

The Peace

A Quarterly Newsletter from the
Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee

SUMMER 2021 | ISSUE 1



SUMMER 2021



The Peace

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the Episcopal Diocese of
West Tennessee

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ON THE COVER

Let the little children come unto me. Mother Miranda Cully and Father Jay Biedenbarn lead outdoor chapel for the children of St. John's Episcopal Church in Memphis during the 2020 pandemic. *Photo courtesy of Allison Pace.*

SUBMISSIONS

We encourage the submission of articles and images! We reserve the right to edit materials offered for publication. All submissions must include name, phone number, and email address for verification. Please submit content to Minister of Communication Emily Austin: eaustin@edwtm.org.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister of Communication Emily Austin gratefully acknowledges Drew Massengale, Beth Mitchell, Madison Owens, and Elise Patterson for their guidance, encouragement, and critical eyes during the final (and most difficult!) leg of producing *The Peace*. 'Preciate y'all!

A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP PHOEBE



Dear friends,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *The Peace*, the new quarterly publication of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee. I am grateful for the work of Emily Austin, our Diocesan Minister of Communication, in producing this supplement to our weekly diocesan e-newsletter. We had a contest to solicit recommendations for the name of our quarterly newsletter, and Connie Cupples, whose home church is All Saints in Memphis, submitted the winning entry. Congratulations and thank you, Connie!

Now more than ever, staying connected is an essential aspect of Christian community. Our diocesan family is dispersed across 21 counties in West Tennessee between the Mississippi River and the Tennessee River. This quarterly publication seeks to facilitate connections among our parishioners through longer, in-depth pieces. This inaugural issue includes articles about two Master Gardeners from Church of the Holy Communion; updates on activities at St. Columba Conference and Retreat Center and the Barth House college ministry at the University of Memphis; information about the Education for Ministry program; a Pentecost reflection by the Venerable Mimsy Jones, Archdeacon of the Diocese, and more.

We welcome your input as we fine-tune the format and content of *The Peace*. We want this publication to provide helpful information, so please let us know what topics are of interest to you. As we emerge from the COVID pandemic, I look forward to connecting with you this Fall when my church visits resume.

Peace,

Bishop Phoebe

The Right Reverend Phoebe Roaf
BISHOP

Bishop & Staff

The Right Reverend Phoebe A. Roaf

Bishop of West Tennessee

The Reverend Canon Sharon Alexander

Canon to the Ordinary

Emily Austin

Minister of Communication

The Reverend Dr. Noah Campbell

College Missioner

Alisa Kelly

Canon for Finance & Administration

Wanda Lanier

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Madison Owens

Summer Intern

Elise Patterson

Diocesan Administrator

Brad Thompson

Director, St. Columba Episcopal

Retreat & Conference Center



Bishop & Council

The Reverend Don Brooks

The Reverend Miranda Cully

Ann Duncan

The Reverend Deacon Gerri Endicott

The Reverend Richard Fletcher

Susan Kenny

The Reverend Gary Meade

Mike Miller

The Honorable Elijah Noel, Jr.

Steve Smith

Kate Trammell

The Reverend Scott Walters

Congratulations and warmest of welcomes to the newest clergy in the Diocese of West Tennessee!

Photo, top: The Reverend Sarah Cowan and the Reverend Amanda McGriff pose with Bishop Don Johnson (retired) and Bishop Phoebe at the ordination as transitional deacons on June 26, 2021. **Photo, bottom:**

The Reverend Jessica Abell and the Reverend Debbie McCanless pose with Bishop Don Johnson (retired) and Bishop Phoebe after their ordination as vocational deacons on May 29, 2021. **PHOTOS COURTESY OF CINDY MCMILLION.**



2021 Clergy Transitions

The Reverend Amber Carswell,
transitioned from Calvary Episcopal Church in Memphis to Christ Episcopal Church in Warwick, New York in June

The Reverend Deacon Debbie DuGard,
retired from Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Memphis in June

The Reverend Bindy Snyder,
retiring to Athens, Georgia in July



The Anglican Communion

The Most Reverend Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

A global community of churches with more than 85 million Christians in more than 165 countries worldwide



The Episcopal Church

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop

An international community of 1.8 million Christians in North and South America, Europe, and Taiwan



The Diocese of West Tennessee

The Right Reverend Phoebe A. Roaf, Bishop
Serving 21 counties through 29 churches between the Mississippi and Tennessee Rivers





THE PEACE

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Bishop Phoebe and the Reverend Dr. Noah Campbell, college missionary for the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee, preside over a Noonday Prayer service at the Barth House. The wooden altar at Barth House was formerly in use at Church of the Annunciation. Photo courtesy of Cindy McMillion.

GROWING GLORY

HOLY COMMUNION COUPLE CELEBRATES
THEIR FAITH THROUGH HORTICULTURE

When Laurie and Tom Rieman moved to their Bartlett home in 1981, their backyard consisted of a grass lawn and a wire fence. Over the years, though, these certified Master Gardeners have transformed their outdoor living space into a celebration of the things they love: family, their faith community, and creativity.

Last fall, Minister of Communication Emily Austin spent time in conversation with the Riemans to learn more about their own Garden of Eden and the lessons they've gleaned from nature during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Emily: The first thing I notice when I stepped into your backyard is that the art installations are almost as impressive as the plants! Tell me a bit about their inspiration and construction.

Laurie: So, the stained glass is from the original St. Elisabeth's on Yale Road, where we were members before joining Holy Communion. When the church was sold, some parishioners kept some of the pieces. One of our friends knew we were thinking about doing a project with the window in the gate, and she gave us the glass and Tom cut it to fit.

Emily: And of course, there's also the slate fence. How did it occur to you to repurpose the old slate from Holy Communion's roof into a garden fence?

Laurie: Well, Tom brought it up one day: *You know, they're replacing the seventy-year-old slate roof at the church. I want to make a fence out of it.* I looked at him and said, "You want to do *what?*"

Tom: I have always admired slate and the look of it, so when I talked to Reverend Sandy about what they were



Everyone wants a beautiful garden, and they want it to be no-maintenance. The Brady Bunch did that with their plastic lawn – and there's nothing wrong with that!

-Tom Rieman



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CINDY MCMILLION.

Photo, opposite page, top: For Master Gardeners Laurie and Tom Rieman, caring for their yard is a prayerful activity. They've incorporated pieces from St. Elisabeth's and Holy Communion into their home garden in Bartlett, Tennessee.

Photo, opposite page, middle: The stained glass in the garden gate is from the original St. Elisabeth's on Yale Road, where Laurie and Tom were members before joining Holy Communion. When the church was sold, some parishioners kept some of the pieces. A friend knew they were thinking about doing a stained glass project with the window in the gate, and she gave them the glass, which Tom cut to fit.

Photo, opposite page, middle: When Church of the Holy Communion got a new roof in early 2020, Tom Rieman re-purposed the vintage tiles into a unique gate for his garden.

going to do with it, he said that due to its age it couldn't be reused as a roof. No one else wanted it, so when they started to take it down, I started dumpster diving. I figured that since I was getting the slate for free, this would be a very economical project. Well, it of course turned out to be the most expensive installation in the garden.

Laurie: There was a lot of expense in engineering something that would support the slate. It's probably over-engineered, but it will probably never need to be replaced.

Emily: Have you both always had green thumbs?

Laurie: Yes, we're Master Gardeners, which means that –

Tom: - it means that we've killed more plants than you have!

Laurie: The Master Gardener program is part of the University of Tennessee's Extension program, and it serves to educate the public about agriculture and gardening.

Tom: Extension started out in Washington State and has since gone national. Master Gardeners help extend their reach into the community. Becoming a Master Gardener requires completion of a class, community service, continuing education, and paying dues. There's an annual garden tour, a speaker's bureau, and we assist with 4-H. We're constantly learning. The idea around Extension is that it's always science-based.

Emily: What was the inspiration behind the altar arrangements that you have been doing for Church of the Holy Communion?

Tom: That came from St. Elisabeth's. They used to have a florist who provided the altar flowers, and during one financially tight year, they invited volunteers to provide arrangements. The only rule was that the flowers couldn't be higher than the cross arms of the cross. Holy Communion presents new challenges. It's hard for flowers to stand out against the blue background [of the dorsal curtain], and since the cross is much smaller, someone had to make a box for the cross to stand on –

Laurie: (chuckling) - that was Tom. Tom made the box.

Emily: How much time do y'all spend maintaining your garden?

Tom: Well, it depends. We've been in this home for 39 years, and we've made it so our yard doesn't require a ton a maintenance.

Laurie: When we first moved in, it was grass and a wire fence, and for 15 years we had a massive playset. In 2003, the playset came down and the adults reclaimed the yard! It's definitely been transformed over the years.

Tom: We replaced the swing set with a swinging bench and a hammock. We're looking forward to our old age by planting lower-maintenance plants.

Laurie: Every year, we put in more perennials.

Tom: Everyone wants a beautiful garden, and they want it to be no-maintenance. The Brady Bunch did that with their plastic lawn – and there's nothing wrong with that!

Emily: Since the pandemic, I feel like I have been noticing nature and my surroundings more. Have you experienced that too? Has there been any new insight in your lives?

Laurie: I'm an avid gymgoer, and since the pandemic has limited my ability to go to the gym, I have been doing a lot more walking in my neighborhood. I have become much more observant of what's growing in the yards of my neighbors. I think as hesitant as people were to be close to other people, people are much more friendly because they are craving that connection with other humanity.

Tom: People tend to be kinder and more courteous, too.

Laurie: I miss hugging people, too, and having regular dinners.

Tom: I heard a story on NPR about one of the side effects of quarantine. Because there are fewer cars on the road, you can actually hear the birds now.

Tune in to Faithfully Memphis on Thursday, August 9, when Dr. Chris Cooper, UT Extension Horticulture agent and host of The Family Plot on WKNO-TV, joins Bishop Phoebe for conversation.

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

BLESSING BOXES HELPING FEED FAMILIES IN GIBSON CO.

by Brandon Shields for The Jackson Sun, April 25, 2021

The Give Back Jack blessing boxes that have grown to more than two dozen throughout Jackson and Madison County have also expanded into Gibson County.

Throughout the county, there are more than a couple dozen in the various towns throughout the county.

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church in Humboldt sponsored one that was installed in front of the Boys and Girls' Club in Downtown Humboldt.

The Rev. Tommy Rhoads is a deacon at the church and said the church was glad to do this.

"I work in Jackson and have seen them meet needs for homeless or those just needing food in Jackson, and we're glad to give a similar opportunity here in Humboldt in similar situations," Rhoads said.

Kristen Chambers, the resource director for Gibson County for United Way of West Tennessee, was on hand for the installation of the box along with Allison Shipp, the coordinator of the Give Back Jack initiative that started the process of putting boxes at various points around the area.

Rhoads, Chambers and Shipp, along with a handful of others on hand, discussed which way the box should face to be visible and be safely opened by any who might want to get needed food out.

United Way's Kristen Chambers and Quality Fence Company's Jordan Perkins drops the blessing box into the ground in front of Boys and Girls Club of Humboldt.

The box in front of the club was constructed to resemble a church on the sides and back with a dark brown finish and designs that looked like stained glass windows under a shingled roof.

A number of members of the church were on hand as well



The Reverend Tommy Rhoads holds the door open to the blessing box while members of the church put food items in the box. Image courtesy of Brandon Shield/ JACKSON SUN.

to make sure the box was full right after installation was completed by Jordan Perkins, of Quality Fence Company.



The completed blessing box installed at Boys & Girls Club of Humboldt was filled immediately. Image courtesy of Brandon Shields/ JACKSON SUN.



WEST TENNESSEE REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE AT UPCOMING GENERAL CONVENTIONS

The General Convention is the governing body of The Episcopal Church. Every three years, it meets as a bicameral legislature that includes the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops, composed of deputies and bishops from each diocese. The General Convention also includes Interim Bodies, which meet between the triennial sessions to accomplish on-going work and tasks set in the triennial sessions.

WEST TENNESSEE DEPUTIES APPOINTED TO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

Some of the most important preliminary business at General Convention is done by Legislative Committees. At the meeting of the General Convention in Baltimore next summer, there will be 27 Legislative Committees on which Deputies serve. These committees will begin their work this Fall.

The following Deputies to General Convention from the EDWTN have been appointed:

Dr. Lavonnie Claybon: Christian Formation and Discipleship Committee

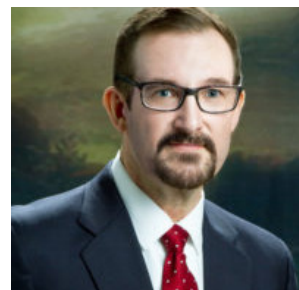
Scott Haight: Rules of Order Committee (Chair)

The Reverend Gary Meade: Ministry Committee

Additionally, the Reverend Canon Sharon Alexander, an Alternate Deputy, was appointed to serve on the Resolution Review Committee, which is one of two committees to which alternates may be appointed.

PRESIDING BISHOP NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Every nine years, the Episcopal Church elects a new Presiding Bishop. Bishop Michael Curry's term will end in 2024. Congratulations to Bishop Phoebe Roaf and Dr. Deborah Harmon Hines for being elected on the first ballot to serve on the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop. The committee will prepare the slate of candidates that will elect a new Presiding Bishop at the General Convention in Summer, 2024.



Row 1, left to right: The Reverend Canon Sharon Alexander; Dr. Lavonnie Claybon; row 2, left to right: Scott Haight; Dr. Deborah Harmon Hines; row 3, left to right: the Reverend Gary Meade; Bishop Phoebe Roaf.

FAITH, FRIENDSHIP, & FELLOWSHIP

2021 TENNESSEE LAYMEN'S CONFERENCE

AUGUST 20-22

DUBOSE CONFERENCE CENTER



EPISCOPAL
CHURCHMEN
OF TENNESSEE

Please join us for the 75th Annual Conference of the Episcopal Laymen of Tennessee! We will gather together in-person at DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle after going “virtual” in 2020.

In addition to all the usual fun and fellowship you are used to enjoying “on the mountain”, we are adding several new offerings this year including an “Episcopal 101” session led by the three bishops serving the state of Tennessee - Bishop John Bauerschmidt (Diocese of Tennessee), Bishop Brian Cole (Diocese of East Tennessee, and Bishop Phoebe Roaf (Diocese of West Tennessee) - a beer brewing contest to accompany the always-popular BBQ cooking contest, and “Campfire Discussions” Friday and Saturday evenings.

We have some tremendous speakers this year, including NFL Hall-of-Famer Willie Roaf, Nobel Laureate scientist Dr. Peter Doherty, and former U.S. Senator from Tennessee Bob Corker.



Please register today at TNChurchmen.org/Register.

WILLIE ROAF

NFL Hall-of-Famer



DR. PETER DOHERTY

*Receipient of the 1996 Nobel
Prize for Medicine*



BOB CORKER

Former Tennessee U.S. Senator



GIVE ST. COLUMBA THE GIFT OF CERTAINTY!

In April 2020, St. Columba's staff was happily preparing to welcome hundreds of children to summer camps and anticipating a busy season of retreats. All of these plans changed in an instant, as they did for the rest of the world. After a long year of nationwide grief, isolation, and fear, St. Columba is finally welcoming campers and guests again. We are thrilled to be coming back even stronger, with a newly energized staff, the beautiful new Johnson and Coleman Lodges, and the ability to host guests who want to gather more than ever before!

"We are blessed to be able to host Mud Camp and Camp Able this summer, and we are again hosting groups," said Brad Thompson, St. Columba's Executive Director. "However, we still don't know when St. Columba will fully recover from the financial wreckage of being closed for so long. Our ability to rehire depends on a robust budget, and yet there is no way to forecast our financial health over the next two years with any certainty. That's where we need the support of our whole Diocese."

As a result, the St. Columba Board of Directors has determined we will need to raise \$350,000 over the next 18 months in order to hire more staff and continue to maintain this beautiful natural sanctuary. We've launched the Certainty Campaign to help fill this need. We ask that you think about all the ways you give to St. Columba each year – annual giving, tickets to the Feast, sponsoring a camper, etc. – and that you pledge to do the same in 2021 and 2022. Your pledge will help us confidently plan and grow over the next year and a half.



GIVING THE GIFT
OF CERTAINTY

**Please visit SaintColumbaMemphis.org
to donate or pledge today!**



Photo, top left
In April, the Reverend Tom Momberg (right), Vicar of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Memphis, hosted Faithfully Memphis and was joined in conversation with John Ashworth (left), who serves as the board chair of The Lynching Sites Project of Memphis.

Photo, bottom left
In March, Bishop Phoebe Roaf welcomed Cindy McMillion (right) and Justin Brazil (left), both integral parts of the Connecting Memphis storytelling project. The episode also included discussion of the historical figure of St. Patrick and the sacrament of reconciliation.

Photo, bottom right
Mother Miranda Cully (left) and Father Jay Biedenharn (right) - both serving St. John's Episcopal Church in Memphis - took a tag-team approach to hosting Faithfully Memphis. They interviewed St. John's parishioner George Gully. In addition to his career at Jim Keras Memphis, Gully is deeply involved with the Memphis Grizzlies Foundation and Serenity Recovery Center in Memphis.

Opposite page
Bishop Phoebe records a live broadcast of Faithfully Memphis from the WYXR studio at Crosstown Concourse in Memphis.



Image courtesy of Cindy McMillion.



HITTING THE AIRWAVES

FAITHFULLY MEMPHIS EXTENDS SPIRIT OF WELCOME TO EARS ACROSS WEST TENNESSEE

By Jeff Hulett

Faithfully Memphis is a weekly radio show and podcast which airs on WYXR, 91.7 FM. Hosted by Bishop Phoebe Roaf as well as other clergy and ministry leaders throughout the EDWTN, this conversational program centers on issues of faith in action.



Each week, the host sits down with guests for conversations regarding the issues facing our community, as well as the ways in which to explore how our faith informs our perspective and unites people from a variety of backgrounds.

Featured guests have included local TV anchor Kontji Anthony, Dan Conaway, Rabbi Micah Greenstein, Dr. Deborah Harmon Hines, and Dr. Kevin Brooks. While the show centers on faith and how it informs us as human beings and Christians, it also includes lively and spiritual music, church history, humor, and more.

With segments like “Saint of the Day” and “Stump the Bishop”, Faithfully Memphis aims to inform while also inspiring our community to dial into their own faith journey. Not to mention, the wonderful musical selections that both Bishop Phoebe and her guests share each week. The hour long show also asks guests what is bringing them joy, what they are reading and what gives them hope.

If you know someone who would be a great guest, or if you'd like to submit a question for Stump the Bishop, please email Minister of Communications Emily Austin at eaustin@episwtn.org.

The show airs each Thursday at 8 a.m. on WYXR 91.7 FM in Memphis. WYXR's mission is "to provide a musical, cultural and artistic platform that represents and informs the people of Memphis, in all our diverse and unvarnished glory." WYXR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and a collaboration between Crosstown Concourse, The Daily Memphian and the University of Memphis.

The show is also published as a podcast, which is available on Apple, Spotify, or wherever you listen to podcasts. Be sure to rate and leave a review on Apple podcasts so more people can learn about us!

“

Having the radio show during the pandemic has been a really bright spot for the diocese, a reminder that we still have opportunities for mission and ministry and outreach and something that people are proud of, that we are still sort of out there in the public arena trying to be a sign of life and light in the midst of darkness.

-Bishop Phoebe

BARTH HOUSE

BARTH HOUSE RETURNS TO UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS AFTER TEN YEARS

by Aaron Fleming for The Daily Helmsmen
Reprinted with permission

Originally built in 1967, Barth House is the Episcopal Church's arm of student ministries at the University of Memphis. In its prime, the humble, brick facility was a testament to old-school Christianity; complete with a pulpit, wooden pews that were bolted into the ground, a brick fireplace, and an organ.

Barth House, like many of the other student ministries on campus, is located on Patterson Avenue, yet it is owned by the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee rather than the university. All funding for activities at Barth House comes from the Diocese, a necessary commodity that tapered off in the years after it was built until Barth House was eventually shut down and sealed off.

Now, after sitting vacant for almost ten years, Barth House has been formally resurrected, following renewed funding and a \$1 million renovation project.

Bishop Phoebe Roaf and Dr. Noah Campbell, diocesan college missionary at Barth House, outlined some ambitious goals for the space that will take place in the coming fall semester when students at the University of Memphis return in-person.

"We redesigned the space to not just be a chapel, but a venue for the arts," Roaf said.

During the renovations, many of the old, fixed structures, like the pews, were removed and replaced by more portable furniture, making it easier to set up and tear down for different events. A stage, along with a projector and live streaming technology, were also added.

Some of the plans that Roaf and Campbell outlined include a host of events that will involve several different departments from the university. These events include art shows, an artist

in residency program, music recitals, theater, a film series, and yoga on the front lawn.

Call it fate or divine intervention, but the return of Barth House to the U of M has been a long time coming, and the two men that helped bring it back to life happen to be U of M alumni and lay persons in the church.

R.L. Campbell, lead contractor for the project and founder of R.L. Campbell Contracting Co., graduated from the University of Memphis in 1974. Helping redesign the space brought back many memories for Campbell, who was a frequent at Barth House while he was a student.

"It was great. There was always something here to eat," he said.

Retired architecture professor James F. Williamson also made renovation plans for Barth House, a capstone project for students in his courses. Noah Campbell stated that some of the final designs for the building were taken from these students' work.

The renovations at Barth House took place last year when students were still mostly attending classes remotely. While the pandemic hindered much of campus life at the U of M, it was an aid in Barth House's reopening.

"The pandemic allowed us to restore the ministry without feeling overwhelmed," Campbell said.

He said that the lack of bodies on campus allowed the space to be

Photo top

A group from Calvary Episcopal Church gathers in the Great Hall of Barth House for a group retreat. The Great Hall was designed to accommodate worship, performance, and group meetings. PHOTO COURTESY OF NOAH CAMPBELL.

Photo middle

A view from Barth House overlooking Patterson Avenue. Barth House was designed to be very open. PHOTO COURTESY OF AARRON FLEMING.

Photo bottom

Bishop Phoebe leads the Eucharist on the front lawn of the Barth House in February. PHOTO COURTESY OF CINDY McMILLION.



repopulated slowly rather than all at once.

After obtaining an occupancy permit in November of last year, one of the first events hosted at Barth House was the 39th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee. During the conference, the new live stream technology that was installed was used to broadcast the convention to five other locations in West Tennessee.

Barth House is, of course, still a religious space, despite the artistic endeavors planned, where Episcopalian students can gather and celebrate their faith. Roaf said, however, that this should not deter non-religious or students of other denominations or faiths from attending events.

"We don't have to agree on everything, but if we can hold to the core values, we can be a community," Roaf said.

She stressed that she wants Barth House to be an inclusive space, stating that Episcopalians themselves have a wide spectrum of views on hot-button issues like politics and gay rights, so apprehensive students should not be worried about where they stand to be a part of the Barth House community.

Roaf said that she even imagines Barth House being a public conversation space where students can talk about issues that concern them and come up with potential solutions.

Many of the plans for Barth House will begin in the coming fall semester, but students do not have to wait to be a part of the Barth House community right now. Eucharist is at 12 p.m. every Wednesday and doors are open for studying and relaxation on other days of the week as well.

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

LIVING INTO THE QUESTIONS, GROWING IN FAITH

By Verlinda Henning, Diocesan EfM Coordinator

Education for Ministry, offered through the University of the South at Sewanee, is a program for adults seeking to deepen their spiritual lives, wrestle with questions that arise from being a person of faith in today's world, and find community for the journey.

The program, which consists of 4 years of study (Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, and theology and ethics), focuses on reflecting theologically on life.

As EfM Diocesan Coordinator, it's my privilege to share how, even with all the challenges of this past year, the program continued and thrived at churches across the diocese.

Like everything else, EfM was impacted by the pandemic, and the groups here in West Tennessee shifted to online sessions, mostly through Zoom. While it was a challenge, our groups continued to meet weekly for prayer, discussion, theological reflection, and worship, offering community and hope at a time when both seemed in short supply.

Several groups had graduates that completed their course of study during this challenging year—a special congratulations for these “seniors” whose final year of study was nothing like they imagined:

Calvary Church
Church of the Holy Communion

St. George's

Todd Goforth (Tuesday EfM class)
Martha Klee, Diane Spence, Linda Thompson, and Mike Watson
Don MacDonald and Ed Lisney



“

Education for Ministry is all about bringing people together for conversation with some depth, education, and thought behind it. Right now is perhaps the most important time for a movement like EfM.

-Mike Watson, EfM graduate

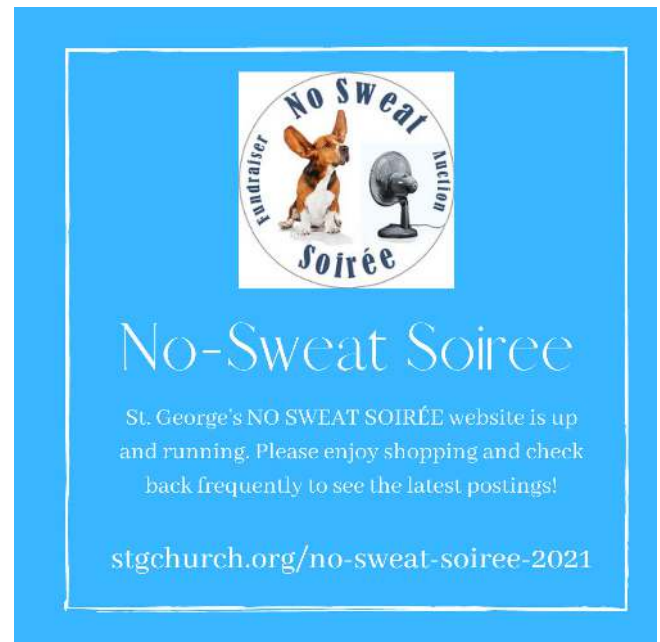
On a personal note, even though I grew up attending church, it wasn't until I participated in EfM that I began to be able to articulate my faith. Serving as a mentor has helped me live into the questions that are everywhere and deepen my relationship with God and others.

As we look forward to (hopefully) in-person meetings resuming this fall, I'd like to invite any interested adults to contact me for more information about the program.

VERLINDA HENNING
VerlindaH@aol.com
901-490-1714



Church of the Holy Communion EfM graduates pose after receiving their certificates earlier this summer. Pictured left to right: Mike Watson, Linda Thompson, Martha Klee, Diane Spence, and EfM Mentor Phebe Jean Arehart. PHOTO COURTESY OF CINDY McMILLION.



ALOHA, PENTECOST!

By the Venerable Mimsy Jones



Since we have just celebrated the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, I'm thinking about spirit-filled people, particularly my beloved friend Margaret Wright Jones, known simply as 'Be'

In Knoxville, Tennessee, where we both lived, Be was a brilliant, eccentric, creative woman, the life of every party she attended – and she attended many. But when she and her husband divorced and her family's finances faltered, she took a deep breath, jettisoned the accoutrements of her former life, and moved her two children and her aging mother, lock, stock, and barrel, to the island of Maui.

We kept in touch by mail (with no 'e'), exchanging multi-page handwritten letters regularly. One year, knowing that I had experienced significant losses myself, Be insisted that I bring my children, who were then 6 and 10, to Maui for the summer.

"You must come," she wrote. "I have plenty of room, and no one can show you this island the way I can!"

As it turned out, what she wrote was only half-true. She did not have plenty of room; she made plenty of room for us in her simple house above the town of Kahalui, far removed from the postcard images of Maui.

Her promise that no one could show us Maui the way she could turned out to be the understatement of all time. She led us on explorations across the length and breadth of Maui, making each excursion an adventure for the children. We hiked through 'ghostly' bamboo forests, 'discovered' secret waterfalls, had lavish picnics on green hillsides and

remote beaches, 'places few people ever see.'

One morning we arose in the dark and drove to the top of Maui's extinct volcano, Haleakala ('The House of the Rising Sun') to see the sun rise over the crater at dawn's early light, and walk a few 'brave steps' down into the crater itself. When we stopped on the way home for a breakfast of macadamia nut pancakes at a roadside cafe, Be turned to the sleepy-eyed children and asked, 'And how was THAT for an adventure?!'

Both children were enchanted with Be, once they recovered from the initial shock of meeting her, because she had gone completely native. She met us at the airport in a flowing mu-mu and weather-beaten flip-flops, her greying hair piled high and secured with ebony chopsticks. "Aloha, my dears," she said, draping fragrant plumeria leis around our necks.

Be had grown up with a silver spoon in her mouth. Now all that remained from that life were some silver knives and forks, six silver goblets, and a set of heirloom china. We used all those things at every meal, including the picnics. When I suggested buying paper plates and cups at least for our picnics, she protested, "Why waste the money? Buy some anchovy paste instead!"

At every meal, inside and outside, Be asked us to join hands as she prayed, "Thank you for life. Thank you for love. Amen." She told us over and over again, "Love is the most powerful force in the universe. Love is the only way to live. Always remember that."

In countless ways that summer and far beyond, this unconventional woman in a flowered mu-mu showed me what living a Spirit-filled life can be like. No wonder she was the first person I thought about on Pentecost this year!



Save the date!



**THE 40TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE
DIOCESE OF WEST TENNESSEE**

Friday, November 19, 2021 | 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Virtual with 5 Remote Sites

More information to come.