

THE COMMUNICATOR

THIS CREW KNOWS HEADS, TALES ABOUT SHRIMP

The Shrimp Dinner that has been an All Saints' tradition at Holy Communion is shepherded and cooked by a crew of boil experts who've earned their stripes – and a few nicknames too – for the efficiency of their process and bonds of friendship.

Much of the history persists in a trail of emails. Some of them, five and ten years old.

"Here's the debriefing from 2010," says Richard Hollis, pulling up an email from the dank archives of his computer. "Looking forward to improving the performance of the corn.' That's from Matt Prince," Hollis says, chuckling as he reads through the notes.

"There's scads of emails alone on getting the right burners," Hollis says.

"In 2010, we had a sold-out crowd, and the CJ2000 burner came on line," he says approvingly.

CJ stands for Cajun Jet, a propane jet burner that so improved the efficiency that there are now two running all day – plus a spare – behind the church kitchen where all cooking is done.

Anyone in the cadre of shrimp cookers at Holy Communion knows that Ron Ayotte, aka "the quartermaster" gets credit for improving the processes for this shrimp boil, which through the years, has run in every kind of weather, including cold, drenching rain.

The CJ200 is just part of it. Ayotte also devised a system to get the melted ice off the cooling shrimp by building draining racks to fit the bottom of the ice chests and draining the water off at an angle so the shrimp never sit in water.

"He wants things right," said Matt Prince, who took over



Photo by Cindy McMillion

The crew worked in a cold rain most of Sunday, November 4. The members are Richard Hollis, Matt Prince, Ron Ayotte, Mott Ford, Kendall Visinsky, Nick Goetze and Garner Williams.

running the show at least eight years ago. Through it all, the nicknames have persisted. There's the Shrimp Boss (Kendall Visinsky); Shrimp Master (Hollis); Head Shrimp Boy (Prince); Thaw Boy 1, aka Old Bay, (Mott Ford); Thaw Boy 2 (Shawn McGhee); Cut Man (Tom Cowens); and Deckhand (Davis McGhee).

"It might be an all-male cooking crew, but Visinsky is the boss,"

Prince says.

Each ingredient is cooked and cooled

separately. That means there are separate ice chests for corn, potatoes, sausage and shrimp. (One year, the potatoes were smashed because the corn was poured on top to cool. It hasn't happened again.)

The spice is ordered from a specialty company in South Louisiana. The specific order, year after year, has given Holy Communion a reputation the crew learned one year, when the order was late arriving.

"It turns out, they couldn't get exactly what we wanted in advance so they waited until they could and made arrangements to FedEx to us," Prince says. "They know we don't want any deviation."

The equipment, including enormous boiling pots, is stored at a warehouse. The crew wears white rubber shrimp boots, except the Shrimp Boss. She wears red. At noon, the members break to share steak sandwiches from the Belmont Grill.

It's hard to know exactly how old the All Saints' Shrimp Dinner really is. Barbara Wilson suspects it's well over 30 years old.

Hollis, who learned to cook shrimp and crawfish from his

(Shrimp continued on page 7)

Research shows that young people who attend church camp are much more likely, even five years later, to participate in a faith community. The importance of that now, as church membership is waning nationally, is one of the reasons Holy Communion is making a point to promote church camp participation.

At right, Emily Woodside helps campers at Camp Able at St. Columba Conference and Retreat Center.

Photos by Cindy McMillion



CHURCH CAMP BUILDS INNER FAITH CORE

It doesn't take Daniel Russell, 16, long to list what he loves about Gailor-Maxon, the Episcopal camp at DuBose Conference Center that has shaped generations of Tennesseans.

He loves Claiborne Hall and its elegant tower and white-washed architecture. He loves the scent of pine on the mountain air, and the trails and the quiet, black-dark nights. But what changed him, he thinks probably forever, are the friendships.

As a 12-year-old, he went to Gailor-Maxon for the first time because his parents made him, he said. What he noticed almost immediately was the focus on relationships.

"I have a lot of friends from Gailor-Maxon," he says. "Last summer was my third year. I go back because the people are fun to be around. The experiences are different each year. I learn different things about God."

Gailor-Maxon is also the reason he was the first in the youth group to know Carter Webster, the new minister to youth. She has a long Gailor-Maxon history too.

Emily Photopoulos, 16, says her time at Camp Bear Track in the Ozarks strengthened her faith.

"I was able to preach my spiritual journey to others and connect with them. Church camp allowed me to make myself smaller so as to preach the greatness that is Christ Jesus and God. Camp changed me and made me the Christian I am today."

Holy Communion is stepping up its focus on the value of church camp, drawing on the experiences of parishioners and staff who quickly say the experience changed the

trajectory of their lives.

Carter would not have even considered being a youth leader if not for the nine years she spent at Gailor-Maxon as a camper and an additional three as camp staff, including assistant camp director in 2017.

"It definitely made me realize there are fun ways to be with people your age and love God. You can have Eucharist on a mountaintop or outside. I think camp teaches you that worship doesn't have to be super traditional. I also learned things about the Episcopal Church that I wouldn't have learned otherwise," she says.

It also didn't take long for her to see that she loved helping people grow.

"My leadership quality came out. I realized I thrive when I am in front of a crowd, giving instruction," she says, laughing.

"And there're really so many experiences you have at camp that you don't have any other place in life, like in a cabin at 11 o'clock at night."

For Hester Mathes, camp was the first place she felt she was taking ownership of her faith journey.

"When I look back, it's friends I made through camp and retreats who are were there for me in hard times and continue to be.

Camp also gets us away from the distractions of the more secular world," she said. "It breaks us out of our routines. And it's also about living in community. You are living in the same cabin, sharing bathrooms and meals. I think there is a lot to be said about gathering around a table for all your meals."

(Camp continued on page 3)

Rector Sandy Webb would like every child in the congregation to have a church camp experience, noting that his first time at camp was as a seminarian working at Camp Bratton-Green near Canton, Mississippi.

“I had no idea what to expect when I arrived at camp. When I left, I had friends with whom I still keep in touch, and I was signing up to return for another week.”

Jake Sorenson, Ph.D, has spent five years researching the value of church camp. In his field work and surveys of 1,000 campers and 300 parents, he’s found that the good feelings campers have when they leave often evaporate. But three months later, they show an increase in valuing church and church membership. The campers also said they would more likely turn to Christian friends or adults at church in times of need.

Research from the National Study of Youth and Religion shows that college-age young people who attended church camp in their teens were significantly more likely to attend church, participate in Bible studies and college religious groups than those who did not attend. They were three times more likely to participate in a faith community than those who didn’t go to church camp.

“There is something special about the Christian camp experience that leads young people to not only take greater ownership of their faith but also to connect that faith with a Christian community,” Sorenson said.

“This has deep significance for the church in a time when many are disengaging from organized religion and seeking to practice faith on their own. Christianity is necessarily a communal faith. We cannot be Christians in a vacuum. Camp has powerful ways of conveying this truth to young people that actually leads to greater engagement in Christian community, including church attendance, months and years after the camp experience.”

Jonathan Chesney, active since he was 15 at Camp McDowell in Alabama,

nods his head at the findings.

“What I felt at Camp McDowell is that everyone had a place there if they wanted it. It was promoted as a value that there was a place for everyone there.



“The power of belonging to your faith community at its best gets modeled at camp,” he said. “You have gifts you can offer to the community. For me, there was a Jonathan-shaped hole at McDowell that only I could fill.”

The corollary, he said, might be children who were forced to attend church but never got a sense it was their space.

“If that’s the case, why would you keep going once you have a choice in matter?”

Brad Thompson, executive director of St. Columba Conference and Retreat Center, says the whole idea of church camp is the focus on love, fun, acceptance and contribution.

Mud Camp at St. Columba, the closest church camp to CHC, is open to rising first - sixth graders. The weeklong day camp, with a tiered pricing schedule, is offered five times each summer.

“When we dance, sing, create and explore, we are celebrating all that God gave us and sharing an important message that our campers are loved and appreciated ... for being themselves,” Thompson said.

“Camps are a vibrant expression of how the church recognizes that formation is important. We’re growing Christians, leaders, explorers, artists, adventurers and contributing members of the community.”

2019 SUMMER CAMPS

St. Columba (Episcopal)

Mud Camp

In Bartlett, Tennessee

Weeklong summer camp for rising 1st -6th graders, offered 5 times each summer.

CIT Program

Weeklong event for rising 7th, 8th graders interested in becoming camp counselors offered 5 times each summer.

Camp Able

Week of camp in June for children and adults with disabilities.

www.saintcolumbamemphis.org

Camp Bear Track

In Drasco, Arkansas

Offers overnight camps in June, July.
www.victoryranch.org

Victory Ranch

In Bolivar, Tennessee

Offers 8 weeks of camps in June, July. Programs for all ages.
www.victoryranch.org

Camp Gailor-Maxon (Episcopal)

At DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle, Tennessee

Offers four camps, from late May to late June, for rising 1st – 12th graders.
www.duboseconferencecenter.org

Camp Bratton-Green (Episcopal)

Near Canton, Mississippi

Offers camping experiences for rising 2nd – 10th graders. Also offers 2 camps for people with disabilities, for age 40 and up, age 39 and below.
<https://www.graycenter.dioms.org>

Camp McDowell (Episcopal)

In Nauvoo, Alabama

Camps offered all year for variety of ages, interests.
<https://campmcdowell>

LATE FALL AT CHC *Tell*



SUNDAYS AT 9:15 A.M. ADULT FORUM

November 4

Everyday Grace

Author Jerusalem Greer speaks on finding signs of grace in everyday lives. She is minister to children, youth and families at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Conway, Arkansas.

November 11

Soldiers of Faith

Panel of CHC veterans talk about their experiences in war and the power of faith in the trenches.

November 18

Well-schooled

Superintendent of Shelby County Schools, Dorsey Hopson talks about the challenges of educating over 100,000 children, 82 percent of which are economically disadvantaged.

November 25

Scripture for Today

The Venerable Mimsy Jones will explore scriptures in the context of modern life.

December 2 & 9

Perfect Freedom

Jesus promises his followers freedom, but what does that really mean? Sandy offers a tutorial on the field of "liberation theology" and reflects on its relevance in the world today.

Children and Youth meet on the third floor of Cheney at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays. Childcare is available from 9 a.m. to noon in Room 311.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE



November 20 • 7 P.M.
Emmanuel United Methodist
2404 Kirby Road • Memphis



THANKSGIVING at HOLY COMMUNION

Give thanks with your church family at 10 a.m.
Come as you are. You'll be home in an hour to
continue preparation on the feast!

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Our guild members are hosting a Dutch treat lunch with their sisters from All Saints' and Emmanuel at 12:30 p.m., Thursday, November 11, at Perkins in Eastgate, 5112 Park. The women will share their feelings about the prospect of a female bishop leading the diocese. Please come!



THE GREAT "O" ANTIPHONS

At 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 9, our choirs and brass from the Memphis Symphony Orchestra will present music associated with the Latin hymn, Veni, veni Emmanuel.



Youth Activities

November 11

Office Olympics

6:30 p.m. dinner, Carrick Room

November 18

Friendsgiving Party

6:30 p.m. dinner, Carrick Room

November 25

(no EYC ... Happy Thanksgiving!)

December 2

More Than a Meal

at Grace-St. Luke's

1-3 p.m. cooking

3:30-5 p.m. serving

December 9

Christmas Caroling and other Holiday Fun

6:30 p.m. dinner, Carrick Room

Room

December 16

Christmas Party

6:30 p.m., Yarbrow's home.

Holiday Outreach



Family Promise

November 25-December 1

We're partnering with Second Baptist to provide transitional housing for three families for the week. This is how Holy Communion is trying help with homelessness.

We need people to sign up to bring meals or be hosts. Contact Barb Boucher, bib72015@gmail.com.



Words³

This group of writers reads from their own work once a month. November's topic is "Something a Robot Could Never Do." All are welcome, including listeners.

Emily Ruch is hosting in her home. November 15 at 6 p.m.



St. Luke's Food Pantry

November & December

The pantry will be closed the days Holy Communion serves in November and December.

To contribute in other ways, we are collecting jugs of juice and canned hams.

Juices will be picked up at the church on November 11; canned hams will be picked up December 16.

Let's fill up boxes!!



SPORTS & RECREATION

Registration is closed for kids basketball but some slots are still open. Contact Julie Fike at juliefike@holychommunion.org.

YOGA

M, W
4:15 p.m.

INT. YOGA

T, Th
4:15 p.m.

TAI CHI

M, W
11:30 a.m.

ZUMBA

M 6:15 p.m.
W 6:30 p.m.
Sa 9:30 a.m.

STEPPING UP OUR INVITE, CONNECT GAME

Lilie Hudson and her family joined Holy Communion this spring, largely because a network of support reached out to welcome them in.

Emily Woodside invited the family for Easter dinner. Cava Sittnick connected with Lilie and introduced her to others in town.

In a short time, the Hudsons felt like they belonged to the Holy Communion family.

“It was seamless to become a new member at Holy Communion,” Lilie said.

She credits Elizabeth Coldiron, minister of hospitality, for “taking something that is intimidating and removing all the unknowns.”

Holy Communion wants to be more intentional about connecting people who come as visitors.

“Sandy thinks we have welcoming down pat,” said Coldiron. “He wants the inviting and connecting stepped up.”

Holy Communion, like hundreds of Episcopal churches around the globe, uses the Invite-Welcome-Connect model to help newcomers find their places in the church.

In a discussion in the Adult Forum in mid-October, Coldiron asked participants to suggest specific ways Holy Communion could be more aware of newcomers.

Many of the suggestions will roll out in the coming year, including building a group of Connectors, whose job it will be to help link newcomers to people and events in the church and the larger community, and creating a video tour of the church for the church website.

“Before the welcoming and the connecting, people need to be invited to church. And that is something every parishioner can do, including youth,” Coldiron says.

More than 80 percent of visitors to Holy Communion come because they were invited by a friend.

“In this church-filled town, a lot of people already do

attend church. Even so, invite them to Holy Communion so they can experience what we are all about. And, you’ll also

learn something about your friend,” Coldiron says.

And if it seems intimidating, Coldiron recommends you speak from your heart about what is important to you about Holy Communion. She also says you don’t need to spend all kinds of time trying to find the right time and place.

“Anytime is a good time to invite someone to church,” Coldiron says.

All newcomers receive a welcome bag with loaf of bread baked by Sittnick and her hospitality bakers, plus information about CHC. They also likely have coffee with Coldiron, who uses the time to gauge visitors’ interests and quickly get them involved.

Coldiron will offer training this winter to help standardize the reception newcomers receive.

“We want them all to get a welcome bag and fill out a visitor card,”



Photos by Cindy McMillion

Most of the people who visit Holy Communion are invited by friends, says Minister of Hospitality Elizabeth Coldiron, who led a class this fall on the importance of inviting and connecting newcomers.

Coldiron says.

Most of newcomers to Holy Communion are not Episcopalian, which means they have come for another reason and may already feel like they have taken a risk.

If they are greeted in the nave and then invited by a

parishioner for coffee in the parish hall, they have more time to experience the church’s hospitality, Coldiron says.

“I think everyone has the ability to be welcoming in their



Shrimp cont'd from page 1

mother's kin in South Louisiana, remembers coming to his first Shrimp Dinner in the Blaisdell dining room. He was handed a paper plate of tasteless, little shrimp, steamed the day before at Seessel's.

"I said, 'What if you give me the same amount of money you've been spending and we see what we can do in the way of cooking shrimp?'"

"Brack and Leigh Carter and my wife, Jeanne, helped with the cooking. For years, Jeanne helped with the serving. Back in those days, we were cooking 50 pounds of shrimp. Now, they're at 250," Hollis says.

"Volunteers would serve the shrimp. Sometime later, we said, 'Let's put baskets on the tables and tell them we would like them to put tips in the baskets to help the children going on the pilgrimage,'" he said.

The proceeds have been as high as \$4,200.

The work begins on Saturday with the thaw boys hacking up the 5-pound blocks of enormous, frozen shrimp.



The shrimp crew began cooking at 8 a.m. the day of the Shrimp Dinner and worked all day.

Photos by
Cindy McMillion



All the vegetables, including onions and garlic, are chopped by hand. The corn is purchased fresh (a process also honed by trial and error) from Restaurant Depot on Summer.

"You can't have good corn if it's frozen," Prince said. "I figured that out by calling someone I know in Louisiana who does this for a living."

"Starting about 10 years ago, we started keeping records," (Prince's spreadsheets on the dinner are meticulous) "of how much spice, how long they cooked, etcetera. It gets tweaked every year," he said.

"But the shrimp are the showpiece. If you get that wrong, no one cares about sausage, potatoes and corn."

"We cook the shrimp in 25-pound increments. The beauty of that is we can oomph up next batch if it needs more spice," he says with a knowing nod.

When it's over, the crew with their frat-boy nicknames, mingles for a while

with the guests before taking a seat together to eat and drink and watch the crowd enjoy the evening.

Invite cont'd from page 6

own style," Coldiron said. "It may be talking about a ballgame, anything that feels comfortable and authentic."

And she suggests the church's supper clubs are a built-in way to build rapport in small groups.

"Lifelong friendships have been formed in our supper clubs. We have 50-60 people in supper clubs now. I would love to have 100-plus. Supper clubs are good for longtime parishioners and newcomers at the same time."

Brad and Barb Boucher often invite new members to visit their supper club.

"We love it. Supper club is an excellent place for newcomers to meet people. We've had the newcomers' reception at our house as well. And it's nice, but it's a bigger group so you don't really get to know people as well."

On another front, research shows that people remember names better if they see them printed, which Coldiron says bodes well for nametags on Sundays.

"The nametags help people who are longtime members too," Coldiron said. "There is a misconception that we all know each others' names, but we don't. If for no other reason, wear the nametags for the new faces."



Sunny Ross, Esther Brady, Cava and Steve Sittnick brainstorm ways to improve how newcomers are connected.

"I think everyone has the ability to be welcoming in their own style."

— ELIZABETH COLDIRON
Minister of Hospitality

THE COMMUNICATOR



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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.

Wednesday 12:15 p.m.

CLERGY

The Reverend Sandy Webb, *Rector*

The Reverend Hester Mathes, *Senior Associate Rector*

The Reverend Jonathan Chesney, *Associate Rector*

The Reverend Dr. Randy McCloy, *Deacon*

VESTRY

John Lewis, Sr. *Warden* + Mike Murphy, Jr. *Warden*

David Visinsky, *Treasurer* + Marlene Shaw, *Clerk*

Debbie Campbell, Mike Driscoll, Amanda Goetze, Hugh Holt,

Nat Johnson, Dale Jones, Tracy Killen, Tim McCormack,

Anne-Morgan Morgan, Cava Sittnick, Richard Williamson

and Christy Yarbro

LAY STAFF

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>
Dr. Jane Gamble	<i>Assistant Minister of Music</i>
Alice Hollis	<i>Minister to Children</i>
Dr. Ellen Koziel	<i>Assistant Minister of Music</i>
Beth Mitchell	<i>Assistant 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>
Jane Roberts	<i>Minister of Communication</i>
Jim Sawicki	<i>Sexton</i>
Jamie Shaw	<i>Sexton</i>
Carter Webster	<i>Minister to Youth</i>

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.

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Memorials & Honoraria

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In memory of

**Thomas Walker Monaghan,
M.D.**

Sally & Frank Navarra

Ann & Walker Uhlhorn

Richard & Christina Roberts

Joe & Cheryl McCormack

Diana Monaghan & family

Mr. & Mrs. William M. Gotten

Mary & Shellie McCain

In memory of

Harriette Beeson

Sally & Frank Navarra

Ann Duncan

Emily Woodside & Bill Falvey

Ruth & Ron Thompson

Dan & Chloe Poag

Ann & Walker Uhlhorn

Joe & Cheryl McCormack

Richard & Betty Hoffman

Margaret & Charles Hubbert

Gloria & Jim Weir

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Margaret & William Craddock

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Camille & Ed LeMaster

Janie & Walker Morris

Mr. & Mrs. John L. Salmon

Sally Chandler

Shelby & Carole Tucker

Alice Bolton

Margaret McKee

Beth Simpson

In memory of Cannon Hill

Dr. & Mrs. Lawrence McRae

John Keesee

Amy & Paul Kauerz

Scott & Julie Fleming

and in honor of her family

Ben & Allison Hill –

The H Foundation

In memory of

Father Don Mowery

Ann & Walker Uhlhorn

In memory of

Colonel Harry Poole,

Salvation Army

Carmine & Bill Vaughan

In memory of Roy Bell

Janie & Walker Morris

In memory of

Jackson Roberts

Janie & Walker Morris

In memory of

Lester Gingold

Ann Duncan

Alice Bolton

Driscoll Design &

Decoration

Walter D. Wills. III

Mr. & Mrs.

Robert F. Fogelman, II

Margaret & William Craddock

Jan Bell

Ann Bendall

Evelyn Gayden

In memory of

Margaret Bonnell

Alice Bolton