



THE COMMUNICATOR

THE HOLY TRINITY, AND THE HOLY COMMUNION

Encountering God at the Communion Rail

BY THE REVEREND BEN BADGETT

Early in my priestly vocation, I found that encountering God through administering the sacrament of Holy Eucharist was a recurring and life-giving experience. In so many ways, a priest can look into a communicant's eyes and find the image of God and the presence of Christ.

On the eve of Trinity Sunday, I was invited to preach and lead worship at the Village of Germantown retirement community. In preparation for this opportunity, I dusted off my theology text books from seminary in the hopes of finding a golden nugget of Trinitarian theology to impart to the congregation. However, as the week went on, the Holy Spirit guided me in a different direction.

When Saturday rolled around, I decided on a whim to take my two-year-old son, Keenan, to "help" dad at church that night. I knew I would offer a homily on experiencing the triune God through the Eucharist that night, but I wasn't expecting it to come out the way it did. As we read the Psalm for the day (Ps. 8), the second verse jumped out at me as I held Keenan in my arms.

*"Out of the mouths of infants and children
your majesty is praised above the heavens."*

In that instant I knew I would change my homily to reflect upon

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SUMMER IS HERE!

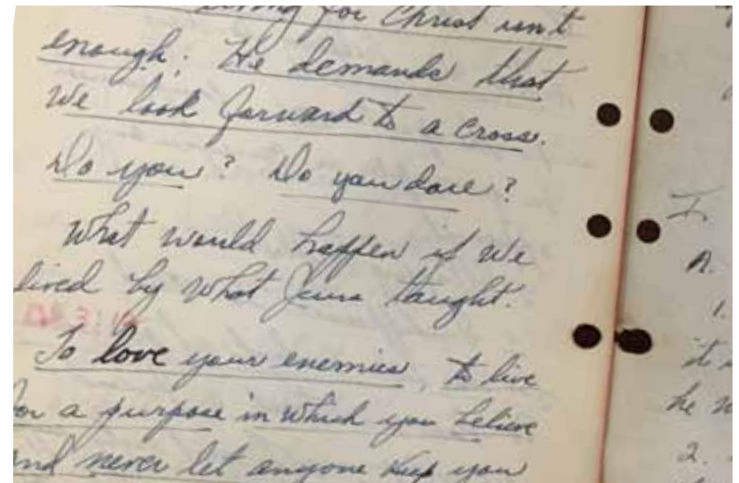
It's summer! The weather warms up, the schedules slow down and many of us are traveling. May 29 begins our summer semester of classes, starting with a guest speaker, the Very Reverend Gregory Jenks, Dean of St. George's College in Jerusalem, known well to our Holy Land pilgrims.

Appropriate perhaps for summer, June is a month of Fish Stories – the Prophet Jonah and Jesus' Fishy Disciples, taught by the Reverend Sandy Webb, minister to children Alice Hollis, Charlie Caldwell and minister to youth Matthew Arehart. In July, we explore faith through prayer, poetry and lyrics, in classes taught by the Reverend Ben Badgett, minister of hospitality Elizabeth Coldiron, minister of communication Cara Modisett and Robert Propst. The Reverend Sandy Webb and the Reverend Hester Mathes will wind up August 7 and 14, teaching "Bible Lessons from our Grandfathers" from the notes their grandfathers have left them in Bibles and lessons.

Balpa Noojin returns for our annual Icon Workshop June 19-14 and Father Sandy revives his popular Theology by the River series at Paulette's on June 23 – this summer, the question is: "Is there such a thing as a just war?"

"The aim for this summer's Sunday classes was to create two series of classes that are unique, self-contained 'episodes,'" says Father Ben Badgett, "so as to allow folks to drop in or out as they embark upon their summer travels."

You can find more in the center spread of this newsletter – pick up a summer flyer at the church and look online!



HAVE COURAGE, BE KIND

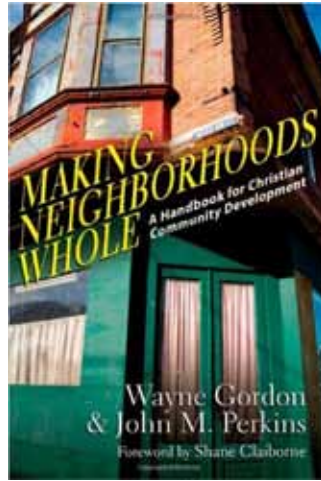
This past spring, small groups read two books: Radical Sending: Go to Love and Serve by Demi Prentiss and J. Fletcher Lowe, and Making Neighborhoods Whole: A Handbook for Christian Community Development by Wayne Gordon and John M. Perkins. Aaron Smith reflects on his group's reading, Making Neighborhoods Whole.

If I had to explain the heart of Christian community development to someone who hadn't read *Making Neighborhoods Whole*, I would say this: The idea of courage in the face of prejudice, your own and that which you may face, is the first lesson expressed in the early experiences of John Perkins, one of the authors and leaders of the Christian Community Development Association. During the early years of his work and ministry, he strove to be more than a simple voice, which would have been enough to garner the unjust attentions that would eventually land him in jail. Perkins worked to be a hand, something that moved others, comforted and built. He knew what his efforts would bring him both the positive and the negative, but he had courage.

Similarly, Wayne Gordon was drawn to a seemingly unwinnable situation. He moved to an impoverished area to start a ministry, and, a few weeks later, his family home was robbed. I wonder how I would handle that string of events. Uncertain, hopeful, I move into an area that makes me and my family nervous, but I have heard God's call. Then, my uncertainty, my fear is confirmed valid. Would I pack up and leave? Maybe. Gordon, however, had courage, and stayed.

Courage is the first principle of Christian community development. It is necessary to begin the work and continue in the face of opposition, but the work itself requires a different, complementary attribute. The rest of the book, other than parts concerning the business of running a non-profit, are variations on the theme of that attribute: kindness.

Maybe I'm not the person this book has been written to



I grew up where kindness wasn't just a synonym for politeness. It was something you did.



engage. When I read what the components of Christian community development were (relocation, reconciliation, redistribution, leadership development, listening, basing work in the church, holistic thinking and empowerment), my response was, "Well, yeah." Then, I thought about what this would mean to someone in the middle of their lives, not at the beginning. To me, moving, forming connections, listening to others, etc. all come naturally, but then again, I'm single and fairly young. Unlike my parents, I grew up with people in authority telling me I should feel my feelings, share my thoughts and listen to everyone,

whether we agree or disagree. I grew up where kindness wasn't just a synonym for politeness. It was something you did to others. Now, that's not say I actually do any of those things consistently. I do believe I understand them, at least. However, this book has forced me to imagine what it would be like to hear these truths while at a totally different point in life.

For me, this book was less about the steps involved in Christian community development than it was about what lay

beneath the descriptions and anecdotes. Its principles reminded me that what truly counts in building community isn't about finding the best option, the highest wage, the safest position. It's about finding the gap that has been left by a society that values an easy life more than a meaningful one and filling it with your own effort. It's about joining that effort with others', lifting them up and rebuilding when what has been so carefully created is inevitably threatened or destroyed. Most importantly, this movement is about a simple commandment on which all of the work that God calls us to do stands: have courage, and be kind. — Read Aaron's full reflection at the *Booking It* blog at HolyCommunion.org.

NEW BOOKS FOR SHADY GROVE ELEMENTARY

In May, Sandy Webb, Hester Mathes and Cara Modisett visited Shady Grove Elementary School to give books to rising fourth- and fifth-graders, a gift from both Holy Communion and St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church in Roanoke, Va., where Cara served as director of music before coming to Memphis. The fourth graders received Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time* and the fifth graders, Beverly Cleary's *Dear Mr. Henshaw*. This was a continuation of our relationship with our neighbor school, whose dedicated faculty and staff work with students from a diversity of ethnic and economic backgrounds, the majority of them on free lunches and many of them homeless or displaced. Parishioners can get involved in the coming school year by being part of Team Read tutoring or the Pen Pal program.



The Holy Trinity, and the Holy Communion, continued from page 1



experiencing God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit through my encounters of giving Eucharistic bread to children. The meditation went something like this:

God the Father. The first week after my ordination to the priesthood, I remember vividly giving the host, the body of Christ, to a child with outstretched hands that were covered

in the colors of markers. Apparently, this child had worked tirelessly on a creation that morning in Sunday school and as a result she came to communion with a rainbow of colors on her small hands. In that moment I recognized the mark of God the Father, the creator, in the image of those hands who were crafting a special creation that would undoubtedly be determined “good” and put on a refrigerator with a parent’s love. On that day, I experienced God the Father and Creator at the communion rail in the messy and colorful hands of a child.

God the Son. During a Eucharist service with college students in Bowling Green, Ky., I will never forget my oldest son’s response to receiving homemade bread for the first time as the consecrated host. Upon eating the bread, the body of Christ, my son (about 18 months old at the time) emphatically exclaimed, “Mmm, good!” I could not help but smile and affirm, “indeed it is good!” And reflecting on God the Son, I often remember that in the incarnation of God in Jesus the Christ, ours is a good God indeed. A God who loved us to the point of sharing our entire human experience of birth, life, pain, joy and even death. Our God in Jesus the Son, finds us to be good and worthy of knowing us fully in the human

experience and to bring us into his wholeness in the resurrected life.

God the Holy Spirit. Just a couple Sundays prior to this weekend, I was offering a blessing to a young girl at the altar rail, and in the moment I was signing the cross on her forehead, her older sister leaned over to her and kissed her on the head. I was struck at the beauty of the blessing the older girl gave to her young sister in that moment. As the priest, I was pronouncing God’s blessing on the child, but the blessing of the sister was one that comes from within the heart, from God the Holy Spirit when we act in love and grace to bless another.

Trinity Sunday. The next morning at Holy Communion, in the midst of Trinity Sunday, I was once again moved deeply by the experience of God at the communion rail in the form of a small child. On that morning, I gave the bread to a young boy, who in turn, with large gesture, blew me a kiss of gratitude. I had never imagined I would be blown a kiss at the communion rail, particularly by a child not my own. But what I am learning to not be surprised by is the presence of God in those who come to the altar rail be participate in holy communion. Communion is holy and it is where God resides with us and in us and through us in all facets of the love of the triune God.

As complex an idea of God as Trinity (3 in 1) is, I am reminded that Jesus brings it all into perspective when he declares, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.” (Luke 18:15-17). And so to the psalmist when he says,

*“Out of the mouths of infants and children
your majesty is praised above the heavens.”*

Learn

Summer Sundays, 9:15 a.m.

Fish Stories

Catchers have a different perspective on fishing than catches. Spend a few weeks this summer learning about biblical characters who caught and were caught by fish.

June 5, 12 The Prophet Jonah

Father Sandy Webb and Alice Hollis

June 19, 27 Jesus' Fishy Disciples

Charlie Caldwell and Matthew Arehart

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

June 23 | Theology by the River

Power and Violence: An (Un)Holy Alliance

6:30 p.m. at Paulette's | Tickets \$36 | Reservations required

This event combines dinner by the river with theological discussion led by Father Sandy Webb between courses. This summer's topic: Is there such a thing as a just war? Could pacifism ever work? Explore these questions and more as we consider the use of force through the lenses of theology and experience.

Summer Sundays for Children | Beginning June 5

Summer Sundays for children (upcoming kindergarten-5th graders) takes place during the normal Sunday

SUMMER

at Holy C

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.

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

Serve

June 16 | Holy Communion at Camp Able St. Columba Episcopal Conference and Retreat Center

We'll make and serve lunch and spend time with the kids and staff at this camp specially designed for people with physical and mental disabilities.

July 29 | Youth & Children's Ministries Volunteer Retreat St. Columba Center

August 14 | 10:30 service

Episcopal Service Corps commissioning

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.

BOOK IT 5K HEALTH CHALLENGE

The annual eight-week walking or running challenge begins the week of July 24 and ends at the Book It 5K on September 17. Teams run or walk together or individually and compete for points – top teams receive Fleet Feet gift certificates. Contact Robert Propst, rkpropst@msn.com.



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Inspire

June 19-24 | Icon Workshop

Be part of this week of meditation and creation, guided by artist Balpha Noojin. The workshop begins at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 19; it runs from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 20-24.

June 4, 7:30 p.m. | Wolf River Singers Concert and Silent Auction

Words³ - Readings for Writers

June 21: Walking in Memphis (Found Texts II)

July 19: Roots & Branches

August 16: Anything Goes

Move

July 9 | Zumbathon for St. Jude

9:30 a.m.-noon, \$5 admission

July 24 | Book It 5K Health Challenge Begins

Get ready for the Book It 5K, September 17; put together a team to walk or run weekly (individually or as a team)

between now and the sixth annual race – awards and prizes are given! The Book It 5K benefits Shelby County Books from Birth and Emmanuel Center.

Play

July 16 | Camp Out at Holy Communion! (for all ages)

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

Episcopal Churchmen of Tennessee 70th Annual Laymen's Conference

August 19-21 | DuBose Conference Center, Monteagle, Tenn. tnchurchmen.org

Eat

Holy Communion is a pick-up point for the Bring It Food Hub!

It's never too late in the season to sign up for weekly bags of fresh, locally grown produce! Subscribe at bringitfoodhub.com; pick up your fruits and vegetables on Wednesdays, 5:30-7 p.m. in the parish hall.

Gailor Guild gathers on June 13

Gailor Guild will have its end of the year gathering on Monday, June 13, at 6:00 p.m.. We will meet at Pecan Grove Condominiums, and everyone is asked to bring a special dish for the pot luck dinner. Please come and share this time with us.

BECOME A BOOK IT 5K SPONSOR

If you or your company would like to be a race sponsor, pick up a sponsorship form from the main lobby of the church. Sponsorships start at \$250. Some of the sponsorship benefits include complimentary entries in the race, having your company logo on the race website, in promotional materials and on race t-shirts. For more information, contact Steve Maury at 493-4485.

SUMMER AND FALL SPORTS

Summer Futsal League for grades two through eight:
June 14 - July 22

Summer Soccer Clinic with Christian Brothers University's men's soccer coaches: June 20-24

Summer Conditioning for girls and boys grades five through eight: June 14-July 28, 7 a.m. on the track

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

Register online at HolyCommunion.org or at the church; contact Julie Fike, juliefike@holycommunion.org

CHOIR APPRECIATION

On May 1, we celebrated our Holy Communion choirs, now on break for the summer. Thanks to our musicians for the beauty they add to our worship services!



Holy Communion Children's Choir, directed by Ellen Koziel.



Holy Communion Ringers, directed by Dr. David Ouzts.



Holy Communion Parish and Motet choirs, directed by Dr. David Ouzts.

PARISH PHOTOGRAPHY

We are working with LifeTouch photography to create a new parish directory – sign up for a photo session – we'll be in the chapel June 6-12! Schedule a session online at <http://ow.ly/4nr3PP> or by calling LifeTouch at 866-756-0281. Everyone receives a free 8x10" photograph.



Priests in helmets! Ben Badgett, Hester Mathes and Katherine Bush all tried the zip line at St. Columba Center during a recent diocesan clergy conference.

MAY AT HOLY COMMUNION!



Dogwoods blooming in the garden.



Cindy McMillion, who has interviewed hundreds of Memphians for her blog ConnectingMemphis.com, taught a Sunday morning forum in May.



Holy Communion clergy retreat at Paulette's.



Bread baked by Cava Sittnick for newcomers.

THE COMMUNICATOR



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CLERGY

The Reverend Sandy Webb, *Rector*
The Reverend Ben Badgett, *Associate Rector*
The Reverend Hester Mathes, *Curate*
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	<i>Minister to Youth</i>
Teresa Boone	<i>Director of Administration</i>
Laura Clausen	<i>Financial Assistant</i>
Elizabeth Coldiron	<i>Minister of Hospitality</i>
Mary Beth Darrow	<i>Director of Operations</i>
Martha Earnest	<i>Facilities Staff</i>
Julie Fike	<i>Director of Recreation & Wellness</i>
Marshall Fonda	<i>Sexton</i>
Dr. Jane Gamble	<i>Assistant Minister of Music</i>
Buford Harbin	<i>Security</i>
Alice Hollis	<i>Minister to Children</i>
Ellen Koziel	<i>Assistant Minister of Music</i>
Beth Mitchell	<i>Assistant Minister of Communication</i>
Cara Ellen Modisett	<i>Minister of Communication</i>
Ann Moorehead	<i>Facilities Staff</i>
Dr. David Ouzts	<i>Minister of Music and Liturgy</i>
Kenyetta Powell	<i>Receptionist</i>
Jim Sawicki	<i>Sexton</i>
Jamie Shaw	<i>Sexton</i>

Memorials & Honoraria

Received April 16 – May 15, 2016

In memory of Guion Armstrong Parotte

Sherry & Mike Murphy

In memory of Guion Parotte

Alva & Janice Cobb

In memory of Frederick Phillip Jacobs III

Jeanne J. Sutherland

In memory of Phillip Jacobs

Barton Lynch

In memory of Eugenia Noe

Nancy Thomas

In honor of Mae Christie Canale

Julie Ellis

In memory of Alice Kain Stout

Julie Ellis

In honor of Mary Wrennetta McCain

on her 90th birthday

Betty Lyon

In thanksgiving of Adam Cruthirds, Adam's Army, and the St. George's Independent School Class of 2016

Mary Elizabeth Porter

In honor of the Baptism of Benjamin Rojas

Dr. & Mrs. Norberto Rojas

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.