

# THE COMMUNICATOR

## A GIFT TO OUR FUTURE

CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION  
PLANS FOR A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

After more than a year of planning and research, Holy Communion is preparing to embark on a building project that will plant its growing ministry on solid foundations, create spaces that invite and connect, and address needed structural and systems improvements.

In May, the vestry of Holy Communion received a master plan from Fleming Architects – a vision of what our building, rebuilding and renovation project could look like. The master plan is lines and boxes – if it’s approved, then Fleming will be re-contracted to complete a full design. In May, the vestry indicated its unanimous support for the direction the master plan is headed and their willingness to approve the plan once adjustments are made to align with fundraising projections.

One major element of the project is a new recreation and wellness center to replace a gym that doesn’t fully meet our needs or those of St. Mary’s Episcopal School. But the preliminary design is more than that, and “it is a direct response to what we heard our members say they wanted for their church,” says Father Sandy Webb. The master plan encompasses much more than a gym:

- A clear, welcoming entrance and clearer signage
- A consolidation of youth and children’s ministries into spaces designed specifically for them
- Handicap accessibility
- Landscaping and better street visibility
- Replacement of our aging heating and air conditioning systems
- New track and regraded soccer field

The vestry at Holy Communion and the executive committee at St. Mary’s have agreed to a cost- and time-sharing agreement for the shared parts of the project, giving the vestry the flexibility to determine our church’s priorities beyond recreation.

The building project extends to our worship space as well. Terry Byrd Eason, architect and liturgical designer, presented a master plan for nave renovations at the June vestry meeting.

Eason, who has worked on spaces including Trinity Wall Street, Washington National Cathedral and Grace-St. Luke’s in Memphis, is working on an approach to the nave that will

*(story continued on page 6)*

# FINDING GOD IN UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY

*One of our youth reflects on this summer's pilgrimage to the United Kingdom.*

Much like the experience of the adult group that traveled to the Holy Land in April, my youth minister, Matthew Arehart, asked our group two questions in preparation for our future journey.

While we lay in the grassy field – the cloisters of the Melrose Abbey in Scotland, on our first day – Matthew asked us to take out our journals and write: What expectations did we have for the trip? What might keep us from reaching our expectations?

My response was simple, but maybe a little more spiritually mature in the sense that I was the oldest on the trip. I was looking for a renewed presence of God in my life and an ability to find God in the places and situations that He is not always able to be seen.

My sole challenge – not always being present in the moment. While visiting the famous Durham Cathedral and Castle, I expected moments to arise where I truly felt a sense of God's presence with the group, but came up short. I looked the following days as we visited places of history, such as Alnwick Castle, the Holy Island of Lindisfarne and the R.S.S. *Discovery*. I also looked for Him in unexpected places such as private property on a hike up the coast of Scotland and in ruins on the beaches of Northumbria.

Although we enjoyed the history of our faith, we often found God in the places we least expected Him, which was made more possible by our unfamiliar but comfortable settings. We were able to find God sitting on top of the ruins of a sand mountain looking over the beach on one side and valleys on the other while doing *Lectio Divina* (a scriptural reading practice). We found God while we continually asked Matthew questions about our faith on the bus rides to our next destinations.

As our journey was coming to an end with an entire day of church at St. Andrew's (Scottish Episcopal) Cathedral, a hike in the Trossachs and a free day in Edinburgh, Scotland, were able to grow closer together as friends, in our faith and as Episcopalians. Looking back now, the trip was well spent as we overcame our burdens and distractions, finally reaching the expectations we made in the beginning of the trip and being able to bring them back to the states to continue our pilgrimage of life.

*Grace and Peace,  
Tess McGhee*



# CITY OF SOUL: THE FIRST YEAR

*This past year, we partnered with Grace-St. Luke's to bring Episcopal Service Corps to Memphis, inviting four young people to work with nonprofits in the city. Holy Communion hosted two – Adam Nelson at Emmanuel Center and Raina Workman at MIFA.*

I applied for Episcopal Service Corps as someone who'd tried to work for the church once before, as a youth minister. That job was sink or swim, and I sank. I decided this meant I was not cut out for ministry work, and spent the next few years afraid to try anything difficult.

But ministry and spirituality kept tugging at me. Finally, my desire to follow Christ grew strong enough to challenge my fear of failure. I came into the program hoping to prove to myself and to others that I could do ministry work. One unexpected development – nowhere on my list of goals – was the discovery of newfound racial and gender consciousness.

The executive director of my worksite, Father Colenzo Hubbard, had the grace to ask me how I wanted to contribute at Emmanuel Center, a community center in the third poorest ZIP code in America. I wanted to build relationships, so I became the Center's first volunteer coordinator. I spent the year learning how to identify effective roles for volunteers, how to engage people's innate interest in volunteer work and how to provide effective leadership. Of course, I made mistakes and had to be reined in. Yet to my astonishment, I was forgiven, permitted to learn, and everyone moved on. I had the chance to see non-profit work up close, find my fit (development), and prepare myself for a career in that role. Thanks to the network I became part of this year, I will serve as the development officer of a local non-profit when I leave Episcopal Service Corps.

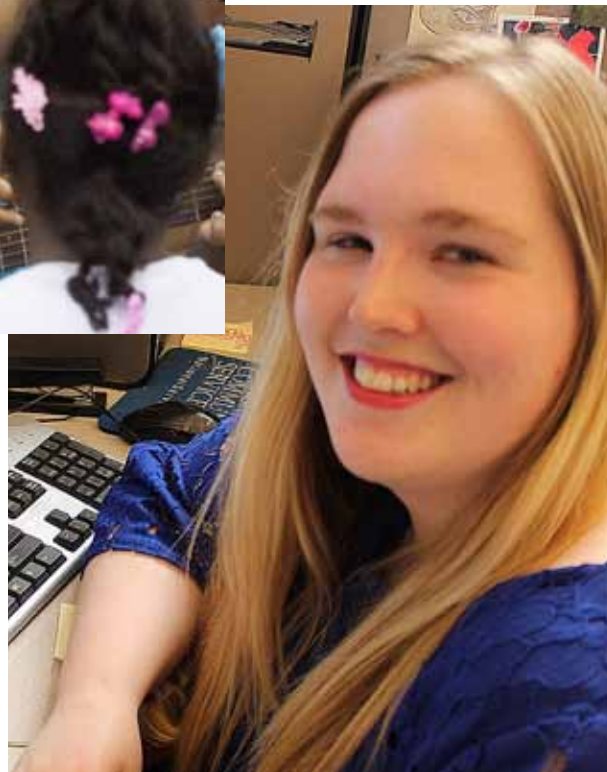
The biggest surprise of the year for me was my realization that, even without intending to, I – a liberal, cisgender, straight, white male – participate in cycles of prejudice and discrimination. I was able to realize this because of a combination of influences I can't

fully quantify. I know that I was immersed as a racial minority at work, attended trainings that challenged my assumptions about diversity, discussed the topic with my fellow Corps members and more. I know that I have more to learn, and that as a result of what I have learned, I am much better prepared to answer the call that still beckons me.

This year's ending for me is bittersweet. I have grown to love Memphis, and have met so many wonderful people with whom I hope to keep in touch for years to come. Memphis is a beautiful city, with a storied history and citizens who are committed to seeing it flourish. I began a walk this year that I'm not quite finished with, and have decided to continue my journey of spiritual growth with St. Hilda's House in New Haven, Conn. As I move forward and continue to grow, Memphis will remain with me.

If I had to nail down one thing I learned this year, greater above all else, it would be the knowledge that it's okay to take time and simply live. I don't think I realized until I settled in here that I had been stifled for years, subsisting on fumes as I ricocheted between classes, homework assignments, interest group meetings, and social obligations. I was so consumed by *what I was supposed to do* and *who I was supposed to become* that I rarely ever let myself actually enjoy being in college. By graduation I was burned out and directionless. I came to City of Soul looking for a purpose, and discovered that it wasn't so of much a purpose that I needed, rather, it was the time and space to breathe. While I have been committed to the progressive aspects of Christian practice for a

*(story continued on page 6)*



# SUNDAY MORNINGS

Summer Sundays, 9:15 a.m.

*No classes on July 3. The fall semester begins on August 21!*

## Poetry and Prayer

July 10 *The Reverend Ben Badgett*

July 17 *Elizabeth Coldiron*

July 24 *Cara Ellen Modisett*

July 31 *Robert Propst*

## August 7, 14 | Bible Lessons from our Grandfathers

*The Reverend Hester Mathes and The Reverend Sandy Webb*

## Summer Sundays for Children

Summer Sundays for children (upcoming kindergarten-5th graders) takes place during the normal Sunday formation hour of 9:15-10:15 a.m. This year, along with VBS-like crafts and snacks, we will be using parts of the "What's in the Bible?" DVD curriculum.

## The Spirit of September 12:

### Seeking Parishioners' Stories

Sunday, September 11 marks the 15th anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center. Our forum that morning will focus on the stories of healing and coming together in the days following 9/11. If you would like to share your story, contact Father Sandy Webb, [swebb@holycommunion.org](mailto:swebb@holycommunion.org).

## SIGN UP FOR FALL SPORTS!

### Kickball, Soccer, Flag Football: Games Sept. 9-Nov.12

Registration ends August 1 or when teams fill up.

Teams: boys and girls under 5 to under 13 for soccer, boys under 8 to under 13 for flag football, middle school and high school co-ed divisions in kickball.

Register at [HolyCommunion.org](http://HolyCommunion.org) or at the church; contact Julie Fike, [juliefike@holycommunion.org](mailto:juliefike@holycommunion.org).

# PARISH LIFE

## Urban Campout at Holy Communion... for all ages! July 16-17

Bring your sleeping bags, bug spray and tents! The soccer field will be open for camping overnight; we'll show an outdoor movie and have campfires in the parking lot. In case of rain, we'll move inside.

### Schedule:

6:00 Arrive and set up

6:30-7:30 Dinner (hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers – and s'mores! – provided)

7:30-8:30 Family activities

8:30 Movie

On Sunday, pack up and enjoy breakfast (provided by the church) at 7:00, then join us for our 8:00, 10:30 or 5:30 services that day!

## Words<sup>3</sup> – Readings for Writers

Words<sup>3</sup> (Words, Cubed) is a reading series for writers of all genres and backgrounds. Pieces should be six minutes or less and connected with each month's theme. Listeners welcomed and encouraged – and we always have free coffee and Gibson's donuts! Contact Cara Modisett, [cmodisett@holycommunion.org](mailto:cmodisett@holycommunion.org).

July 19: Roots & Branches

August 16: Anything Goes

## Parish Retreat! Save the Date, Sept. 23-25

Mark your calendars for a fun Fall Parish Retreat at Camp McDowell, September 23-25!

All ages are encouraged to come for fun in the great outdoors. More information coming soon.

## Zumbathon for St. Jude / Adam's Army

July 9 from 9:30-noon in the gym, \$5 admission



# SERVANT MINISTRY

## MIFA Summer Meals on Wheels

If you would like to experience our Meals on Wheels ministry on a first or third Friday this summer, visit our website to find out more and sign up for one or more dates.

## Youth & Children's Ministries Volunteer Retreat

July 29-30 at St. Columba Center. Contact the Reverend Ben Badgett, [bbadgett@holychommunion.org](mailto:bbadgett@holychommunion.org).

## Young Adults

The Young Adult group will be leading the effort cooking and serving the August More Than a Meal on Sunday, August 7, at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Please call the Reverend Hester Mathes to volunteer.

## Episcopal Service Corps commissioning

On August 14 at our 10:30 service, we welcome our new members of City of Soul: Episcopal Service Corps as they begin a year of work with MIFA, Bridges, the Shelby County Public Defender's Office and Emmanuel Center.



## GAILOR GUILD

### Celebrates 25 Years of Ministry

After a quarter-century of service, the Gailor Guild is marking the end of a chapter in Holy Communion's ministry. The Reverend Sandy Webb invites all past and present members of the Gailor Guild to a celebration Eucharist and luncheon at the church on Sunday, September 8.

(call the church to RSVP, 901-767-6987)



**Mark your calendar  
for September 17, 2016!**

**Benefiting Emmanuel Center & Books from Birth**

**5K Run/Walk**

**200-Meter Dash for Kids 16 & Under**

**Sponsor – Volunteer – Participate**

**[Bookit5k.racesonline.com](http://Bookit5k.racesonline.com)**

**ACCEPT THE HEALTH CHALLENGE!**

July 24 – September 17/Get fit this summer!

- Sign up for a team: Robert Propst, [rkpropst@msn.com](mailto:rkpropst@msn.com)
- Keep track of your running, walking and other exercise each week up until the 6th annual Book It 5K
- Earn points for your team to compete for prizes

**BEFORE DAWN PEPPERS**

**Wednesdays at 6 a.m. starting July 27**

Get ready for the Book It 5K with this men's running/walking and devotional group. Contact Robert Propst, 289-0601 or [rkpropst@msn.com](mailto:rkpropst@msn.com)

**BECOME A SPONSOR**

Sponsorships start at \$250. Benefits include complimentary entries in the race, having your company logo on the race website, in promotional materials and on race T-shirts. Consider following the lead of Paragon Bank and Semmes-Murphey and make the race an outing for your employees. Pick up a form in the lobby or contact Steve Maury at 493-4485.



*Capital Campaign, continued from page 1*

open the spaces more. He has conducted an acoustic survey and made recommendations about how we can improve sound in the room. Work on the nave would also include infrastructure and system updates.

Once both the Holy Communion vestry and the St. Mary's trustees have approved master plans and costs, "it opens the gates for fundraising," says Senior Warden Emily Woodside. Under our current time table, our fundraising counsel will arrive August 1 to conduct a capital campaign that will run through the winter.

"Holy Communion was not in a place where we could have done this five years ago," says Father Sandy. "This is our gift to the future." A quarter of a century ago, Expanding our Vision was the theme for our last capital campaign, extending the nave and building Cheney Parish Hall. "This expands our vision even further."



*City of Soul / Raina Workman, continued from page 3*

long time, faith wasn't so much of a factor. I would go to churches and marches, committee meetings and hearings. I could talk endlessly about Jesus' mission to the poor and marginalized, and never articulate my own spiritual impoverishment. For so long I confused busyness with spiritual renewal. By making time for contemplation and prayer in religious service, I was finally to make room for personal transformation

Between my two church homes this year, Holy Communion and St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, I have had ample opportunities for spiritual formation. I am so fortunate and so grateful for the welcome that people have extended to me throughout my time here in Memphis. When things were difficult this year, church is where I would I go to process my troubles. I had a difficult time adjusting to my job – and that's okay! – and some weeks felt like they were lost to monotony, where I was doing the same things over and over again. Some days my housemates and I got along better than others, and other days my heart was broken by the seemingly insurmountable need in the city of Memphis. Things aren't always perfect. A healthy community usually comes with a bit of mess. I have been reminded this year, repeatedly, that the Lord never promises us an easy path. Not with Her, nor anyone else. All that we can do in the face of this uncertainty is to continue to wrestle and be honest with one another, and to celebrate the uniqueness and diversity of the holy living Body of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Camp Able/Photo by Cindy McMillion

# HOLY COMMUNION IN JUNE



## A LETTER OF THANKS

Dear Holy Communion,

Camp Able is St. Columba's camp for kids with special needs and diverse abilities from June 14-17. Thanks to a financial gift from Church of the Holy Communion, and a delicious lunch served by many parishioners and staff, Camp Able has offered a camp experience to many young people who are regularly left out of many traditional camps. We are also privileged to have four teenage volunteer counselors who call Holy Communion their church home. We believe that every child should get to go to camp, and we can't thank you enough for walking with us these last two years as we have made camp a reality for many children with challenges like Down Syndrome, autism and other conditions.

Thank you for sharing Christ's love through camp.

Blessings,

*Brad Thompson, Executive Director  
Saint Columba Episcopal Conference  
and Retreat Center*

## Annual Icon Writing Workshop with Balpha Noojin



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## CLERGY

The Reverend Sandy Webb, *Rector*

The Reverend Ben Badgett, *Associate Rector*

The Reverend Hester Mathes, *Associate Rector*

The Reverend Dr. Randy McCloy, *Deacon*

## VESTRY

Emily Woodside, *Sr. Warden* + Tom McQuiston, *Jr. Warden*

David Visinsky, *Treasurer* + Katie Collier, *Clerk*

Daniel Amsler, Bill Bateman, Sarah Cowens, Amanda Goetze,

Hugh Holt, Louis Jehl, Nat Johnson, John Lewis,

Lattimore Michael, Robert Propst, Lisa Roberts, Christy Yarbrow

## LAY STAFF

Matthew Arehart

*Minister to Youth*

Teresa Boone

*Director of Administration*

Laura Clausen

*Financial Assistant*

Elizabeth Coldiron

*Minister of Hospitality*

Mary Beth Darrow

*Director of Operations*

Martha Earnest

*Facilities Staff*

Julie Fike

*Director of Recreation & Wellness*

Marshall Fonda

*Sexton*

Dr. Jane Gamble

*Assistant Minister of Music*

Buford Harbin

*Security*

Alice Hollis

*Minister to Children*

Ellen Koziel

*Assistant Minister of Music*

Beth Mitchell

*Assistant Minister of Communication*

Cara Ellen Modisett

*Minister of Communication*

Ann Moorehead

*Facilities Staff*

Dr. David Ouzts

*Minister of Music and Liturgy*

Kenyetta Powell

*Receptionist*

Jim Sawicki

*Sexton*

Jamie Shaw

*Sexton*

## Memorials & Honoraria

*Received May 16 - June 15, 2016*

**In honor of Mary Wrenetta McCain  
on her birthday**

Chloee and Dan Poag

**In memory of Carla Miller King –  
Mother of Bradley Fogelman**

Irene Ayotte

**In memory of Jim Yarbrough**

Susannah Taylor Lipinski

Margaret Taylor

Harriett Hare Yarbrough

**In memory of David Thompson**

Jo-Ellen and Walt Reed

**In memory of Joe Sanford**

Emily Ruch

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.