds of investors. Having celebrated his 99th birthday at the end of November, my grandfather has living memory of the Great Depression.

His values were shaped by experiencing World War II as a young adult and by watching Americans come together as a community to overcome great challenges. Even as a small-time investor, Grandpa likes to know where his dollars are going. He wants to know something about a company – what it does, where it competes, etc. – before he buys even a few shares of its equity.

He also likes to invest in the community where he lives, making sure to buy a few shares of the companies that employ his neighbors.

My investment strategy is entirely different. My portfolio is diversified. On the equities side, I hold mainly mutual funds – index funds as a default, or a managed fund when my adviser thinks her manager can beat the index. I have virtually no relationship with the companies who use my dollars, and I judge their performance mainly by their returns.

I became aware of this generational difference when the

Reverend Deacon Bob Zito delivered the All Saints' Sunday lecture at Holy Communion. In addition to being a deacon, Bob is a former Wall Street attorney who recently left his partnership to teach undergraduate business law.

Of his decision to leave Wall Street, Bob said, "I found that all my life energy was being spent on being with people, looking at people as a way to make a living. And, it wasn't good."

The Bible says that every person is made in the image of God. As a result, Episcopalians believe that every person is entitled to a full measure of dignity and respect.

When we begin to depersonalize people, we expose ourselves to the spiritual hazard of seeing people as a means to an end rather than as an end in themselves.

By providing the hypothetical example of shareholders of a company that was considering reducing its environmental impact, Bob showed that our investment behavior can expose us to the same hazard: "We bought stock in your dirtball company because we knew that you were a dirtball, and because we wanted to make money in a dirtball way. So, why are you going green on us?"

My grandfather has a connection, albeit a limited one, to
(Relationships continued on page 7)



Photos by David Ouzts

Holy Communion Ringers include, from left: Jennifer Garst, Liz Crowder, Jane Venters Dike, Mary Webster, Stephanie Dent, Irene Buchanan, Erika Wanner, Kay Farrish, Roger Tucker, Sondra Tucker and Sylvia Cox.

COMPOSER'S GIFT WILL FILL AIR ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Sondra Tucker, organist, choirmaster and master handbell clinician, composes music played around the world.

On Christmas Eve, the Holy Communion Ringers will perform two of Tucker's pieces at the 6 p.m. service, including "Ding Dong Merrily On High," which she gave to the congregation, dedicated to David Ouzts and the Ringers of Church of the Holy Communion (Episcopal), Memphis, Tennessee. She and her husband, Roger, are members of the handbell choir and will be ringing with the rest of the group.

"We've been friends with David ever since he's been in Memphis. When we moved back here from Houston, David was one of the first people to welcome us back."

David was stunned at the generosity.

"It was completely unsolicited. I am always on the lookout for new music because learning new pieces is good for all of our choirs," he said.

"Because the Holy Communion Ringers have existed for only about 10 years, we are trying to build up a handbell music library. I'm always looking for solid compositions and arrangements that work right off the bat."

Tucker occasionally gives compositions to her friends, she says.

"If I finish a piece and think it's something a friend would like and would be appropriate for their group, it's fun to give it. In this case, it's a piece for the same number of bells Holy Communion has, it's about the level the bell

choir plays and I thought it would fit the worship style of the parish. I thought to myself, 'I think David would like this.'

"Now that we are members of the choir, David can make suggestions. And if there are things he wants that may not be arranged for bells, I am happy to provide whatever he wants."

It's a remarkable gift.

"Sondra's music really works, which is why she is such a popular composer," David said. "I am certain that choir directors out there see her name in print and think, 'I'm going to buy that for my choirs because I know it will be beautiful and will work.'



Sondra Tucker marks up the score

"I've never had a court composer before, much less one who gives me original music to try out and then sings and rings in my choirs," David said.

Sondra spent her career as a church organist and choirmaster. When she retired from Holy Apostles in Collierville this year, she and Roger joined Holy Communion "because we lived so close to the church. It was a natural fit to move our membership."

While they sing occasionally with the parish choir, the

(Composition continued on page 3)



THANK YOU

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

I have been deeply moved by Holy Communion's response to the recent announcement of my engagement to marry Jessica Johnson later this year. I knew that I would have your support as I made this very meaningful and deeply personal transition, but I never imagined just how much love would be sent our way – kind letters, words of encouragement, gifts to the church in our honor, and so much more. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Jessica will be a regular but quiet presence at Holy Communion beginning in January. She is looking forward to meeting all of you at church, coffee hour, and other parish events. I'm excited for you to get to know her, too.

Please know that both Jessica and I feel your support, and that we are more grateful for it than these few words could ever capture.

With great love and appreciation,

Sandy+



Photo by Igor Ovsyannykov

LONGEST NIGHT DESIGNED TO HONOR EMPTY PLACES

By The Reverend Hester Mathes

This is the season when media floods us with picturesque holiday scenes, cards that command us to “be joyful,” and upbeat carols turned up high. There is much to be joyful for as we prepare the way for the birth of Jesus, but joy is not the only emotion that tends to fill our hearts this season.

We are not given much space to name the sorrow that can also accompany these longer winter nights.

The anniversaries of both of my grandmothers' deaths fall during the holiday season. These two matriarchs were at the core of my holidays growing up, and each year, a bittersweet mixture of joy and grief washes over me as I remember their love and deeply miss their presence in our family gatherings.

I know that I am not alone in feeling sorrow in the midst of such joy.

If you would like to have some space and time to honor a loss at this time of year, please join us for The Longest Night service at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 21 in the chapel.

Please invite others who might find this time in prayer a meaningful way to prepare the way of Christ. There will be reflective music, candle lighting, prayers and Eucharist.

Composition *cont'd from page 2*

bell choir is their niche.

“It's been a lot of fun. Everyone has been so welcoming. It just makes us feel like we have a place in the parish,” she said

When Sondra was a young composer, it was unnerving to play her own compositions, especially for big church audiences.

“It always seemed like being naked at church; I felt very exposed and weird,” she said. “Now, my own work is

like any other piece of music, for better or for worse.”

Sondra is handbell editor at Alfred Music Publishing in Nashville. She also has a rigorous conducting schedule and is a clinician for the Handbell Musicians of America and a member of the American Guild of Organists.

The ringers are thrilled to have a piece written for them.

“It really is an honor to play a piece dedicated to us,” said Liz Crowder. “And we are all so pleased that Sondra and her husband are ringing right along with us.”

DECEMBER AT HOLY COMMUNION... *Tell*



Words³ This month, Words³ writers are reading from their work on gratitude. All are welcome, including listeners. | 6 p.m., Room 307 welcome. Free snacks!



SUNDAY MORNINGS | RECTOR'S FORUM DECEMBER

LIVING EXPECTANTLY

December 3 | Dr. King's *Letter from the Birmingham Jail* with Father Sandy.

December 10 | Biblical Texts on which King liked to preach with Daniel Amsler.

December 17 | MIFA formed in the tumult that laid Memphis flat in the weeks and months following King's death. Folks from one of Holy Communion's longstanding ministry partners will tell MIFA's story and update us on the vitality of their work.

JANUARY

January 7 | Josh Spickler of Just City will lead a discussion on the need for a smaller, fairer, more humane criminal justice system and explain why it matters to us all.

January 14 | Meet the Vestry candidates

January 21 | Annual Parish Meeting

January 28 | Three sanitation workers on the job in 1968 will talk about their lives during the 65-day strike and what the changes in their working conditions means to them.

FEBRUARY

February 4 | Mayor Jim Strickland will lead the forum. He will discuss the process he went through 49 years later to give the 1968 sanitation workers a \$50,000 pension.



Pastoral Care Luncheon

December 17 | After the catered meal, the ministry team will make Christmas baskets for adults who need care. | Parish Hall

We need to collect the following items, which can be dropped off in the church office.

- stationery
- notebooks or journals
- crossword puzzles
- gloves
- skid-proof socks
- tea
- toiletries (for both men's and women's Christmas baskets)
- small sweets

GROUPS A

All Saints' Guild <i>Second Tuesday</i> 10:30 a.m. Carrick Room	Brotherhood of St. Andrew <i>Second and fourth</i> <i>Saturday</i> 8 a.m., Chapel	Centering Prayer <i>First Saturday</i> 9 a.m., Chapel	Daughters of the King <i>Second Sunday</i> noon Carrick Room	Knitting Ministry <i>Third Tuesday</i> 11 a.m., Room 308 <i>Every Wednesday</i> 6:30 p.m., Room 307
--	---	---	--	---



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & MUSIC

Donations for flowers and music received by noon on Tuesday, December 19, will be acknowledged in the service leaflets for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Contact Teresa Boone, 767-6987, ext. 29.



MIFA Family Service Days

December 21 & December 28

9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Participants will make colorful cards and ornaments to give to meals recipients, tour the MIFA kitchen, and deliver hot lunches as a family.

December 21 is designed for families with children ages 6-13.

December 28 is designed for teens. Afterward, everyone returns to MIFA for a light lunch and to share their service stories. Please sign up by contacting Dorothy McClure at (901) 529-4523 or dmcclure@mifa.org.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS *at Holy Communion*

ADVENT I: Sunday, December 3

The youth will offer music at the 10:30 a.m. service.

Wednesday, December 6 | 6:30 p.m. St. Nicholas Celebration

Thursday, December 7 | Young Adult Christmas Potluck at the home of Atticus and Rachel Frank. Bring favorite appetizer to share and a new, unwrapped toy for a Memphis child. | 6:30 p.m.

ADVENT II: Sunday, December 10

5:30 The Great "O" Antiphons: An Advent Choral Service.

ADVENT III: Sunday, December 17

Advent III, Sunday, December 17

Service for the Longest Night | 6:30 p.m. December 21 | Chapel

ADVENT IV: Sunday, December 24

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite One)

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite Two)

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

4 p.m. Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist (children's choirs)

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist (choir, brass, timpani)

10 p.m. Christmas Prelude (choir, brass, timpani)

11 p.m. Holy Eucharist (choir, brass, timpani)

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

10 a.m. Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist

New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31

8 a.m. Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols, Holy Eucharist

5:30 p.m. Celtic Christmas

AND GUILDS

Men's Bible Study
Friday
7 a.m.
Room 214

More Than a Meal
First Sunday
after 10:30 service
at Grace-St. Luke's

The
Reading Life
First Tuesday
11 a.m.
Carrick Room

Sandy and Mimsy's
Biblical Adventure
Thursday
10 a.m.
Room 308

Words³
(Words, Cubed)
Third Wednesday
5:00 p.m.
Room 307

Participating clergy include, from left, the Reverend Gordon Myers, Living Word Lutheran in Arlington; the Reverend Tonie Robinson, Peace Lutheran in Memphis; the Reverend Monica Weber, Epiphany Lutheran in Collierville; the Right Reverend Don Johnson, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee; the Reverend Cliff Bahlinger, St Luke Lutheran in Cordova and the Reverend Dr. Randy McCloy.



Photos by Sarah Cowan

SHARED REFORMATION OPENS DOOR TO POSSIBILITIES

In late October, banners from five churches were carried high down the aisle in a pageantry that defined the oneness of faith. In the choir loft, singers who'd never set foot in Holy Communion were harmonizing with other new voices.

Episcopal Bishop Don Johnson and his counterpart, ELCA Lutheran Dean, Cliff Bahlinger, shared communion from the same table. And so did the more than 165 people in the pews, commemorating what it means to be part of the reformed tradition.

"It was a blessing and a privilege to plan the worship service with Hester Mathes," said the Reverend Monica Weber, pastor at Epiphany Lutheran in Collierville.

"I particularly enjoyed the combined choir's anthem. It's one of my favorite Bach pieces, and coming from a small congregation, it filled me with joy to hear so many blended voices with the beautiful pipe organ. I hope we can do something together again, without waiting 500 years!"

The enthusiasm is part of what the Reverend Margaret R. Rose, ecumenical and interreligious deputy to Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, sees in the ministries the Episcopal Church shares with ELCA churches across the nation.

"We probably have 200-300 shared ministries," she said.

While the anniversary of the Reformation was the reason for Holy

Communion's collaboration, the Episcopal Church and the ELCA Lutherans have been collaborating since 2001 in full communion, which means sharing the Eucharist. But it also can mean sharing staff or buildings or outreach.

"The gospel bottom line for this work is from John 17: 'I come that all might be one,'" Rose said.

"I think the work we do now some 2,000 years later is about realizing that the unity that once was there has become

broken. That in my mind is the guiding force of this work. And the thing that pushes us now, in certain parts of the of country in particular, is that working together and sharing ministry and clergy is a way to share resources that increasingly growing thin."

A map on the national church's website (<https://ccm.episcopalassetmap.org/>) shows dozens of connections between the ELCA and Episcopal churches, including shared buildings, campus ministries, clergy and outreach in more than a dozen broad categories.

"I think it's really important to say this is a full communion agreement, but it is not a union agreement," Rose said. "In any full communion conversations in ecumenical relations, the goal is not union or merger. Each group remains completely separate and autonomous. We are encouraged to do mission and ministry together. We also have the possibility of hiring

"And we are already excitedly talking about more ways to work together in our shared ministries in the future."

— The Reverend Hester Mathes, Associate Rector



(*Shared continued on page 7*)

the work of the companies in which he invests, and by extension to the people whose lives are touched by his investment dollars, both as employees and as consumers.

He is connected to his community in a different way than I am, and I admire that.

For most people today, having a personal relationship with the companies that use our investment dollars is impractical. The world is far more complex than it was when Grandpa started investing in the 1950s, and the time needed to stay on top of a self-managed portfolio (not to mention the expertise) is far greater.

Earlier this fall, I offered a class in the Rector's Forum called Individualism as the Modern Heresy. We looked at many kinds of relationship-based institutions – from churches to PTAs to fraternal organizations – that have declined since the 1950s.

We blamed the advancement of technology, generational differences, urban sprawl, the prevalence of two-income households and a number of other factors. Yet, the fundamental reality is this: The current generation simply

“The current generation simply invests less energy being in relationship with each other...”

– *The Reverend Sandy Webb, Rector*

invests less energy being in relationship with each other than previous generations of Americans did.

We may not be able to transform the disconnected and impersonal financial markets in which we invest, but we can address a greater problem – a lack of relationship between us, our neighbors and our communities.

Who are our neighbors and what are our communities? What have we done recently to connect ourselves more deeply with them? Do we

know their needs, and do they know ours?

St. Paul writes: “Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many... The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable... If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.” (1 Corinthians 12:14-26, NRSV)

Throughout its history, the Church has spoken in a countercultural voice. Today, our countercultural witness is to the value of investing in something that is larger than ourselves.

Shared *cont'd from page 6*

a Lutheran pastor to be in charge of an Episcopal Church or an Episcopal priest to be in charge of a Lutheran Church.”

Sharing space, ministries and even employees makes sense in parts of the country where there are many Episcopalians and few Lutherans, for instance, or declining populations in general.

“We have shared ministries in the Dakotas. There is quite a lot of shared ministry in Virginia,” Rose said. “Almost every campus ministry is ecumenical in some way, in rural areas particularly. And I don't mean just Lutherans and Episcopalians.”

The shared service here was born of the Lutherans' wish to commemorate the anniversary in a worship service that all its members could attend, but none of their churches was large enough. And none have a pipe organ as large as Holy Communion's.

The possibility of sharing came to light last summer when Hester and



Each of the congregations carried their own banner in the procession, a way to symbolize both unity and each church's unique tradition.

Monica Weber were officiating at the wedding of a St. Mary's alum.

Working together on more projects makes sense, Hester says.

“I loved having the opportunity to lift up the Call to Common Mission between the Episcopal and ELCA Lutheran churches as we commemorated the birthday of the Reformation,” she said.

“And we are already excitedly talking about more ways to work together in our shared ministries in the future.”

The Reformation anniversary helped lots of churches realize the shared history and what is possible if churches collaborated, Rose said.

“Work in the ecumenical world is to help us learn better who we are,” Rose said. “We do that by getting to know others. Every church should be looking in its neighborhood. Who is here?

What can we be doing? I mean with whatever church is your neighbor, not just the ELCA.”

THE COMMUNICATOR



Church of the Holy Communion

4645 Walnut Grove Road

Memphis, Tennessee 38117

Ph: (901) 767-6987 F: (901) 767-7034

www.holycommunion.org

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.

The Communicator, (USPS.) #015-799, is published Monthly by CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION, 4645 Walnut Grove, Memphis, TN 38117-2597. PERIODICAL POSTAGE paid at Memphis, TN. POSTMASTER: Send address change to Church of the Holy Communion, 4645 Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis, TN 38117-2597.

CLERGY

The Reverend Sandy Webb, *Rector*

The Reverend Benjamin Badgett, *Associate Rector*

The Reverend Hester Mathes, *Associate Rector*

The Reverend Dr. Randy McCloy, *Deacon*

VESTRY

John Lewis, *Sr. Warden* + Jeffrey Block, *Jr. Warden*

David Visinsky, *Treasurer* + Debbie Campbell, *Clerk*

Bill Bateman, Katie Collier, Sarah Cowens, Amanda Goetze,

Hugh Holt, Nat Johnson, Tim McCormack, Lattimore Michael,

Anne-Morgan Morgan, Mike Murphy, Cava Sittnick,

Christy Yarbro and *Youth Representative* Evelyn Roberts

LAY STAFF

Matthew Arehart

Teresa Boone

Laura Clausen

Elizabeth Coldiron

Mary Beth Darrow

Martha Earnest

Julie Fike

Dr. Jane Gamble

Alice Hollis

Ellen Koziel

Beth Mitchell

Ann Moorehead

Dr. David Ouzts

Kenyetta Powell

Jane Roberts

Jim Sawicki

Jamie Shaw

Minister to Youth

Director of Administration

Financial Assistant

Minister of Hospitality

Director of Operations

Facilities Staff

Director of Recreation & Wellness

Assistant Minister of Music

Minister to Children

Assistant Minister of Music

Assistant Minister of Communication

Facilities Staff

Minister of Music and Liturgy

Receptionist

Minister of Communication

Sexton

Sexton

Memorials & Honoraria

Received October 16 - November 15, 2017

In memory of

The Reverend Reynolds Smith Cheney II

Thayne & Anne Muller

Sarah Thornton

Beth & Jim Breazeale

In memory of Philip Warren Cruzen

Joseph & Cheryl McCormack

Nancy & Andy Malmo

Beth & Jim Breazeale

**In celebration of and thanksgiving for
the upcoming wedding of
Jessica Johnson and the Reverend Sandy Webb**

Bill & Carmine Vaughan

In memory of Fred Kubler

Sarah Doyle

In honor of Jan Bell on her birthday

Missie McDonnell



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.