



THE COMMUNICATOR

HOLY COMMUNION ON PILGRIMAGE

THE HOLY LAND | *Julie Ellis*

In our May issue, three voices reflect on three very different pilgrimages.



In preparation for our journey to Israel, Father Sandy asked each of us to answer three questions, and he suggested we record our answers in the beautiful journals which he had presented to each of us: How do you expect to come back from the journey richer? What do you need to leave behind in order to go on this journey? What is your prayer for us right now?

My recorded expectations prior to the trip were broad: I hoped to become more knowledgeable about the region; more knowledgeable about the Gospel journey, and to be wiser and more tolerant.

The actual journey's "riches" were abundant and are forever gifts. Shared with us was some of the finest scholarship about Israel, the Jewish faith, the faith of Islam, the history of Jerusalem from 3500 B.C.E. through 16 historic periods to 1967, when Jerusalem was reunited after the Six-Day War, and about the Bible Lands themselves. The Lectionary the College provided us, and which we read at each location we visited, provided insight into the readings that was profound. Sandy's comment

– "being there" is the fifth Gospel – is a perfect description.

At one of our early lectures, we were challenged to prepare a birth and death certificate for Jesus. None of us had ever thought of such an exercise, but we were about to travel from his birthplace to his place of crucifixion. We learned every step of the way.

We heard, discussed and experienced the lives of the Palestinian people residing in what are called Areas A, B or C – the United Nations' creations. It was hard to understand, as many Israeli citizens live by labels of faith, ethnicity, history and culture, and some behind a wall with barbed wire. As Sandy said in his blog – it is complicated, and we do not have the answers.

More importantly, we encountered a joyous place at St. George's College and the Cathedral of the Middle East, which are located in East Jerusalem only a short walk from the ancient walled city. The Dean of the College, the Very Reverend Gregory Jenks, is a scholar who hails from Brisbane, Australia, and who was our amazing biblical and archeological guide to the centuries before and after Jesus.

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MANY VOICES, MANY PLACES

ST. LOUIS AND FERGUSON | *Raina James Workman, Episcopal Service Corps*

The disparate and far-fetched nature of the Christian church has led to a natural fascination with going to the places of formation in our ancient faith. Pictures of friends visiting St. Peter's Basilica litter our Facebook feeds, some random guy at a cocktail party can't stop talking about walking the El Camino Santiago, etc.

This impulse isn't new, of course. Christians have been writing and documenting their spiritual journeys for nearly two millennia. If St. Helena had had an iPhone with her on her Holy Land travels, you better believe we all would have gotten a million tweets and status updates about her various discoveries (TMI, Helena, TMI).

However, as we walk well-trodden paths of return, we rarely realize that pilgrimage for the very earliest followers of Christ wasn't really about going to places where Jesus once was. No one revisited the empty tomb, hung around Golgotha or searched for a humble stable in Bethlehem. It seems so inherently contradictory to us in 2016 to think of a Christian Church that was young and hungry and focused on the immediate now.

When a group of Christians first shared bread around a table after Jesus's death and resurrection, they weren't tapping into an ancient rite. They were simply remembering what Jesus, their beloved friend, had asked them to do. In the absence of shrines and ruins, holy mountains and monasteries, they understood the intimacy of Christ's incarnation. We are the living relics of our Lord; if you want to meet Jesus, you have to meet his people.

In the tradition of Saint Paul, our City of Soul members traveled to St. Louis to meet up with other young Christians

who are earnestly trying to walk in the ways of the Lord. Present were our partners in the Episcopal Service Corps from the Julian Year (Chicago), the Confluence Year (Columbus, Ohio), and Deaconess Anne House (St. Louis). We properly began our weekend on Saturday by participating in workshops about growing spiritually and professionally. On Sunday

we worshiped in Ferguson with the saints at St. John's Church, and in the afternoon we listened to moving and impactful testimonies from community organizers in the neighborhood. After we had some perspective about the struggle in Ferguson, we visited the place where Michael Brown was murdered on Canfield Drive. Huddling



Daniel Schwert/Wikimedia Commons



together in the merciless cold of February, we lit candles and prayed for justice, prayed for peace, and prayed for those who continue to bear witness to the movement in Ferguson.

The reality of the Episcopal Service Corps is that each program serves a city that is in crisis. Being in the midst of crisis feels debilitating. I know that I have personally felt overwhelmed at my work site by my lack of power to enact real change. When the need is so apparent, and the work seems so gargantuan, how can you not lose heart? How am I, at 22 years old and with limited experience, going to do anything meaningful?

Perhaps St. Paul noticed the same fatigue plaguing the Hebrew Church, because he takes the time to encourage them in his epistle: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another" (Hebrews 10:24-25).

THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD IS HERE

EMMANUEL CENTER, MEMPHIS | *The Reverend Hester Mathes*

During one of the most beautiful weekends of April, more than 90 members of Holy Communion and Emmanuel Center embarked on an Urban Pilgrimage, working alongside each other to transform a concrete alleyway between St. Joseph's and the Emmanuel Center Gym into a garden of welcome and gathering. The Reverend Dr. Katherine Grieb, New Testament scholar and professor at Virginia Theological Seminary, provided the theological framework for the journey. Grieb challenged the pilgrims to name and overcome boundaries in order to become active participants working towards God's dream for our communities of faith and our city of Memphis.

Multiple generations from both communities worked together to build benches, planters and a Little Free Library. We planted flowers, painted a mural designed by artist Pam Cobb, painted trim and railings, cleaned rows of chairs and kept everyone well fed. Meanwhile, pilgrims offered prayers on sheets of paper that piled up on the altar. We learned new skills and built new friendships as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Cindy McMillion captured the heart of the pilgrimage through interviews, which she is sharing through her Connecting Memphis blog. Carl, who led the exterior painting effort, told Cindy, "My brother taught me to paint 30 years ago, and I've been doing it ever since. Follow your own dream. Find what you love, figure out the best way to do it, and get good at it." Carl showed the pilgrims that following our dream can be used to build God's dream when we share our gifts and work together.

Adam Nelson, the Episcopal Service Corps member bridging Holy Communion and Emmanuel Center, summed up the pilgrimage as he led the music, singing, "The presence of the Lord is here. I can feel it in the atmosphere. The presence of the Lord is here."

I look forward to seeing how God's dream continues to unfold before us as we continue to build our relationships and our partnership in ministry in the city of Memphis.

Many hands at work; Adam Nelson with an Emmanuel Center youth; planting; the Reverend Dr. Katherine Grieb; youth activities; Father Colenzo Hubbard and Laverne Hubbard.



Troy Glasgow



Mark your calendar for
September 17, 2016!

Plans have begun for our 2016 Book It 5K which will, once again, benefit the Emmanuel Center and Shelby County Books from Birth.

Our previous five Book It 5K races would not have been so successful without the generous support of so many sponsors! If you or your company would like to consider being a sponsor for the Book It 5K, please pick up a sponsorship form from the church. There are many levels of sponsorship available. Some of the sponsorship benefits include complimentary entries in the race and having your company logo or name on the race website, posters, ads and T-shirts.

If you have any questions about being a race sponsor, please contact Steve Maury at 493-4485 or by email at steve.maury@BankParagon.com.

Book It 5K Health Challenge

Be part of this year's Book It 5K Health Challenge! The Health Challenge is an 8-week walking or running challenge that starts the week of July 24 and ends with our Book It 5K on **September 17**.

This program is for everyone, whether you are just starting to walk or run or already run a lot! Get fit and earn points for your team by completing your individual walking or running workouts each week. Top teams will earn gift certificate prizes.

For more information or to sign up, contact Robert Propst at rkpropst@msn.com.

GUEST SPEAKER

**A GUEST FROM JERUSALEM, MAY 29:
THE VERY REVEREND GREGORY JENKS**



Father Jenks, who led our Holy Land pilgrimage, will kick off our summer classes with a talk in Cheney Parish Hall at 9:15 a.m. From Australia, Father Jenks is a scholar and an Anglican priest; his books include *The Once and Future Bible*, *The Once and Future Scriptures* and *Jesus Then and Jesus Now*.

PARISH LIFE

CENTERING PRAYER / LABYRINTH

A time of resting in God's Presence with Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina. Individual instruction available. May 7, 9 a.m. in the Chapel and Parish Hall



WORDS³

Readings by writers of all genres and backgrounds, open to the public. 6:30 p.m., Cheney Parish Hall; free coffee and Gibson's donuts!

May 17 Something Borrowed

June 21 Walking in Memphis (Found Texts)

July 19 Roots and Branches

August 16 Anything Goes

PARISH DIRECTORY PHOTOS!

We're publishing a new photo directory. Photo shoots will take place at the church, May 23-26 and June 6-11. Sign up for a time here: <http://ow.ly/4nr3PP>

SUMMER FORMATION

SUNDAY MORNINGS at 9:15 a.m.

May 1, 8, 15

The Acts of the Apostles

Mary Cargill and Eileen Olewinski

Spotlight on Community Partnerships

May 8

Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association (MIFA)

May 15

Connecting Memphis, with Cindy McMillion

Special Programs at 9:15 a.m.

May 22

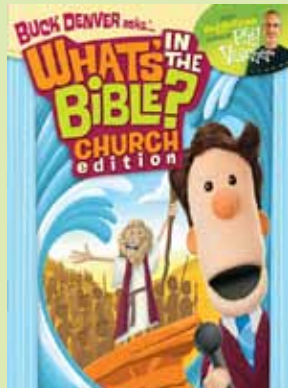
The Reverend Sandy Webb:

The Greatness of Our Commission

SUMMER CLASSES

Summer formation begins on May 29 with our guest speaker Gregory Jenks.

Summer Sundays for the children (upcoming kindergarten – 5th graders) will also begin June 5, during the normal 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, featuring Buck Denver, intrepid news reporter, who, with his cohorts, gives us the scoop on all his research into the Bible from beginning to end. Parents can help with snacks and craft preparation; Anna Despeaux will be leading the group.



More information on adult and children’s formation will be forthcoming via e-Communicator, web and our summer flyer. Contact Alice Hollis, Minister to Children, and the Reverend Ben Badgett with questions.



BRING IT FOOD HUB

**We are now an official pick-up spot
for the Bring It Food Hub!**

On Wednesday evenings 5:30-7 p.m., Holy Communion is a pick-up site for Bring It Food Hub Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Visit the website for more information and to register! bringitfoodhub.com



**Marlayna Maynard, Katie Clark and Cara Modisett
in Recital!**

May 22 at 2:30 p.m. | Cheney Parish Hall

*An afternoon program of music
by Aaron Copland and Samuel Barber.*



ANNOUNCING STAFF TRANSITIONS

This spring, we welcome to our staff **Laura Clausen**, who will be working as Financial Assistant to Teresa Boone, our newly promoted Director of Administration. “After an 18-year hiatus to raise my family,” Laura says, “I am excited to return to the work force part-time and utilize my professional skills. I have enjoyed interacting with my new co-workers on both a personal and professional level. Everyone has been very welcoming!”



Laura graduated from the University of Iowa and held accounting jobs in Switzerland and San Diego before coming to the Memphis area, where she lives with her husband, sons and five-pound Havanese. She enjoys volunteering in her off-work time.

This summer, we say goodbye to Minister of Communication **Cara Modisett**, who will be returning to her family in Virginia in August. She came on board under a one-year contract and will have served more than twice that long by the end of the summer, building a communications program here, founding a reading series for creative writers, offering collaborative piano recitals at Holy Communion and at the University of Memphis, writing stories for *Memphis Magazine*, *The Living Church* and the Prayers of the People for General Convention last summer. We will have several more months and many more projects before she leaves; the search for her successor has begun. She will miss this congregation, its ministry and this city immensely.



Lisa Buser

Holy Communion on Pilgrimage, continued from page 1

Bishara Khoury, who we believe knows and loves every single person in Israel, kept us on time, organized and safe. If the world were full of more people like Bishara, it would be full of joy and peace. We met some of the kindest people on our journey, including three sprightly and wise nuns (Sisters of Nazareth Convent, Church of the Beatitudes and Abu Gosh), our bus driver, residents in all sectors of the old city of Jerusalem and Nazareth and all the staff at St. George’s College.

The spiritual impacts of every experience were undoubtedly different for each of us: Looking down from atop Bethsaida at the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus delivered many of his teachings; standing on Mount Tabor at the Church of the Transfiguration; being at the Jordan River at the site of the Baptism of Jesus; sitting atop the mountains in the dessert of the Judean wilderness looking down at the Wadi Qelt.

Each of us Holy C pilgrims left behind our homes, families, church and everyday norms to make this trip to Israel. We also

left behind any concerns for our safety and group dynamics. Our group of 23 knitted together in so many ways, from finding each other’s purses and passports, grouping into “families” who were accountable to the larger group, sharing soulful and thoughtful encounters and partaking of delightful Israeli wine as we gathered nightly to enjoy each other’s company. We were not unmindful of where we were, but we all felt secure, supported and privileged to be making the trip.

As we move though the next months and years ahead, I know we will all be more mindful of what we learned and we will remain hopeful that the peoples of this beautiful country find peace and remain hopeful. This pilgrim left a prayer for all of us, our families, the City of Memphis and our nation in the very sacred Western Wall, asking:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Many Voices, Many Places, continued from page 2

The real joy of going to St. Louis was the community that we built and the burdens that we shared. Even when times are tough, hope can be found in friendship.

Weirdly enough, our karaoke party on Saturday night is what’s going to stick with me a long time. There we were, a bunch of strangers, doing an activity that hasn’t been popular since 2005. After City of Soul managed to horrifically

butcher Elvis, Kayla was invited by some girls from Ohio to perform a Dixie Chicks song. Adam accompanied a few people from St. Louis on a rock song lost to the ’90s. Finally, “Eclipse of the Heart” came on, a song made for karaoke if there ever was one, and we all sang, unified together, with abandon. Many voices, many places, many walks of life, all a part of the kingdom of God.



APRIL AT HOLY COMMUNION!

Above and top left: Holy Land Pilgrimage; *top right:* the Reverend Mitzi Minor, guest speaker; *below:* confirmation; *remaining:* our Urban Pilgrimage weekend at Emmanuel Center.



Troy Glasgow



Lisa Buser



Troy Glasgow



Troy Glasgow

THE COMMUNICATOR



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Memorials & Honoraria

Received March 16 – April 15, 2016

In honor of

Matthew Arehart

Brad, Kate, and Henry
Trammell

In honor of

Randy McCloy's birthday

Bill & Carmine Vaughan

In memory of

David Thompson, Jr.

Philip & Kathleen Cruzen
Marion & Sam Morgan

In memory of

Richard Jones, Jr.

Bill & Peggy Douglas
Mr. & Mrs. Julian Prewitt

In memory of

Phillip Jacobs

Marion Morgan

In memory of

Alice Kain Stout

Alice Bolton

In memory of

Charlie Cunningham

Aleine Hansen

In memory of

Pattie Weatherly

Aleine Hansen

In memory of Alice Stout

Jeanne J. Sutherland

In honor of

the Church Staff

The Family of James L. Fri, Jr.

In memory of

Richard Franklin Jones, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Julian Prewitt

In honor of the

Confirmation of

Marylee Muscari

Meredith Gotten Pritchart

In honor of Confirmand

Becket Monaghan to the

Youth Pilgrimage Fund

Jane Morris

In honor of the

Christening of

Georgia Danielle Carter

Leigh & Brack Carter

In honor of

Jeanne & Richard Hollis

Ashley Elder & William Stout

In honor of

Julie & George Ellis

Ashley Elder & William Stout

In honor of

Barton Lynch

Ashley Elder & William Stout

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The Reverend Dr. Randy McCloy, *Deacon*

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