



THE COMMUNICATOR

YOUNG ADULTS LOOKING AT TRADITION IN NEW LIGHT

Dinner was in the narthex, perhaps the first clue that the church is breaking some molds when it comes to creating vibrancy for young adults.

Around tables in a setting that's more usually the gathering place for clergy and acolytes on Sundays, 20- and 30-somethings scooped up queso on chips and rolled Swankys taco fixings into dinner, all part of a light-hearted evening with Dr. David Ouzts, minister of music and liturgy.

"Munching with the Musician is our kickoff for a new Young Adult Program," said Elizabeth Coldiron, minister of hospitality, smiling at the novelty of the night.

"David is one of the true legends of this place. We want the young adults to know some of the longstanding personalities here. Plus seeing the inside of the organ is cool, right?"

"But, really, unless you sing in the choir, you may not know David," she said. "Because he's usually in the choir loft."

Coldiron is reorganizing the young adults, hoping to invigorate a segment of the church busily building their careers, families and what their adult lives will look like. The connection to hospitality makes sense, she says.

"I am a young adult, and we are bringing new young adult singles, couples and families into the church. Interacting and plugging in new people falls under my umbrella of hospitality.

Part of the plan is to engage people, perhaps St. Mary's grads who were married at Holy Communion but do not have a church home. CHC is also connecting with others, including those who grew up here, went off to college and now are moving back for jobs or raise children close to their parents.

"We started with a dinner at Paulette's back in June. We had 32 young adults there, and they gave us their feedback on what they'd like to see in the year," Coldiron said, including time to ask the hard questions that puzzle millennials about the church.

How young adults engage with the church is of critical concern to clergy across the faith. According to Pew Research figures in 2015, more than a third of millennials (roughly those born between 1982 and 2004) say they are unaffiliated with any faith, up 10 percentage points since 2007.

Most church young adult groups offer programming for people in their 20s and 30s. If the church serves parishioners from birth to 79.1 – the average life expectancy in the United States – these two decades of life alone represent 25 percent of potential members. Besides the sheer size of the group, the church, Holy Communion included, only has to look at who is retiring or dying to know where it needs to be developing its next generation of leaders and pledgers.

Allison Williamson has been a member of a young adult group at CHC for nearly five years, three as a single person and two with her husband, Richard.



Young adults Sandy Newton and Christy Lee Colby were part of the first young adult dinner in the narthex.

Photos by Cindy McMillion



Dr. David Ouzts

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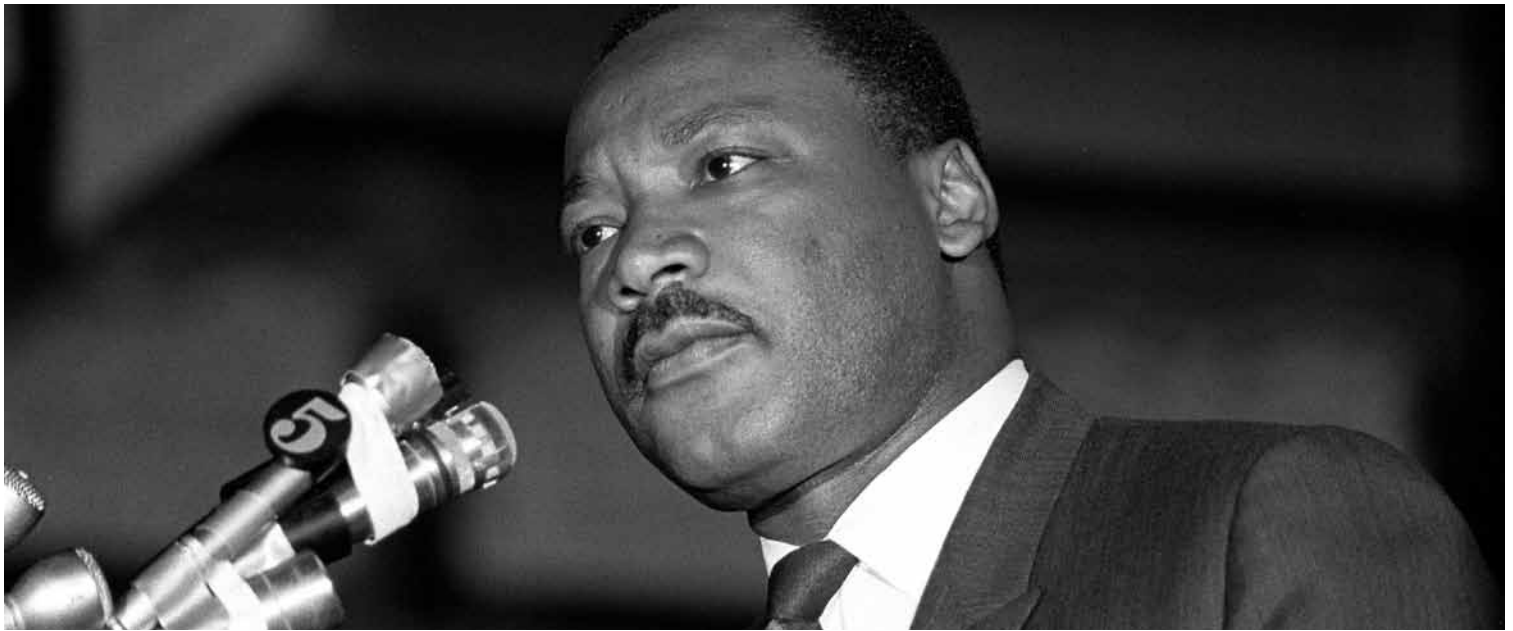


Photo by Vernon Matthews / copyright, The Commercial Appeal

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was on a tour of the South to recruit volunteers for his "Poor People's Campaign," spoke to an overflow crowd at Mason Temple on March 18, 1968.

CHC OFFERING RANGE OF MLK50 OPPORTUNITIES

By Ben Badgett and Jane Roberts

Back on April 4, a host of faith and community leaders gathered at Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church for a breakfast and teach-in series honoring the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The spirit of the room was vibrant and alive as people shared breakfast and prepared to hear the Reverend Dr. William Barber II.

This was my first “teach-in” session. I was not sure what to expect. I came with my notebook and pen and sat waiting for inspiration. It did not take long ...

Dr. Barber spoke with a conviction and passion about how Dr. King went about his ministry and what that can mean for us.

The session became the nucleus for our own emerging work to not only remember the life of Dr. King, but also to reflect on what the teachable moments are for us this year and how they will lead us into ministry.

At Church of the Holy Communion, “a sacred presence in the center of Memphis,” we aim to live fully into the identity of our “sacred presence.” It is natural that a painful event like the assassination of King involves a role for us in helping people remember and heal.

Between now and April 4, 2018, we will offer formation opportunities to reflect on the life and legacy of Dr. King. Besides being the place where he was killed, Memphis is a city where the

tension between justice and reconciliation bristles every day. Fifty years later, the issues King made his life’s work still throb in victory and loss.

Besides the list of Rector’s Forum events, we’ll look at who the sanitation workers were, what they were fighting for and why their issues came to a head in 1968. We’re going to have our own “be kind to sanitation workers” campaign that will include ways for us to honor the people who pick up our garbage every week, both individually and collectively.

We have plans to hear more about the impetus that led Mayor Jim Strickland and the Memphis City Council to approve \$900,000 in payments to 15 or so sanitation workers from 1968 who are still on the job. Their settlement with the city 50 years ago did not include a pension. The gift, approved by the Council this summer, is a way to bridge the gap.

We will also be partnering with several community organizations taking

steps to create greater opportunity and equity for all Memphians. One is Just City.

This advocacy group is working to reform Tennessee’s often confusing laws about what people have to do to clear certain offenses from their records. Just City is working to reduce the fees for the expungements and following the lead of other states to

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NEW ERA OF REFORMATION AS POWERFUL AS THE LAST



The Reverend Sandy Webb

Pew Research reports vacant pews. Holy Communion's living memory is almost 103 years, the age of our eldest parishioner, Helen Carey. For the vast majority of our living memory, Protestants of many stripes have constituted the largest religious group in the United States. That isn't

the case any longer.

In 2012, the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life found that the fastest growing religious group in America are those who identify as having "no religion" – twenty percent of the population at the time, almost triple what it was forty years earlier.

Mainline Protestant churches claimed less than half of the American population in 2012, down from two-thirds in 1972. The numbers are worse today.

The world is changing, and religious practices are changing with it. The Protestant Reformation began exactly five hundred years ago, and it seems that we are now in another season of reformation, this one no less significant than the last.

The strength of a congregation is not measured only by the number of people in its pews. Yet, to borrow a phrase from a friend of mine, as long as there are lost souls in the world, numbers matter. Christ's message of hope, reconciliation, and respect for diversity is more important today than at just about any other time in living memory. People who fall away from the church have little chance of hearing God's important message.

Church of the Holy Communion is bucking the trend. Over the last five years, our average Sunday attendance increased from a low of 384 to a high of 408. Our stewardship budget increased from a low of \$1.34 million to over \$1.6 million. And, we raised more than \$7.8 million for capital improvements last year. It is a great time

to be at Holy Communion! Our strength at this pivotal time is an invitation to think creatively about the future. Each one of us has a role to play if we want to ensure Holy Communion's strength when we are 103 years old.

First, we all need to pray. We need to pray for our church, but we also need to pray for those churches that are not as well-resourced as we are. God's message needs to be heard everywhere.

Second, we all need to adopt the discipline of church life. Our parents and grandparents were able to endure great hardship because they disciplined themselves to stay connected with their communities generally, and with their churches specifically.

Though Holy Communion's attendance figures have increased over a five-year period, they have held relatively steady for the last two years, and youth participation has fallen. We all need to choose church for ourselves and our kids, even when we have other options.

Third, we need to be open to a future that is different than the past we knew. Protestant churches quickly embraced books as new technology in the fifteenth century, and we need to embrace electronic communications now.

We need to find ways of giving people tools for living their complicated lives rather than just giving instruction in faith. We need to restore our facilities in a way that allows for flexibility and efficiency as our ministries evolve and

our patterns of giving change.

Holy Communion has a long history of experimentation. Our 5:30 service, now fifteen years old, is the perfect example. Its candles, quiet, and acoustic music answered an unmet spiritual need in our community and wove itself into the fabric of life here. It enhanced our core identity without compromising it.

Reformations are not bad things: Reformations introduce new ideas, and invite us to let old ones go. Holy Communion's willingness to experiment with new ideas has enabled us to defy all of the trends that Pew observes. The strength of our future depends on our willingness to keep growing in new ways.

"Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda," the Protestant Reformers used to say. "The reformed church is always reforming."

“The strength of a congregation is not measured only by the number of people in its pews.”

– The Reverend Sandy Webb, Rector

MARTHA FARRIMOND HITTING CENTURY MARK

Martha Farrimond was one of three Marthas running the church office in the Reverend Eric Greenwood era. The memory is such a part of Farrimond's life, if it doesn't come up at her 100th birthday party on September 20, it's because a house full of grandchildren and great-grandchildren is its own joy.

"They used to call us the three Marthas," Farrimond says fondly of the point in the early 1960s when she, Martha Crocker and Martha Rodman all worked in the church office.

"It was a lot of fun and I remember those days with a lot of pleasure," said Farrimond. "The church was young, and everyone in it was young. Now, those that are left are old."

In Greenwood's terms of endearment, Crocker was "Prima," Rodman was "Secunda" and Farrimond was "Pertia." These are fun, precious memories.

She started as a volunteer, doing the odd jobs that fall to office helpers, including working on Steeple Speaks, then the church newsletter.

"My duties increased, and they decided to put me on the payroll."

She helped Greenwood and Associate Rector Dan Matthews put together Westward Ho!, the senior high trip to Wyoming, and also the church's famous Friday night X Club dances.

The X Club, sponsored by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, put Holy Communion on the map among the city's young people because membership was open to boys of any faith. By 1965, 600 of them had the official membership card that allowed them to enter, provided they had a date.

"The gym was very active and very loud," Farrimond says, laughing. "I did the paperwork. The boys had to apply for the membership cards. We kept records of them. My husband was

one of the chaperones."

She and William joined the church shortly after it opened in 1950, and, like hundreds of young East Memphis families through the years, raised their children in Holy Communion.

The couple attended every Sunday and loved Dr. Si

Hill's Sunday school class on modern theologies.

"We learned a lot. It was a very good class, and it was important to both of us," Farrimond said.

Barbara Wilson also remembers it fondly.

"It was the frontrunner to Contemporary Theological Issues. The topic was mostly modern Christian theology. It definitely helped me make sense of the changing society."

Matthews, who became a lifelong friend to the Farrimonds, prepared one of their daughters, and Greenwood, then rector at St. David's in Nashville, returned to perform the marriage of another daughter.

"And of course, my guild, All Saints, is very important to me. I don't come to church any more, but I still attend the guild's meeting every month. I love that group and I have for a long time.

"They are always there to help you and let you know that they are there with you for everything. The whole church helped. I've spent most of my life at Holy Communion," Farrimond said.

Farrimond, the second-oldest member of the congregation, will celebrate her birthday with family, including a Memphis granddaughter, another granddaughter currently in Greenwood, S.C., and a grandson in North Carolina.

"My three daughters live here. They are always with me."



Martha will celebrate her birthday with family, including great-grandchildren.

"They are always there to help you and let you know that they are there with you for everything."

– Martha Farrimond, CHC parishioner

WANTED: MORE WHITE KIDS IN PROGRAM TO BRIDGE DIVIDE

It was noon on a record hot day in July, and knots of teens in team T-shirts were puzzling out a brainteaser in every dab of shade outside Centennial Hall at the University of Memphis, their base for the week.

Each team had one jump rope.

“The challenge, is they have to figure out how to get one, two and three jumpers at a time add up to twenty as they jump through the rope,” said Veena Rangaswami, summer conference coordinator for Bridge Builders, a social outreach group that puts teens from across the city together six times a year to build community and work on some of its most vexing issues.

“Because it’s Wednesday, and the week began on Monday, we gave them very little information or clues,” she said.

To add to the puzzle, every member of the team had to jump at least once, which meant people who had never learned had to get up to speed while the rest practiced patience.

“It develops leadership skills,” Rangaswami said. “You have to have a strategy and deal with the frustration.”

The groups were largely African-American with a few other races sprinkled in.

Nearly 30 years after Bridge Builders began with equal numbers of students from Briarcrest and Northside high schools, the biggest challenge is recruiting white kids.

Sandy was shocked when he heard.

“Holy Communion has been supporting this program for decades, and some of my closest Memphis friends are among its alumni. Perhaps we have failed to talk with our teens about the importance of this program. Perhaps we have just let their schedules get too full. Regardless, we need to set that right,” he said.

“People at Holy Communion often ask me what things they can do in a tangible, hands-on way to improve race relations in Memphis. Sending our teenagers to Bridge Builders is the best answer I have.”

Holy Communion is BRIDGES largest faith-based

donor. The nonprofit will tell its story in the Rector’s Forum on September 24.



About a half-dozen youth from CHC have participated in the last year. Emma Gammill, 15, started her year commitment this summer. She was one of two or three white teens in her group of 15.



The challenges the teams work on require everyone to participate.

“The first day was different. I didn’t expect that many black kids would be in my group, but by the second day, I was used to it,” she says. “I was seeing the people, instead of the color.”

If the groups were more racially mixed, the experience would be different, she says, for all the participants.

“I wouldn’t have had the experience of being an outsider,” she said.

“As an abstract concept, inclusion is pretty easy to get behind,” says Cynthia Ham, president and

chief executive officer of BRIDGES USA.

“Bridge Builders’ training asks students to go further, because simply exploring the merits of a concept can’t be the end game. Breaking down cultural, racial, socio-economic and religious stereotypes and building relationships is hard. It’s messy, and it requires application and practice. Personal biases are something most adults struggle with their whole lives.”

The summer conference, Ham says, is the first time many students experience what it’s like to be in the minority.

“And on its face, that experience doesn’t sound like much fun to your average young person. It can be uncomfortable: A range of emotions bubble up, like fear, guilt or shame.

“Bridge Builders focuses on helping an individual process those emotions, build trust and mutual respect, and round the corner to building deep and restorative relationships with other youth. That reconciliation has to happen in order for Memphis to move forward as a more unified community,” she said.

Participants each decide personally what issues they want to work on and have check-ins with “accountability

(story continued on page 11)

EARLY FALL AT HOLY COMMUNION...



SUNDAY MORNINGS

September 10 & 17 | 21st Century Heresy: Fr. Sandy explores the modern idea that threatens to shake the foundations of the Christian faith.

September 24 | Bridges: What can a Holy Communion family do make a difference in race relations? Come hear what our partners at Bridges have to say.

October 1, 8 & 15 | Uncomfortable Psalms Dr. Phil McMillion, parishioner and biblical scholar, is leading this three-week course on what he calls the “hard Psalms.”

October 22 | Protestant Family Tree What exactly is a Presbyterian? Where did the Methodists come from? What about those crazy Episcopalians? Father Sandy offers a fun review of the splits and divides that made the Protestant Church what it is today.

October 29 | Reformation Sunday Two days before the 500th birthday of the Protestant Reformation, Church of the Holy Communion gathers for a grand celebration of the revolutionary ideas that changed the world and toppled the Roman Catholic Church’s unfettered power in Europe.



MUSIC IN SEPTEMBER

September 24 | 5:30 p.m.
*Choral Evensong
for the Feast of St. Michael
and All Angels*



PET BLESSING October 1 at 4 p.m.



In our annual honoring of St. Francis, we will bless pets – furry, feathered and scaled – at 4 p.m. October 1 on the church's front steps.

PARISH RETREAT

OCTOBER
1

We'll meet at St. Columba at 2:30 for fun and games. At 5 p.m., we'll add the heat for our wiener roast. We'll end with a devotion time. Price is \$5 per person. Sign up in the Parish Hall. We need liability waivers for each person taking part in the physical activities.



GROUPS A

<p>All Saints' Guild <i>Second Tuesday</i> 10:30 a.m. Carrick Room</p>	<p>Brotherhood of St. Andrew <i>Second and fourth Saturday</i> 8 a.m., Chapel</p>	<p>Centering Prayer <i>First Saturday</i> 9 a.m., Chapel</p>	<p>Daughters of the King <i>Second Sunday</i> noon Carrick Room</p>	<p>Knitting Ministry <i>Third Tuesday</i> 11 a.m., Room 308 <i>Every Wednesday</i> 6:30 p.m., Room 307</p>
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Tell Your Story | Take a Journey | Make a Difference



Here@HolyC Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m.

Come and enjoy our brand of family-style dinner, followed by compline and small-group discussions. All the choirs practice, plus, there's Zumba with our famous Edgar Gipanago in the lead, BBC Watch Party, activities for children and Bring It Food Hub pickup. Repeat each week!

On September 27, we are sponsoring our second Sports & Recreation Dinner, as a way to welcome all the kids and parents who use our athletic facilities.

Words³ A reading series of writers of all genres and backgrounds. Listeners and contributors

welcome. Free snacks! *September 20 at 5 p.m. | Room 307*

THEME: Food

2017 FALL SPORTS

- Soccer openings for boys under 8.
- Basketball registration now open. *Games start in December.*



MIFA Meals on Wheels

If you want to help with routes, contact Sara Hall (Sara.Hall@stjude.org) to volunteer on the first and third Fridays of each month.

Parish Picnic Sunday, September 24

Our famous Parish Picnic! Bring a dish to share as we gather around the outdoor tables for fellowship. We're honoring longtime security guard, Buford Harbin, who retired last spring after serving 18 years on this corner.



Exercise Schedule at Holy Communion

Beginner's Gentle Yoga	Intermediate Yoga	Tai Chi	Zumba
Monday & Wednesday 4:15-5:15 p.m. Room 308	Tuesday & Thursday 4:15-5:15 p.m. Room 308	Monday & Wednesday 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 308	Monday 6:15-7:15 p.m., Gym Wednesday 6:30-7:30 p.m., Gym Saturday 9:30-10:30 a.m., Gym

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	Words³ (Words, Cubed) <i>Third Wednesday</i> 5:00 p.m. Room 307
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WE NEED YOUR FEET ON SEPTEMBER 16

Run, Volunteer, Make a Difference!

The Book It 5K is a great place to be on September 16 – just a few weeks away. It's where we celebrate a good run on a beautiful morning, benefiting two great Memphis organizations that are making a difference in the lives of children and youth.

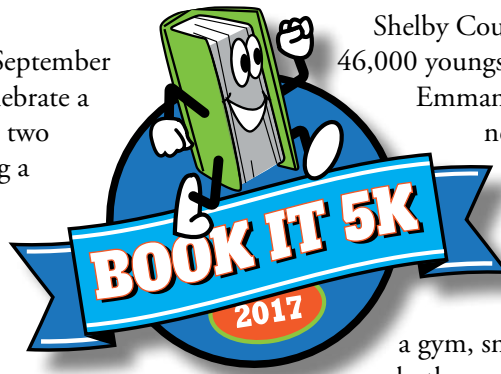
The race is morning of running or walking through a quiet Memphis neighborhood and then ending in party at Perkins and Walnut Grove.

The 5K run/walk (our seventh!) is for all ages, with awards for each age group, including stroller and overall winners. We offer a 200-meter dash for kids 16 and under. All participants get goodie bags and a race T-shirt. The race is chip-timed by Memphis Runners Track Club.

It starts at 9 a.m. We're finishing in the parking lot, where we've got plenty of healthy snacks, a live DJ, fellowship, door prizes, plus balloon animals and face-painting.

The fundraiser begins and ends in the church.

The best part of the race has always been that the proceeds go to two great organizations, Shelby County Books from Birth and Emmanuel Center, an after-school program in the inner city.



Shelby County Books from Birth mails a book to 46,000 youngsters every month at a cost of \$47,000.

Emmanuel, at 604 St. Paul, serves children from nearby neighborhoods - including Foote Homes – with its after-school program. The children attend six local schools, ranging in age from first to 12th grade.

For more than two hours every school day, they have a safe place to come with a gym, snacks, people who can help with homework and other caring adults.

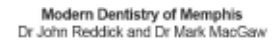
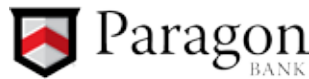
The proceeds from the race mean Emmanuel can offer elementary children an hour a day of reading enrichment. It also offers an elementary-school basketball league for students from targeted schools that do not have a physical education.

The center also offers career exploration trips for high school students.

We can always use more runners in the race. You can also sponsor a runner from Emmanuel Center or register yourself, get the shirt but not the blisters.

Registration is \$20 in advance for the 5K and \$10 for the 200-meter run. Go to BookIt5k.racesonline.com

BOOK IT 5K SPONSORS



The Adams Family, Andrea & Doug Edwards, Irene & Ron Ayotte, Lattie Michael, Kendra & Robert Propst, The Straton Family, Rebecca & John Bakke, Bill Falvey & Emily Woodside, Catherine & Bill Bateman, Linda Kay & Randy McCloy, Linda & Neely Mallory, Sarah & Tom Cowens, Genie & Ralph Braden, The Maury/McCain Family, Bill & Carmine Vaughan

have some non-violent offenses automatically removed when people prove they will not reoffend, said Kerry Hayes, Just City public strategist.

“Just City is also making strides in bail reform, helping free people every month who would otherwise be spending days or weeks behind bars – before they have been convicted of any wrongdoing -- because they are too poor to pay for their own release. We are hopeful that the Tennessee Legislature joins the growing cohort of states that are eliminating the senselessly unjust and wasteful money bail system,” he said.

We’ll be studying what it means to be the Beloved Community King so clearly envisioned. We’ll also look at the Letter from the Birmingham Jail and hear from MIFA, an organization born of the strife of King’s assassination, and BRIDGES, which builds relationships between teenagers of all

racers in Memphis.

We are working to craft a year that will be a mix of learning, appreciating and reaching out in new ways in the name of a peaceful warrior who came to Memphis against the wishes of his advisers. His assassination forever links Memphis both with his life and the forces of violence.

Join us as we “Journey Toward MLK 50.” May we walk the way of the cross, that sacred journey of Christ, as we remember the death of a martyr.

We would like to thank the following parishioners and staff working to bring our series to life: Daniel Amsler, Daniel Russell, Mike Watson, Dale Thompson, Linda Thompson, Don Paterson, Carol Paterson, Charlton Lyons, Carly Lyons, Lewis Lyons, David Ouzts, Sandy Webb, Hester Mathes and Matthew Arehart.

Memorials & Honoraria

Received July 18 - August 15, 2017

In memory of

The Reverend Reynolds Smith Cheney II

Judy & Pete Gibbs
Chuck & Marilyn Walker
Barney Rolfes, Jr.

Peggy Seessel
Edith & Bob Heller
Kathleen & Bob Pugh
Ruth & Edward Taylor
Mike & Sherry Murphy
Ann O. Horner

Delta Asset Management
Traci & Craig Courville
Carmine & Bill Vaughan
Connie & Lou Adams
Myron & Dianne Mall

Reginald Barnes
Paul & Rosanne Anderson
Madge Saba

Julie & George Ellis and family

Susan & Ron Carlsson
Pat & Charles Beech

Donna & Tom Southard

Bette Lathram
Debby & Steve Schadt

Gloria & Jim Weir
The Memphis Women’s Club

Linda Kay & Randy McCloy

Marion Birge Morgan
Lisa & Tim Discenza

Martha G. York

Thomas & Carolyn Chesney and family

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Edwards

Emily Woodside & Bill Falvey

Judith & Bruce Campbell

St. Mary’s Episcopal School

Margaret Taylor

Gary & Peggy Burhop

Brian & Velva Pecon

Jeannette S. King

Sarah Doyle

Kyle & Maelyse Webb

Chip & Tricia Dudley

Sherry & Ralph Thornton

Jeff Thares

Barham & Debbie Ray

Margaret McLean

Stephen Hill

Allan Hill

Cindy & Jim Moseley

Dot & Dick Fisher

The Crawford Family

Marsha & John Evans

J. Drue Johnson

Barbara Wilson

David & Ruth Dando

Mrs. Tom Hutton

Laurie Monypeny

Margaret & Charles Hubbert

Patti & Gene Snipes

Doug & Nancy Kelso

Allen K. Raich

In memory of Jerald D. Read

Priscilla Read

Priscilla & Steve Farrell

In memory of Neil Utkov

Vicki & Ed Park

Paul & Rosanne Anderson

Richard & Betty Hoffman

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Edwards

Kyle & Maelyse Webb

Alice Bolton

Lisa & Ken Roberts

In honor of Lisa & Hugh Holt

Carmine & Bill Vaughan

In memory of

Richard Edmund Charlton IV

Linda Kay & Randy McCloy

Mrs. Jimmy Graham

In memory of Eleanor Vaughan

Kyle & Maelyse Webb

In memory of George Hollis

Alice Bolton

Sherry & Mike Murphy

In memory of Pat Davidson

Mrs. Tom Hutton

In memory of

Mary Wrenetta McCain

Ann Payne

MEMPHIS IMMERSION: *Crash Course in Urban Systems*

(Editor's note: Steven Quach is a college student who finds time to coach in our church soccer teams and volunteer as a youth adviser. He chaperoned the five-day Memphis Immersion this summer. These are his thoughts on what the kids saw.)

Before the summer started, Matthew asked me if I would help him chaperone for the new Memphis Immersion program. Me, wanting to fill up my summer, wondered, why not? I simply thought of this week as another camp week, watching kids being kids.

Little did I know, I was going to experience and learn more about the rich history this city has to offer. I found out more about how Memphis BBQ got its signature taste, the yellow fever epidemics that claimed about 5,150 lives in the 1870s and racial injustice from the city's past.

We started our week meeting at Sanders Lodge at St. Columba Episcopal retreat center. There we talked about all the different BBQ's from different geographical places and how Memphis BBQ became what we praise and love. Memphis, having so much molasses native to the area, has a sauce that makes the BBQ so honeyed and yummy.

The next day, everyone went downtown to St. Mary's Cathedral to attend the Wednesday morning service. (Many of the people who attend are homeless or living in makeshift circumstances.) It was a different experience for most of the kids because they've never been or it wasn't what they were used to at their own parish. The majority of the people were not wearing the normal Sunday morning church attire they were used to seeing. There was



Steven Quach



Sisters Avery and Mia Walker make sandwiches at St. Mary's Cathedral.

no organ or a church choir during the service.

A lot of the kids seemed to notice that most of the regular attendees didn't have much when the offering came around, but they also saw that they helped as much as they could. This wasn't my first time at the St. Mary's service, but they're always different experiences when I attend.

Then we learned a little more about the effect the yellow fever had in the Memphis area. Many lives were lost during the epidemic. So many died, Memphis lost its charter for a while because of the population deficit.

We learned that St. Mary's at the time had a bunch of nuns who stayed back to assist and nurse the sick.

They were called Constance and Her Companions.

Most people know that Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis at the Lorraine Motel, now the National Civil Rights Museum. During the trip, we got more in depth with the Civil Rights Movement. We learned the roots of slavery, the hardships of it, what Memphis was like during that time and what Memphis was in the

1960s-70s.

This was my third time at the museum, and it still amazes me with all that's happened in the past. I always find out something new that I take back with me and consider against the backdrop of what's happening today.

In a way, nothing really surprises me now with what's happening in society because history seems to have a way of repeating itself. All we can do is further educate ourselves so we can help educate others to not talk at people but talk with them.

I enjoyed this trip because it helps me refresh my thoughts on how to help Memphis and how I can help society. If I were asked to take part again for next year's trip, I would gladly accept.

Young Adult *cont'd from page 1*

“It’s important for building relationships and having a community with other young adults. And it creates a cohesiveness among the younger generation of the church that have similar interests, including valuing our church and its traditions,” she said.

To build connections, CHC is deepening its program. It will offer the social and outreach events it has always offered, but the third meeting this year, for instance, is “Hard Questions with the Rector,” a session the members specifically said was

important to them. In October, the group will have dinner with the Reverend Dr. Randy McCloy, the congregation’s longtime deacon who spent his professional life serving as a physician, another ministry for him.

Four other events for young adults are planned for fall, including the group’s tradition of serving at More Than a Meal at Grace-St. Luke’s.

The new schedule is completely different from what



Dr. David Ouzts was the star of Munching with the Musician in late August.

the group had been doing, Williamson said.

“I think it’s a great mix of socializing, theology and outreach. I am thrilled with the new schedule and the structure it will bring to the young adult group.”

Part of the challenge for Coldiron is planning events that appeal to lots of people, include core concepts of Christian living and will be well attended even if Ole Miss plays LSU in Baton Rouge the night before and half the group is still out of town.

“While it would be awesome, I am not looking to have every young adult attend every single event, but we want them to meet each other, have meaningful and authentic conversations and form friendships and relationships,” Coldiron says.

“Fellowship is such a vital component of any ministry, and I think we (the church) can provide the setting and organization of these events to build that fellowship over time.”

Bridges *cont'd from page 5*

partners” through the year. As teams, the kids also identify traits they want to embody in their teamwork, plus issues they want to tackle in their neighborhoods.

“We are trying to build bridges across the greater Memphis region and equip middle and high school students with skills they can take back to their communities,” Rangaswami said. “It gets them thinking about what is important to them. Some common themes are the environment, safe neighborhoods, sexuality and gender issues.”

BRIDGES requires participants to attend five other Bridges events during the school year, including trainings and community action programs.

The idea is forming bonds, Ham said, so race or religious difference or socio-economic standing or any other “other” do not become bigger barriers in Memphis, or the college campuses and workplaces where young people continue their emotional growth.

“We’re at a time in our society where a lot of people are stuck in those very real and paralyzing negative emotions,” Ham said. “So many people feel fragile and defensive — that, “my very being as a person is under siege.”

But getting stuck in those feelings doesn’t benefit

anyone, and it definitely doesn’t heal the divides in the community.

“Young people need and deserve tools, support, and a safe non-judgmental environment where they can step outside their comfort zones, think about what “community” really means, and work empathetically — all alongside those people who seem different from them in every way,” Ham said.

A few weeks ago, Hester and her daughter saw a young Muslim family in a doctor’s office. When Neeley waved and spoke to the daughter, Hester assumed she was a friend from school.

“She wasn’t a girl from St. Mary’s. She was a member of Neeley’s Bridge Builders’ team. It was the coolest thing to see the connection,” Hester said.

“Bridge Builders provides the opportunity for our youth to move beyond talking about racial reconciliation to living it out daily in both small and large groups of peers,” Hester said.

“Our youth build relationships with others of different economic, racial, and faith backgrounds across the city, and then bring the bridge building skills with them to their church and school communities.”

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.

The Communicator, (USPS.) #015-799, is published Monthly by CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION, 4645 Walnut Grove, Memphis, TN 38117-2597. PERIODICAL POSTAGE paid at Memphis, TN. POSTMASTER: Send address change to Church of the Holy Communion, 4645 Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis, TN 38117-2597.

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