



THE COMMUNICATOR

COWANS LEAVING TO PURSUE FAITH VOCATION

This summer, the Cowans will leave the city and church that has nurtured them for years to pursue a calling that has whispered quietly and intently in Sarah's soul for three decades.

In early August, Sarah will begin her three years of study at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va., stepping out in faith in a way that will eventually bring her back to minister to the people of West Tennessee as an Episcopal priest.

"I have considered this vocation since I was in high school. Then college, career, family and all those things entered in," Sarah said, smiling at the blessings the years have bestowed.

"I've talked to a lot of people, lay and ordained, over the years. Finally, one day I was having lunch with John Burruss. He said, 'If you have been thinking of this for 30-some years, you should just start.'"

She took a night class at Memphis Theological Seminary to see if she could manage graduate-level work. And in the fall of 2016, she began the intensive work with Sandy and later a committee of parishioners to discern her call.

"It was wonderful. Discernment is not a defined process in the Episcopal Church. Sandy created his own after consulting with other ordained friends," Sarah said.

The two met every month for the better part of a school

year. In January of this year, Bishop Don Johnson named her a Postulant for Holy Orders, which gives her permission to begin seminary studies. The parish and diocese will offer financial support while she is in seminary.

In the Episcopal Church, the discernment process starts first in the heart of the postulant and then flows into the parish and diocese, symbolizing the concentric and ever-widening circles of confirmation and affirmation it takes to succeed in ministry.

"The Episcopal Church believes God's will is discerned communally, not individually," Sandy said.

"A person does not simply say she is called to ministry; she invites her community of faith to share in her discernment. This is a vulnerable process, but also one filled with love. By discerning in this way, both the priest and the church are given an increased level of confidence that we have heard God's voice correctly."

Robert Propst headed the lay committee. Its members were Anne-Morgan Morgan and Barb Boucher.

"In a general sense, the lay committee gets to know the journey the person has been on," Robert said. "If there were areas in the person's life that we felt like might be a detriment, we would suggest they need to pray on that more and consider more. Ultimately, the committee makes a recommendation if,



Photo by Cindy McMillion

The Cowans, Sarah, Billy, Curt and Corinne, will spend three years at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia.

(Sarah Cowan continued on page 11)

GYM NURTURED BODIES, WILL TO TRIUMPH

In the end, its shortcomings were telling, including that leaks in the roof meant referees called fouls and carried towels. There was one restroom on the main floor, limited bleacher space and such a narrow distance between it and the less-than-regulation court that spectators often had to take cover.

But few 55-year-old buildings, built with private money on private property, come down with the great fondness that lingers around the Holy Communion campus for the Barth gymnasium.

For decades, it was not only the gym for girls' physical education classes but it was the nesting ground for countless acts of charity and rites of passage that produced goodwill and a lingering sense for many parishioners that the lessons of their young lives glowed eternally in the quaint building rimmed in daylight.

It has produced 50-plus years of McQuiston family "basketballers," according to the poignant handwritten note left on a poster full of them.

Tom McQuiston played in the gym as a child, watched his children play on the same court and happily inherited a key to the gym from his father. He kept it, he told the congregation rather sheepishly during the farewell reception on April 29. "I would come in with friends and play all night. It was great."

There were church youth lock-ins, food distribution efforts and personal training sessions, including one that started at 5:30 a.m. for Helen Watson and Dorothy Brownyard.

"It seems we had gotten it through some program at church. We were the only two that ended up being there. Dorothy would go on to Rhodes, and I would go on to

Bethel Grove ... I had to be school by 7 a.m."

The memory of the vitality and camaraderie is sweet to Watson.

"I marvel that I had the energy and that I did it. There have been so many wonderful experiences in the gym.

Eddie played on basketball team and, like everything about her connection with the church, it was positive for her."

Alice Bolton has the distinction of having ridden with her husband, Jack, to a nightclub on South Third Street on a Friday night in the summer of 1963 to pick up Jerry Lee Lewis, who performed at the church's first X Club dance. The X Club was a

social program planned by Associate Rector Dan Matthews to give teens something to do on weekends and young men practice asking girls for a date.

They couldn't get into the gym without one.

"Elvis was booked too, but his manager, Col. Parker, said he was getting overexposed," said a chuckling Paul Anderson.

There were May Day parties, St. Mary's Halloween bazaars and regionally famous people in our midst.

Vincent Askew, Keith Lee and William Bedford, all members of the University of Memphis 1985 Final Four team, were here, playing pickup games or helping with camps. Cybill Shepherd played on a Holy Communion basketball team. Larry Finch, a great University of Memphis player and coach, was here. So was John Calipari (his children played in church leagues) and David Porter and Isaac Hayes. Randy and the Radiants, a popular Memphis garage band, played the X Club, and so did Tommy Burk and the Counts.



Photos by Cindy McMillion

In the farewell on April 29, parishioners called out the memories, sheltered for decades in the brick building with a beautifully arched ceiling.

(Gym continued on page 3)

“Hearing the memories on Sunday brought back a flood of my own memories,” said Tim McCormack, a child of this congregation. “I remember playing on the Holy Communion team that won the City Championship in 1968, coaching and watching my son and daughter play basketball in the same gym, hanging out with EYC friends after Sunday evening meetings as a teenager!”

A crew of people, including Julie Fike, director of recreation and wellness, spent most of the spring boxing up artifacts, shipping unused items off to other recreation programs and packing the rest.

“The hardwood floor is going to be used on room number signs throughout the building and in a large exhibit celebrating the history of partnership between Holy Communion and St. Mary’s,” Sandy said. “Also salvaged was the historic cross and globe that hung above the gym since its earliest days.”

The gym has been the focal point for the church’s recreation program, which now serves nearly 1,000 children a year, and the home turf for the school’s teams, as Sandy noted in the prayer Randy McCloy wrote for the gym’s formal farewell.

“Most especially, it has been a safe haven where thousands of you people, in both Holy Communion and St. Mary’s jerseys, could learn the lasting benefits of team work, fair play and good sportsmanship.

Now tired and showing its age, and with infirmities that can no longer be mended, it is time for our friend to retire. It has stood the test of time and our memories of it will linger.



The gym, finally empty and ready for demolition; Kellen Thompson with a fistful of balloon strings; a sign that says it all, and Alice Bolton telling the story of picking up Jerry Lee Lewis in 1963 at a nightclub on South Third Street.

So, goodbye and thank you, our trusty and loyal friend; the lives of so many have been enriched by your ministry. May it please Almighty God to make your successor just as sturdy and just as life-giving as you have been.”

Hazardous abatement teams are working in the space now to eliminate asbestos before the structure can be demolished.

GYM'S LEGACY LIVES ON IN ZUMBA

The Zumba class that has been part of the fiber of Holy Communion for nearly ten years is a ministry whose soul was nurtured in the goodness of Barth gymnasium.

"We have so many memories of the gym. We made so many friends in the area because of it," says instructor Edgar Gipanago, who has taught the church's class since the beginning.

"We've done so many Zumbathons and charity events in the gym that we feel we have helped so many people there. That's the thing we will miss," he says. "But, of course, we will have another gym soon."

The class instructors started running Zumbathons in 2009, with the help of Julie Fike, director of recreation and wellness. They held at least 40 in the gym.

Sheri Marques is among a handful of the original students who is still active in the class.

"The whole spirit of our class and workout is in the gym," she said while the Saturday morning class warmed up in the parish hall, its home during construction.

"When I first started coming to Edgar's class, we were meeting in the ballet room. We were like sardines."

When the class moved to the gym a few months later, the intensity of the workout changed, Marques said.

"We had room to move. It made such a difference," she said.

Not only did the class begin to grow, but individual members started to see the power of Zumba in their lives.

"We lost weight and felt better. Several of us decided to get certified as Zumba instructors," Marques said. "I doubt that would have happened if we'd stayed in the ballet room."

Zumba, Colombian slang for "fast," was born in the early

'90s when a fitness teacher reportedly forgot his music for his aerobics class, grabbed his Latin music tapes from his car and improvised on the spot.



During construction, Zumba's primary location will be the parish hall. The group meets Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.



Photos by Cindy McMillion

It is considered interval training. An hourlong workout uses fast-moving music to pump up the heartbeat and slower rhythms for toning. But the two together are powerful because the heart rate moves up and down.

When done correctly, the average participant burns 400 to 500 calories in an hour, about twice the output of a brisk hourlong walk.

For nearly a decade, the class has loved the gym's beautiful wooden floor because it cushioned their movements.

"We like the parish hall too and are grateful to have it, but the floor doesn't have the give because it's laid over concrete. You can feel the difference in your joints," Marques said.

Gipanago, who has taught classes across the city, feels most at home at Holy Communion, "because this is where I started. I feel like this is where I belong.

"You can teach anywhere, but it really helps to have a nice place."

The Zumbathons raised tens of thousands of dollars for charitable events and attracted enthusiasts from all over the city who paid to participate, magnifying the gym's outreach.

They included three for cystic fibrosis, important to Charlton Lyons, who made his own donation.

"I did that because my grandson has cystic fibrosis, and I had a personal appreciation that the church let the association use the gym to raise money," he said.

The disease affects a tiny fraction of people, about 30,000 in the United States.

"Consequently, a lot of people don't even know what it is," Lyons said. "The group works hard to put on these things. I made a donation because I appreciate the local effort. That is what is going to make it possible to raise money to find a cure."

WE'LL CELEBRATE BOOK IT WITHOUT A RUN

No matter how much excitement there is on race day about medals or personal bests, the Book It 5K has always been about Books from Birth and the children of Emmanuel Center.

With the possibility that a part of the lot where the race ends will be unusable this fall, the 8th annual Book It will be a Zero-K this fall, a chance instead to invite racing friends, sponsors and race beneficiaries to a party on the lawn.

“We are going to combine the Zero-K with the parish picnic on Sunday, September 16,” said Julie Fike, director of recreation and wellness. “We’ll invite the Emmanuel Center staff and kids and Books from Birth to come to worship and after that, have our picnic and festival.

“We’ll have face-painting, balloon artists, races for kids, our traditional line dancing and music, the whole list of things that make the Book It so fun.”

For months, the Book It committee weighed the pros and cons. In the end, it couldn’t recommend pursuing the race with so many unknowns.

“It is disappointing to not have it, but the logistics just didn’t make sense,” said committee member Lattie Michael. “It would be too cumbersome and require so many changes that would probably have doubled the work efforts to put it on.”

Part of the issue is that without the gym, the church only has the parish hall for a rain backup plan.

“I’m not sure it would be big enough,” Fike said.

“Both of our charity recipients are happy that we still want to have a celebration and that we still want to raise money for them. They are two worthy organizations that

need the funds we raise and the awareness we generate.”

The church will still have online registration for donors and individuals. They will receive the Zero-K T-shirt.

All sponsors will receive a letter from the Book It 5K committee explaining the situation, said Steve Maury, in charge of marketing.

“We will explain the exciting changes taking place to the CHC/St. Mary’s campus and how those changes make holding the first-class race we have become accustomed to



Photos by Cindy McMillion

Instead of racing this year summer, the Book It 5K committee is planning its race-style after-party as part of the parish picnic on September 16.



very difficult,” he said.

“We hope our CHC sponsors will continue their generous support for the race and the two worthy beneficiaries and will be as excited about our Plan B festivities as we are. I have already spoken with a couple of sponsors who are not affiliated with CHC about the off year and get the sense that, while they will miss the race, we can count on their support.”

Other members of the committee are: Bill Bateman, Robert Propst, Nat Johnson, Sarah Cowens, Marie Dowling, Tricia Dewey, Angie Johnson, Elizabeth Coldiron, Kenyetta Thompson and D. Wynett Jones.

The Vestry approved the change this spring.

“Holy Communion never shrinks from a challenge,” Sandy said. “I am confident that when people hear about our desire to continue supporting Emmanuel Center and Books from Birth even in the midst of construction, they will step forward to help.

“We can’t let our friends down.”

Last year’s race raised \$25,250.

The race will return in 2019.

MAY AT HOLY COMMUNION...



SUNDAY MORNING RECTOR'S FORUM

May 13 | 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.

May 20 | Liturgical Farewell to Greenwood and Blaisdell. We'll walk through the spaces and honor the ministry that has happened in each.



FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION

May 22 at CHC
The Reverend Ollie Rencher will Speak!

In honor of its 50th anniversary, MIFA is celebrating its Founders Day with an awards event featuring live music and former CHC rector, the Reverend Ollie Rencher.

The event will pay tribute to MIFA's legacy of interfaith relationships. It is sponsored by the City of Memphis, Memphis Islamic Center, Temple Israel and Holy Communion.

Tickets are \$35.
Tables for eight are available for \$250.

For reservations, go to:
mifa.org/foundersday or
call 529-4569.



JOIN US AT 5:30 P.M. ON SUNDAYS

Do you like to get in a Sunday round of golf before the temps rise? Our Sunday evening service is a perfect way to *give thanks to God for a beautiful day!*

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 307 <i>Every Wednesday</i> 6:30 p.m., Room 307
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HELP HEAL HOUSTON *June 3-8*



Holy Communion is going to help with cleanup and rebuilding after Hurricane Harvey. The group will stay at Christ Church Cathedral and will work with Cathedral Urban Service Experience. The trip is open to all members of the church and their friends. Cost is \$500 per person. Scholarships are available. A \$50 deposit reserves your spot.

Contact Matthew Arehart, marehart@holymunions.org.

Words³ Writers are reading from their work on **A Book that Changed My Life**. All are welcome, including listeners. | May 16 at 5 p.m., Room 307. Free snacks!



2018 LATE-SPRING SPORTS

SOCCER: Games run through mid-May

SOFTBALL/T-BALL

Boys & Girls K – 4th grade

Games run from May to early June

Contact Julie Fike, jfike@holymunions.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. Wed. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Sat. 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Summer Camp at St. Columba



Camp Able is for people of all ages with disabilities. The one-week camp is June 12-15.

Holy Communion will serve lunch June 13. Contact bib72015@gmail.com if you can help.

Five sessions of Mud Camp ... Choose your week!

Of course, St. Columba is famous for its mud hole, the swimming pit that transforms kids! Plus, there's the zipline, hiking, games and the climbing wall. Mud Camp is for rising first- through sixth-graders.

Cost starts at \$180.

For details about any of the camps, please visit www.SaintColumbaMemphis.org

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>Third Wednesday</i> 5:00 p.m. Room 307
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Church choirs are collections of people as diverse as congregations. Faith is the common thread in the tapestry. The choir is an intimate part of our worship experience. And its individual members, the colorful yarns. Here are two and their experiences.

CHC, LIKE COLLEGE COURSE IN SACRED MUSIC, TRADITION

At 21, Tim Pope, a junior in vocal performance at the University of Memphis, is easily the youngest member of the Parish Choir.

As a paid tenor section leader and a frequent cantor, he's also one of the most visible, which for him is part of the training to be a professional vocalist.

This summer, for eight weeks he will participate in residency at Pepperdine University for stage presence for performing musicians.

"Part of the reason I started singing as a paid musician was to build up my resume, to see different sides of music," Pope says.

As member of the University Singers, the University of Memphis Chamber Choir and the university's opera program, Pope easily sings 30 hours a week. The most restful ones are the hours he spends at Holy Communion.

"I feel more relaxed at church; there's a sense of friendship and acceptance there. It's definitely more peaceful than my hectic school schedule," Pope says.

His tenor mate, Joel Chapman, has come to support him in campus recitals and opera performances.

"It's definitely a positive environment. I feel very safe and included in the congregation, especially in the choir. People are very friendly. That's the kind of environment that makes paid singers want to stay."

Holy Communion is its own learning environment for the Arlington High School graduate who, starting as a freshman, had the rare honor of being named to the All Southwest Tennessee Honor Choir four years in a row.

"High church music is pretty new to me. It's been a really neat experience to get to sing it," Pope says, noting that as a Baptist youth choir member, he learned mostly contemporary or praise music.

"Last year was my first year singing in a church choir as a paid musician at Germantown Presbyterian. It was eye-opening and helped me learn about different denominations. The Episcopal service is quite different. Musically, it has opened me up to a whole new genre of church music," Pope said.

"I can really see the difference in denominations with the



Photo by Cindy McMillion

Tim Pope is studying vocal performance at the University of Memphis. He is a paid section leader and the youngest member of the choir.

different texts. The lyrics are definitely part of what I believe.

"It's been a really good experience to sing church music as opposed to the secular stuff I sing in school choirs. It's a good reminder of what I believe and it is helping my faith grow."

As a section leader, his job is to learn the tenor part early and sing it strongly to carry the section.

Pope practices outside of Holy Communion, often singing the anthems and cantor pieces in university practice rooms, blending sacred texts and harmonies in a

classical and secular milieu.

"The music is definitely not a run in the park. I have to study," Pope says. "I have to prepare before I sing. Sometimes one of the guys in my section will want to practice a certain section. I will come to church early to practice with them and for my own sake as well."

He finds the sacred texts and harmonies stay in his head through the week, calming and deepening him as he heads to class and rehearsals.

"Especially the Psalm work. As I have done it more, the harmony definitely stays in my head."

The work as cantor for Sunday evening services was completely new. Pope had never done it or even heard the rhythm before.

"I think it's good to have exposure to music. In the choir loft, I am surrounded by my fellow musicians," he says, noting that he learns equally from the volunteer singers.

"They are very interested in music and how it applies to their lives."

CHOIR STUDY OF BEAUTY, ORDER FOR MATH MAN

Hubert Minton is a mathematician and a quiet man who came to Memphis as a doctoral student from the University of Texas in the early 1960s to teach math at Memphis State College.

“They were just starting a master’s program, so I was part of the new blood to help them,” Minton says.

He retired in the late ’90s, after dedicating his entire career in the University of Memphis’ Department of Mathematical Sciences.

The story about Minton and music is told on several levels. First, he comes from what he describes as a “musical family,” including three sisters who all played piano and sang, often with their brother, who played clarinet and saxophone in high school.

Secondly, Minton was a physics major and for as long as he can remember, has been fascinated with its manifestation.

“I was intrigued by the physics of sound, musical sound and all,” he says. “I know things about how long pipes have to be, and if you double the length, what happens to the sound.”

Minton has sung in four church choirs, starting when he was a college student in Texas.

“I’ve had no vocal training or anything. I just like choral music, and when our Lutheran church here closed, we went looking for another church. One day, we came to Holy Communion. Gary Jones was the rector at the time. I liked what I heard not just from the pulpit but the back of the church also.

“Every time, I went in, I heard great stuff coming from the back. I decided to try to join the choir,” he says.

He left once, to sit in the pews on Sunday morning with his wife, Elizabeth. He missed it, and came back, and has been a mainstay for more than a decade.

“I don’t know what I would do if I didn’t have music in my life,” he says quietly. Part of his devotion to the choir is his love of music, the other is his collegiality with Dr. David Ouzts.

“He’s good at helping people make music together,” Minton says simply.

“As far as I am concerned, David and I connect. I read his blog. I’ve learned more about music literature from him than I ever could have imagined.”

Minton, who grew up Southern Baptist in Conway, Arkansas, has also learned high-church Episcopal liturgy

from Ouzts.

“His sense of high church can be a ram’s horn in a synagogue. He’s just amazing.”

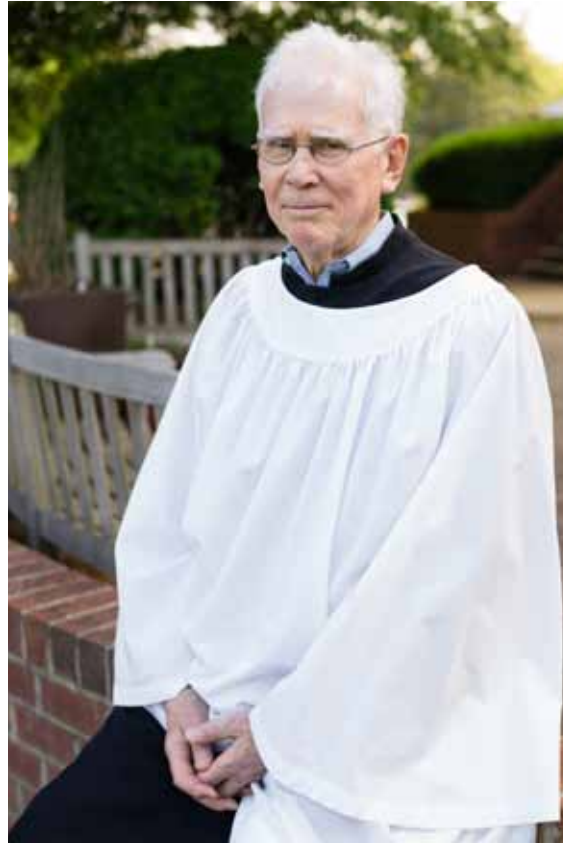


Photo by Cindy McMillion

Hubert Minton has sung in the parish choir for well over a decade and holds the beauty of it close to his heart.

Singing for Ouzts, Minton says, “is more challenging than anything I have experienced before, especially when it comes to singing Latin, I have to bring my music home with me and study.”

But he never thinks of quitting. He sees the mathematical genius in the composers’ work, particularly Bach, and celebrates research that shows people who read music and sing in choirs often maintain mental agility longer than those who don’t.

He and Ouzts share a soul kinship with Dr. Gerre Hancock, the celebrated American organist, improviser and composer, that Minton, perhaps until now, has been happy to keep to himself

Hancock was Ouzts’ organ improvisation teacher at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.

In 1988, he invited Ouzts to play a recital at St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue in New York where Hancock was organist and Master of the Choristers.

From then on, he was one of Ouzts’ musical mentors and a “cherished friend.”

Ouzts saved every piece of correspondence (letters and notecards) that Hancock (a “masterful letter-writer”) sent him until his death in 2012.

“When David talks about his Uncle Gerre, I smile to myself,” Minton said.

“My sister was the organist at the University Baptist Church in Austin, Texas. While I was there, I was in that choir. Gerre Hancock was the student organist. He graduated the same year I did, 1955.”

For three years, Minton not only worked with Hancock in rehearsal, but one summer, the two shared a room in an Austin rooming house.

“I would ask him what he was going to play for the postlude or something like that. One time, he said, *Three Blind Mice*, and he did, but if you didn’t know it, you probably wouldn’t have recognized it,” Minton says.

“He was just a regular University of Texas student. He waited tables at the Kappa Kappa Gamma house.”

TEMPORARY WEDDING POLICY INCLUDES CATHEDRAL

As Holy Communion heads into construction and potential improvements to the nave, the Vestry has approved a novel collaboration with St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral to accommodate weddings.

Any wedding scheduled at Holy Communion between October 2018 and December 2019 will be booked on both calendars. Depending on how the construction is going, Holy Communion will confirm or cancel with St. Mary's at least 12 weeks before the ceremony.

If construction schedules require the wedding to be held at the cathedral, Holy Communion will provide clergy, musicians and wedding coordinators. The cathedral will provide sextons and security coverage.

For all double-booked weddings, Holy Communion will pay St. Mary's a fee regardless of whether they take place there or not.

"No one wants to be married under construction scaffolding. Weddings are often scheduled more than a year in advance, but with the nave's maintenance problems increasing, and conversations continuing about how it might be renovated for the future, we cannot make the firm commitments that our families need," Sandy said.

"By partnering with the cathedral, we can ensure a beautiful ceremony for all of our families, regardless of when construction or maintenance projects need to be completed. Weddings will only be relocated to the cathedral when it is physically impossible to host them at Holy Communion," he said.

The cathedral, a fine example of Gothic Revival architecture, was completed in 1926.

Dean Andy Andrews calls it a "majestic space for all worship, especially weddings.

"St. Mary's Cathedral is a spiritual home for all Episcopalians in Memphis. It is ours for the enjoying," he says, noting that one of the joys in his everyday life in Memphis is meeting couples who were married at the cathedral.

"I am so grateful for the leadership of Holy Communion for their vision of partnering with St. Mary's during your

construction phase. St. Mary's is excited and ready to host weddings connected to Holy Communion," Andrews said.

The changes are part of a larger look at how weddings are coordinated at the church. For now, all weddings are managed by Milton Rogers, the church's part-time wedding coordinator.

"Prudence requires having more than one person trained for this work," Sandy says. He proposed that the church have a total of three coordinators and that the new coordinators be trained during the transition time.

A job description is posted on Holy Communion's website.

The Vestry approved it and temporary changes to the wedding fee structure.

Brides today pay about \$1,235 to be married at Holy

Communion, which often is not enough to cover expenses. The Vestry approved a temporary fee of \$2,500 for the duration of construction. It covers the cost to St. Mary's, plus includes a flat fee for a wedding coordinator and assistant.

The inability to pay will not keep couples from marrying at Holy Communion.

During the transition period, the Vestry will study different wedding-fee models and develop a long-term plan to be approved later this year for implementation when construction is finished.

While it's impossible to know how many Holy Communion weddings will happen at the cathedral, Sandy expects the collaboration to be popular.

"St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral is one of the most beautiful and historic buildings in the Diocese of West Tennessee. Its high ceilings, stained glass windows and outstanding acoustics make it a highly desirable place to marry.

"Also, the cathedral's history of mission and ministry – first to those afflicted by yellow fever, and now those afflicted by poverty – remind us all of what it means to live the Christian life."



After October, all weddings before December 2019 will be double-booked at Holy Communion and St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral.

from our perspective, it is appropriate for them to continue their pursuit of this.

“It’s an honor to walk beside someone who is pursuing a personal and godly thing to serve God in such sacrificial way,” Robert said. “It’s an honor to be part of that and to really experience the deep, deep abiding love they have for their church and how they want to serve Christ in the world.”

For Curt, the process underscores the centrality of the parish.

“This whole thing started in this parish. It started with a meeting with Sandy. The center of church life happens at the parish level. The most important things in a church happen right here in your home church,” he said.

For a denomination that is experiencing a 25 percent net loss of priests a year, the decision to him feels like a very personal contribution.

“We are doing something that needs to be done for the greater church ... It’s meaningful to me that the church needs Sarah.”

The Cowans will move to Alexandria in early August. Their children, Corinne and Billy, will begin their new schools after Labor Day. As a reward, they will get a puppy when they are settled.

“It’s probably the first thing we will do after we get our beds in our rooms,” said Billy, 8, who’s looking forward to new adventures.

“There’s also a whole seminary I can ride my bike around on the street.”

The Cowans did not tell their children of the move until

the pieces were all in place.

“One day, at dinner, Mom announced that she had always wanted to be a priest,” Corinne said. “Billy and I were so surprised, I think our mouths fell open. It’s just hard to imagine,” she said, looking at her mother.

“I know you have really wanted to be a priest. It’s just difficult to think of you as one.”

In West Tennessee, part of the commitment a



Curt and Sarah leave us with many memories, including their rendition of the St. Nicholas play, which includes flannel nightgowns and lots of laughs.

Photos by Cindy McMillion

SINCE 2002, Holy Communion has sponsored four postulants for the priesthood.

John Leach
Virginia Theological Seminary

John Burruss
Virginia Theological Seminary

Judith Reese
Memphis Theological Seminary

Randy McCloy
Memphis Theological Seminary

postulant makes to her home diocese is to return for two years to a parish assigned by the bishop. After that assignment, she may take an assignment any place in the world.

“I’m excited for our family to have a three-

year adventure and be in a place that really feels like the place that would form me the best for this vocation I am choosing,” Sarah said. “But we’re also looking forward to coming back and serving in West Tennessee.

“I’m excited to be a student again and immersed in new learning. And I’m excited to be formed as a priest at a seminary that feels very ‘right’ for me. A wide variety of faith communities – St. Peter’s in Del Mar, CA, St. George’s Independent School, Church of the Holy Trinity and Church of the Holy Communion – have formed me as a Christian. Now I’m excited to go to VTS to be formed as a priest.”

THE COMMUNICATOR



Church of the Holy Communion

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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.*

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Memorials & Honoraria

Received March 16 - April 15, 2018

**In celebration
of and thanksgiving
for the marriage of
Jessica Johnson and the
Reverend Sandy Webb**
Nick & Amanda Goetze

**In memory of
Jackson Roberts**

Julie Fike

Nick & Amanda Goetze

Connie & Lou Adams

Catherine & Dick Huffman

Patricia & Chip Dudley

Anne & Mike Keeney

Lisa & Ken Roberts

Suzanne Plyler

Kelly Lamberson

In memory of Roy Bell, Jr.

Mott & Mary Call Ford

Allison & Tom Garrott

Allison & Bo Braswell

Liz & Murray Garrott

Brandon & Joe Morrison

Mrs. Rose Johnston

Russell & Cary Whitehead

Connie & Lou Adams

Nell F. Dickerson

Melody & Bruce Taylor

**In honor of
Kelly Fisackerly's Birthday**
Martha & Russell Kruchten

**In honor of the clergy
and staff of CHC**
Brad & Mary Henry Thompson

In memory of Philip Cruzen
Rosie & Father Pete Minton

**In memory of
Reynolds Cheney**
Melody & Bruce Taylor

**In memory of Kay Palmer
Williamson**

To the Children's Ministry

Allison & Craig Willingham

To Friends of Music

Mary Jo Johnson

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offering spiritual growth opportunities for all.