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CROSS-EXAMINATION

Why Pew Bibles?
By The Rev. Elizabeth M. Hoster

The Bibles are here, the bookplates are printed, and with a few volunteers, they will be out in the pews soon. But with any change can come some worry, especially in this time of transition.

Please be assured that having Bibles in the pews does not mean that we are becoming more conservative! Our church is based upon the three-legged stool of scripture, tradition and reason. We are simply trying to give full and free access to that first leg. @

As a church that uses a lectionary, Episcopalians read far more scripture every Sunday than most non-lectionary churches. We take scripture very seriously, but not necessarily literally. When we Episcopalians interpret scripture, we are quite keen on knowing the context of the passage being read B which often means reading even more of a passage than might be on our bulletin insert. The Bibles in our pews will help with that.

And, try as your dear priests, musicians, and readers might, there will be days when you may come to church and nothing is working for you: The hymns are all wrong, the appointed lessons are not speaking to you, and Hackett or Hoster might as well be preaching in Greek. The Bible in your pew may be just what you need.

Now more than ever, we cannot leave scriptural literacy, much less scriptural access, only in the hands of more conservative denominations. In his 1990 book, *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism*, Bishop John Shelby Spong writes, AThe task of the modern Christian is to have the living Word which moves beneath the literal words of the Bible erupt to call people into life and into the task of building an inclusive community where Christ is seen in all persons, where those in Christ can begin to respect the dignity of every human being, and where all people can begin to respond to the presence of God that is over, under, around and through all of life.@ (P.184) That sounds a whole lot like our mission statement!

May we all become more *literate* B not *literal* B in our knowledge of the Bible. May the written Word illuminate the Living Word, who is Christ, and help us to see Christ in all persons.

The Rev. Elizabeth M. Hoster
associate rector

Brenda Vanderford
organist/choirmaster
David Morton
parish administrator
Brenda Dearien
Katherine Gittinan
Bob Westgrenland

James Wilson
custodian
Greg Clarke >08
priest's warden
Michelle Walker >08
Becky Burns >09
Ellen Archibald >09
Cynthia Barrett >10
Joe Boyard >09
Cheryl Clements >10
Page Hamrick >09
Diane Hendricks >08
Dan McDonald >10
Ann Morris >08

David Ramkey
Assistant Treasurer
David Ramkey/Becky Burns
finance

Wanda Dettmer/Rose Smith
evangelist/new member
Page Hamrick
parish life

Donna Harney/Dan Fitzgerald
Bob Cochran/Dan McDonald
Bob Swartz

Nathan Annet
children's Christian formation
Sara Walker/Guy Vitarone
Diane Hendricks

Marion Perry
adult formation
Phyllis Atwood
Ben Oweas

Bob Swartz/Bob Miller
Cathy Riddon

Beth Jo Lloyd
Mathie Cole
Ann Garcelon
parish school

Julianne Kemp
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.

May 17, 2007, Vol. 47, No. 10

Sundays May 27 and June 3, 2007 Day of Pentecost and First Sunday After Pentecost

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**
8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library
9:30 a.m. Adult Forum: May 27, Andrew Schneider, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, will address the question, AIs the ACLU Anti-Christian?@ **June 3**, For the final forum before summer, parishioners Beth Marquart and Juanita Reed will assist St. John=s official archivist, Janet Morris, in acquainting us with some of the valuable church records to be found on the second floor, 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, 3rd to 5th grades, Room 221
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist**, with choir (Baptism May 27)
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 June 10, 17 and 24. Items may be submitted to bdearien@stjohnswv.org by Tuesday, May 29, at 4 p.m. (Please note: Julianne Kemp, editor, will be on vacation during that time.)

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

Memorial Day Picnic: The Christian Formation Team invites everyone in St. John's to our annual parish picnic on

Monday, May 28. We have the Gorman Shelter in Coonskin Park for the entire day. We'll start the picnic in the late

afternoon. Help us make a Rainbow banner for the Gay Pride walk. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie alternatives and the covered dish you'll bring to share. The grill will be fired up at 4 p.m. and continue until 6 p.m.

In response to the requests after the *We are Family* dinner, we will have a special time during the picnic for people to share their stories of the past 50 years at St. John's.

Other Dates To Remember: June 10, Sunday, June 16, Kent Higgins' ordination, and July 23-27, Vacation Bible School Avalanche Ranch.

Let Us See Red: Red is the liturgical color for Pentecost Sunday, one of the few Sundays we use it. We encourage people to join the celebration and wear red to church on May 27.

Rainbow Walk: Children from St. John's and members of the St. John's Christian Formation Committee will walk in the Covenant House West Virginia Rainbow Walk on June 2. Join us as we show our support for the Aids Residential and Resource Program and kick off the West Virginia Rainbow Pride Festival in Charleston. We will be making a banner on Sunday, May 27, during Sunday school and at the Memorial Day picnic (see above). Please call Susannah Vitaglione at 345-4173 or Susanne Coffield at 342-6991 if you'd like more information. Members of St. John's also are encouraged to take part in the 11th annual West Virginia Gay Pride Parade on June 9 by marching with the Straight and Gay Alliance. The parade will form at Haddad Park at 12:30 p.m. and march several blocks to Davis Park.

Birthday Greetings: Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating birthdays during the next two weeks: May 21, William Clements; May 22, JoAnne Christian, Joseph Farris III, and Patricia Wilson; May 23, Ann Morris; May 24, Andrew Hendricks, Barbie McCabe, and Jeanne Skaggs; May 25, Nelle Chilton; May 26, Galen Crow and Elizabeth Hoster; May 27, Mary Price Ratrie and Margaret Workman; May 28, Peggy Snyder; May 29, Danny Cline and Michael Miller; May 30, Teddy Johnson, Laura Kimble and Kelly McDonald; June 2, William Maxwell; and June 3, Leah Macia and Collin Morris.

A Way to Serve Your Church: There is a great need for ushers, especially on the second and third Sundays of the month. Please contact Bob Swartz at 343-4812 if you can help in this capacity.

Pizza and Parents: All parents and/or grandparents of elementary and younger children are invited and encouraged to come and discuss the Christian Formation Program at St. John's on Monday, June 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. A dinner of pizza and salad will be provided along with child care. Dinner will begin in Hunter Hall and will move to Room 209 for the meeting. Please make reservations by June 1 by calling the church office, 346-0359.

Volunteers Needed: We need two or three volunteers to help unwrap, stamp, and place bookplates in the new pew Bibles. Please call the church office, 346-0359, if you can help.

Cross-Examination: Do you have some reflections on the life and worship of St. John's that you would like to share with others? The back page of *Interchange* is devoted to sharing such written works in a feature entitled *Cross-Examination*. If you wish to submit something for consideration, please indicate your interest by contacting our interim rector, the Rev. David Hackett, or our associate rector, the Rev. Elizabeth Hoster.

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: May 25-26, Liddy Hoster, 925-3675; June 1-2, David Hackett, 347-0986.

*Bishop of West Virginia
Will Ordain
The Rev. Kent Higgins
To the Sacred Order of Priests
In Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church
On Saturday, June 16, 2007 at 11:00 am
In St. Timothy's in-the-Valley Episcopal Church
3434 Teays Valley Road, Hurricane, West Virginia
Your prayers and presence are requested.*

St. John's will present an ordination gift to Kent. If you would like to contribute, please contact the church office.

Congratulations: Maggie Latimer became an Associate of the Order of St. Helena on April 29. An Associate establishes a special relationship with the Order and makes a commitment of prayer and service with the Order and its associates for the strengthening of her life in Christ.

From the Archives: Did You Know? In a 1976 oral history from Lucy Quarrier to Joe Jefferds concerning the new St. John's Church Building (September, 1888):

Miss Quarrier states that "After the walls and roof were up but before the interior had been finished and the church consecrated, the funerals of two of its highly esteemed members were held in the same day. Services for William A. Quarrier were held in the morning and for W.T. Lucadoe in the afternoon. There was no floor and no pews so loose boards were laid for flooring and temporary benches were made from rough boards."

Dayspring Wins Awards: At the annual conference of Episcopal Communicators held in Virginia Beach, Va., April 24-27, the West Virginia Diocese's publication, *Dayspring*, won three national honorable mentions in the below 12,000 category. Honored were the Rev. Elizabeth A. Walker, writer and editor, for a devotional article, "Elizabethan Prose," and for front page layout of Vol. 105 No. 4, and a layout, "Peterkin: Full Circle," written by Deborah Franzen. The Polly Bond awards, named after a pioneer Episcopal communicator who died in 1979, are given for excellence in communication in various print, video, audio and web media categories.

Donations Down at Covenant House: At the Drop-In Center on Shrewsbury Street, they are very low on washcloths, deodorant, shampoo and other sample toiletries. Other special needs for individuals include a tent, propane stove, ice chest, sleeping bag/air mattress and a duffel bag. At the Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church, cereal and peanut butter would be welcome. And at the Clothing Closet located at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, they are in need of socks, underwear and summer clothes. Also at the AIDS houses, there is still a great need for six full-size sheets, eight pillowcases, six comforters, land-line telephones (no cell phones), cleaning supplies and 9-volt batteries. Your help would be greatly appreciated by these respective staffs.

*By the Grace of God
with the people consenting
The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer*