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## CROSS-EXAMINATION

### The Same Clubs? By Lawton Posey

Eighty years and more back, there was a proposal floating about which supported organic union of Presbyterians and Episcopalians. No matter that the Presbyterians were divided into a northern and a southern denominations, and that the Episcopal Church discussed within itself the a Protestant or a Catholic nature of the church. I believe that the long late Bishop William A. Guerry of South Carolina supported such union.

Recently, I asked my friend Fr. Robert Dunbar about this proposal. Bob was born and reared in the old a Southern Presbyterian Zion and became an Episcopal priest after his Presbyterian ordination. a Why Lawton, he said, a In those days we all went to the same clubs! In Dutchess County, NY, Presbyterians and Episcopalians share the same cemetery.

Clubs aside, we Presbyterians and Episcopalians were people who valued learning and hard work, and many were, in the world's terms, successful. Of course, we were doing all this succeeding while the Southern Baptists down the road were bringing them in with lively, often good, preaching, and with enthusiastic singing, which might have thought lacking in sophistication.

How the world has changed since the days when a union proposal was floating in a leaky canoe. The formerly ascendant a old line religious communions have lost a bit of luster. Unions are a out. Separations are a in.

Presbyterian that I am, I have always had a quiet, and vain, hope that Presbyterians and Episcopalians could bury the polity hatchet. Would Presbyterians accept bishops, perhaps, and would Episcopalians see presbyteries as successors to the Apostles? It will not happen soon. As a Korean friend said once to me: a Thin chance.

Are we not, we descendants of Knox and Calvin and of Cranmer and Ken united in important ways? Indeed we are. We value Scripture, but do not worship a book. We sing similar hymns, but change some words to suit us. Orderly worship rules. Better yet, we have a passion for justice and compassion, for the feeding of the hungry and the clothing of the naked in the name of Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, our denominations also spend precious time arguing about who can be admitted to our club, about who is worthy to stand behind the Lord's Table, and about who can love this or that person. Episcopal Presiding Bishop Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori and Presbyterian Moderator Rev. Joan S. Gray would counsel us to look beyond our exclusive parking lots into the world of hurt, and to be in love with, not our denominational labels, but the world Jesus came to heal.

The Rev. David R. Hackett  
interim rector  
The Rev. Elizabeth Hoster  
associate rector  
Brenda Vanderford  
organist/choirmaster  
David Morton  
assisting organist/choirmaster  
Brenda Dearien  
parish administrator  
Katharine Gillman  
Cynthia Barrett  
Bob Westmoreland  
verger  
James Wilson  
custodian  
Greg Clarke >08  
press warden  
Michelle Walker >08  
people's warden  
Becky Burns >09  
treasurer  
Ellen Archibald >09  
Cynthia Barrett >10  
Joe Howard >09  
Cheryl Clements >10  
Pete Hamrick >08  
Diane Hendricks >10  
Dan McDonald >10  
David Vick >10  
Ann Morris >08  
David Ramkey  
Assistant Treasurer  
David Ramkey/Becky Burns  
finance  
Wanda Dettinger/Rose Smith  
evangelism/new member  
Pete Hamrick  
parish life  
Doreen  
Bob Cochran/Dan McDonald  
stewardship  
Bob Swager  
Nathan Annet  
children's christian formation  
Kasev Russell/Kin Reese/  
youth christian formation  
Diane Hendricks  
confirmation  
Marilyn  
Phyllis Atwood  
pastoral care  
Ben Owens  
Bob Swager/Bob Miller  
altar guild  
Beth Jo Lovd  
Carter Blundon  
Mattha Cole  
Ann Carvello  
Trinit Street  
Julianne Kemmer  
Interchange editor

# Saint John's Interchange

The parish newsletter for the people of God called to form the Christian community of Saint John's Episcopal Church, Quarrier at Leon Sullivan Way, Charleston, West Virginia.

April 18, 2007, Vol. 47, No. 8

## Sundays April 29 and May 6, 2007

Fourth and Fifth Sundays Of Easter

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**  
**8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library**  
**9:30 a.m. Adult Forum: April 29,** In belated recognition of Earth Day, Tom Rodd, colorful attorney and noted environmentalist, will address the needs for sustained ecological vigilance; **May 6,** Parishioner Rob Ferguson, cabinet secretary of the West Virginia Department of Administration, will speak on a The Two Lightening Rods of State Government: Purchasing and Personnel, Room 109  
**9:30 a.m. Nursery Open** B Babies to 2 years old, Room 297  
**10:10 a.m. Parents= Fellowship, Room 208**  
**10:10 a.m. Chapel for Older Children, Room 225**  
**10:30 a.m. Classes for Toddlers to Grade 5;** Toddlers, Room 298; Godly Play, 4 to 8 years old, Room 299; St. John's Eagles, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grades, Room 221  
**10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, with choir**  
**11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Hunter Hall**  
**11:45 a.m. Rite 13/Journey to Adulthood, Room 208**

**Interchange Deadlines:** The next issue of Interchange will be for the weeks of May 13 and 20. Items may be submitted to [julkemp@suddenlink.net](mailto:julkemp@suddenlink.net) (note change of address) or [bdearien@stjohnswv.org](mailto:bdearien@stjohnswv.org) by Tuesday, May 1, at 4 p.m.

St. John's Mission Statement:  
We reach out to the world in Christ's name  
in the hope that all might find a home in God's healing love.

Established 1837 Present building consecrated 1901 A Jubilee Center since 1985  
Please address correspondence to: 1105 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV 25301-2493  
Telephone:304/346-0359 Facsimile: 304/342-2810 Website: [www.stjohnswv.org](http://www.stjohnswv.org)

**Parish Dinner:** You are invited to our St. John's Family Reunion on Sunday, April 29, at 5:30 p.m. in Hunter Hall. The menu includes fried and barbecued chicken, bocca burgers, chips, baked beans (vegetarian and non-vegetarian), macaroni salad, and cobbler with ice cream for dessert. Please join us for fellowship and reminiscences of memorable St. John's events and milestones. Be sure to jot down some of your favorites and bring them to share on our "St. John's Timeline: Remembering the Past 50 Years." Also, members of the Vestry will share a short report on the recent We Are Family gatherings, and the Search Committee will be announced. A \$4 per person or \$10 per family donation is suggested.

**Christian Formation Team News:** Would you like to see your child get more actively involved with the 10:30 a.m. worship service? In the April CFT meeting we discussed two new ways of giving our children an active role during church. If you have youngsters who are not acolytes but who could grow in the knowledge and love of God through actually participating in the church service, please contact Kathie Giltinan for schedules and more information. First, Interim Rector David Hackett remembers a tradition at one parish he served which recognized the young children and really nurtured their connection with the priests. During the final hymn the children would come to the front of the church and stand before the chancel. The choir will come down the aisle in recession followed by the acolytes. David and Liddy will come get the children, and holding hands with them, conduct them in recession out of church. Our nursery volunteer will meet the children, take them from the priests to the library and stay with them until parents call for them. The second new way for children to get involved will put the focus on their family. Each week a family with a child will be responsible for bringing the offering plates forward. We'd like to begin this on Sunday, May 6.

**Let's Play Ball:** The Christian Formation Team is sponsoring St. John's Day at the ol= ball game at Appalachian Power Park, home of the West Virginia Power, on Sunday, May 6. Game starts at 2:05 p.m. and children may run the bases after the game is over. After the game is "Faith Night," which features live music. Tickets are \$7. Contact Bren Pomponio at 610-5120 or [bren@msjlaw.org](mailto:bren@msjlaw.org) if you are interested in attending.

**Other Dates To Remember:** May 28, church picnic at Coonskin; June 10, Sundae Sunday, and July 23-27, Vacation Bible School Avalanche Ranch.

**Stroll for Epilepsy:** The first Stroll for Epilepsy will be held Saturday, May 5, at Oakes Field in South Charleston from 10 a.m. until noon. The walk benefits the Epilepsy Foundation of West Virginia ([www.epilepsyfoundation/local/westvirginia/](http://www.epilepsyfoundation/local/westvirginia/)) of which CFT member Shonda Newsome is executive director. It is a non-competitive walk for all ages. Several Saints of John will be walking including our J2A class, but we would love to have more. Everyone who walks will get a T-shirt. They can e-mail Shonda at [shonda@efwv.org](mailto:shonda@efwv.org) or call 382-3590 for more info or to register or may contact Barbara Clarke at [cbarbara2bfit@aol.com](mailto:cbarbara2bfit@aol.com).

**Seeking Volunteers:** The Outreach Committee is seeking volunteers to assist St. John's parishioners. Volunteers are needed: to change light bulbs, for light gardening/weeding, lawn care, to provide rides after dark, etc. If you're interested, please phone Phyllis Atwood at 343-9859 or e-mail, [patwood@suddenlink.net](mailto:patwood@suddenlink.net)

**Rainbow Walk:** Get your walking shoes on and come walk or run to show support for a West Virginia Rainbow Pride Event on June 9 benefiting the Covenant House's AIDS Residential and Resource Program. Susanne Coffield, Margaret Leef and Susannah Vitaglione, CFT members, are helping to organize the event and invited the children of St. John=s to walk together with a rainbow banner they=ll create during chapel and Sunday school on June 3. Join us at chapel at 10:10 a.m. and if weather permits we=ll go outside to help make the banner. For more information regarding the event, see <http://www.wvcovenanthouse.org/RainbowRun/rainbowrun.html>

**Birthday Greetings:** Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating birthdays during the next two weeks: April 24, Ned Barrett and Laura Warren; April 25, Rachel Clarke and Tricia Poe; April 29, Martha Newman; May 1, Una Karner and Ella Vitaglione; May 2, Sky Kershner; May 3, Harriett Beury; May 4, Karon Myers; and May 5, Jessica Cann and Lynn Clarke.

**Donations Down at Covenant House:** Your help is needed at the Drop-In Center on Shrewsbury Street with laundry detergent, feminine napkins, toilet tissue and toiletries. At the Food Pantry, the need is for pasta of any kind and sauce and the Clothing Closet, located at St. Mark=s United Methodist Church, requires socks and summer clothing. At the AIDS houses, there is a great need for full-size sheets, pillow cases and comforters, as well as a land line@ telephones (no cell phones), cleaning supplies and 9-volt batteries. Your help will be deeply appreciated at any of these locations.

**Clergy On Call:** During the week both of your clergy are available to you for pastoral care. Please call the church to talk to either priest. Both try to take Fridays as their day off but on weekends, in a true emergency, you may contact as follows: April 27-28, David Hackett, 347-0986; May 4-5, Liddy Hoster, 925-3675; May 11-12, David Hackett; May 18-19, David Hackett; and May 25-26, Liddy Hoster.

**Can You Hear Me Now?** Women in Faith, Fun and Fellowship will hold its next luncheon on May 10 at 11:30 a.m. Marsha Klusmeyer, teacher for the deaf and hard of hearing for a long time and has been a teacher in Kanawha County since 2001, will give a brief introduction to our sense of hearing and how we cope with hearing loss. The program was rescheduled from February due to bad weather. Please make reservations by May 8, by calling the church office, 346-0359. Suggested donation for the lunch is \$5. The shawl ministry will meet following the lunch.

**Share Your Ideas:** The next meeting of the Property Committee will be Sunday, May 6, in Room 109 immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. Anyone with concerns or ideas regarding church property is invited to attend.

**Breakfast Bunch:** Men of St. John=s will meet Wednesday, May 2, at 7:30 a.m. at First Watch on Summers Street for their monthly breakfast and time of fellowship.

**Time For Taize:** Our next Taize service, a time to retreat from stresses of the day with reflective music and meditation, will be held Sunday, May 13, at 5 p.m.