

**Dated Material.  
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July 1**

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Charleston, WV

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

### Get Involved With Vacation Bible School By Jo Blackwood

As I clean out my closet, I find old T-shirts with Lava Lava Island and Serengeti Trek Vacation Bible School logos on them. They bring back fond memories of my VBS involvement with St. John=s over the past few summers. I recall scavenger hunts for materials to set the stage for my telling the Greatest Stories ever told. Trips to Lowe=s for bricks to build an altar and an excursion to JoAnn Fabrics for invisible ink were among my quests.

Why would an educator give up a week of her summer vacation to work with children? Two reasons come to mind: 1. This is part of my ministry. 2. Time spent with young people is fun and keeps you young!

Where else can an adult act like a kid? I can unabashedly demonstrate enthusiasm for the Gospel stories. In one session, we pretended we were in a boat with Jesus; a teen helper turned on the fan and sprayed water so it really felt like we were on the waves. We taped black plastic over the windows and used flashlights to find our way through a room that had been transformed into a scene from Biblical times.

Last year Michelle Walker and I dramatized the scene where Jesus appeared after being crucified. We brought in spotlights, used tarps, and stuffed brown grocery bags with newspapers to simulate bricks. Even though we thought our setting was primitive, it worked for the children. When Jesus walked out from behind our props, one child screamed and leapt into one of the older one=s laps. Another year, we led the children to a scene on the third floor where Guy Vitaglione impersonated a Roman soldier guarding Jesus= tomb.

As Episcopalians we are sometimes reluctant to be missionaries, sharing our faith with adults. In Vacation Bible School, you will find telling others about Jesus much easier. You will also get to know the next generation of Saints of John and their friends while working with a dedicated group of wonderful volunteers. In this safe environment, it is cool to be a fool for Jesus!

If you haven=t volunteered yet, consider helping out. If your work schedule prevents you from helping during the week, you can help decorate on Sunday afternoon. You can be an actor or a props person. You can help with snacks or games on one or all mornings of the week. You can tell stories and act a little crazy like we did. Every little bit of help makes the total effort smoother. If you have children or grandchildren, please bring them. Everyone can pray for the participants and leaders.



*Note: This year=s VBS theme is FIESTA!, July 17-21, 9:00 am B 12 pm. Grab your sombrero, bring along your donkey (or not) and join the fun. Call the office for registration information.*

# 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.

June 21, 2006, Vol. 46, No. 12

## Sundays July 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2006 Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Sundays after Pentecost

- 8:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist
- 8:45 a.m.** Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library
- 10:30 a.m.** Chapel for Older Children, Room 225
- 10:30 a.m.** Holy Eucharist, with choir
- 11:30 a.m.** Coffee Hour, Hunter Hall

(Sunday School classes will resume in September)

**St. John=s New Web Site Now Operating:** Go online to our new web site at [www.stjohnswv.org](http://www.stjohnswv.org). A committee headed by Michelle Walker gave input to assist in the redesign of this site for which Charlie Bowen of Bowen Designs was webmaster. Karl Ruttan, Liddy Hoster, Cheryl Clements, Joe Bolyard and Julianne Kemp offered ideas for content, Kent Higgins provided photos of the stained glass windows and church interior and Brenda Dearien and Beth Marquart helped format the calendar and Interchange updates. The site shows how beautiful our church really is and all that it offers to the community.

**Office Help Needed:** Brenda Dearien will be taking vacation the week of July 24 B 28 and someone is needed to answer the telephone in the morning from 9 a.m. until noon. If you are available that week, please call Brenda at the office, 346-0359.

**Interchange Deadlines:** The next issue of Interchange will be for the weeks of July 30, August 6, 13, 20 and 27. Items may be submitted to [julkemp@charter.net](mailto:julkemp@charter.net) or [bdearien@stjohnswv.org](mailto:bdearien@stjohnswv.org) by Tuesday, July 18, at 4 p.m.

- The Rev. Dr. Karl D. Ruttan  
*rector*
- The Rev. Elizabeth Hoster  
*associate rector*
- Branda Vapertord  
*director of music*
- Brenda Dearien  
*parish administrator*
- Katherine Gillinan  
*christian formation*
- Bob Westmoreland  
*verger*
- James Wilson  
*custodian*
- Greg Clarke >08  
*vestry*
- Greg Clarke >08  
*priest=s warden*
- Lila Ramkey >07  
*people=s warden*
- Bren Pomponio >07  
*clerk*
- Becky Burns >06  
*treasurer*
- Ellen Archibald >09  
*clerk*
- Joe Bolyard >09  
*clerk*
- Cheryl Clements >07  
*clerk*
- Page Hamrick >08  
*clerk*
- Diane Hendricks >08  
*clerk*
- Ann Morris >08  
*clerk*
- Bob Swartz >07  
*clerk*
- Michelle Walker >08  
*clerk*
- David Ramkey  
*Assistant Treasurer*
- David Ramkey/Becky Burns  
*finance*
- Wanda Dettinger/Rose Smith  
*evangelism/new member*
- Mary Fitzgerald  
*parish life*
- Marv Barkalow/Donna Hamra  
*outreach*
- Bob Cochran/Dan McDonald  
*stewardship*
- Bob Swartz  
*proprietor*
- Nathan Bennett  
*children=s christian formation*
- Melonie Knorr/Kasey Russell  
*youth christian formation*
- Diane Hendricks  
*clerk*
- Melonie Knorr  
*clerk*
- Phyllis Atwood  
*clerk*
- Ben Owens  
*clerk*
- Bob Swartz  
*clerk*
- Bob Miller  
*clerk*
- Carole Blundon  
*clerk*
- Beth In Low  
*clerk*
- Mathie Cole  
*clerk*
- Ann Garwood  
*clerk*
- Ann Kemp  
*clerk*
- Julianne Kemp  
*interchange editor*

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)

**Words: Education and Equipping**  
**By Beth Marquart**

AE@ words; Education and Equipping. While related in that each provisions, they represent very different learnings, contexts and intents. One may seem more passive than the other, but witness:

On a recent Sunday Sue Harpold, Greg Clarke and I graduated from the Education for Ministry (EFM) program. We met weekly, August to May, for four years studying the Old and New Testaments, Church History and Theology B wrestling with meaning, listening to one another; agreeing, disagreeing and coming to appreciate and love one another in good times, sorrowful times and in-between times. We were accompanied on this journey by our mentors Audrey Smith and Karl Ruttan and others who joined us over the past three years. No matter what else was going on I knew I had a weekly refuge with this group of people whom I consider my friends and hope they consider me the same.

And over the past four years Maggie Latimer, Kent Higgins and I have completed the Equipping the Saints (ETS) program, with Olive Meyer finishing up this year. This three-year program also involves studying the Old and New Testaments, Church History and Theology, with the added dimension of practical ministry projects, three academic weekends led by the staff of Bexley Hall Seminary (Columbus, OH and Rochester, NY), self-directed study, reflection (and maybe academic) papers, and a monthly meeting with peers. Like EFM, we wrestle with meaning, listen to one another, agree and disagree and come to appreciate and love one another B in good times, sorrowful times and in-between times.

I suspect that the takeaways from each of these adult formation programs are as individual as each person who participates. For me these programs compliment one another nicely. Both rely strongly on a commitment to community. Education for Ministry prepared me to think theologically about the world and my place in it and provided me with an introduction to the tools of our faith and reminded me of the value B necessity B of many perspectives and opinions. In addition to those things I learned in EFM, Equipping the Saints taught me to articulate my faith and back it up with scholarly sources (note that this is not required for all tracks in ETS). I developed the Spokes for Folks bicycle program in order to meet one of ETS= practical ministry requirements.

Is either of these opportunities right for you? Perhaps. Each one asks for a one-year commitment to community, formation and study. If you have a desire to learn more about Christian faith through theology, scripture and the life of the church in a community of like-minded explorers, perhaps EFM is for you. We have two groups at St. John=s, one meets on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and the other on Thursdays at 4 p.m.

ETS might be for you if (in addition to having a desire to learn more about Christian faith through the study of theology, scripture and the life of the church) you are also seeking skills and knowledge to help you as a congregational leader and/or are drawn to discern your ministry and seek a fuller spiritual life. The program year is kicked off Aug 11-13 at Bishop Hodges Pastoral Center in Huttonsville.

So, is it education or equipping you are drawn to? Please consider whether one of these programs is for you. I know I=d be happy to talk with you about my experience and know that Karl is available to help with information about both programs, too. Both EFM and ETS have summer registration deadlines, so please don=t wait too long to decide.

**Vestry Honors Outstanding Parishioners:** St. John=s lost two of its most dedicated parishioners last December with the passing of Curt Coburn and Ann Cooke. To ensure that

their contributions will always be remembered, the Vestry made two resolutions that were read to the congregation by the Rev. Dr. Karl Ruttan on Sunday, June 11. Curt Coburn is being honored for his many services including representing St. John=s at innumerable Diocesan conventions, Deanery meeting and other church functions, for serving without pay as the parish=s coordinator for lay ministries, advisor and assistant to the rector and overseeing building maintenance and repairs. His former office, Room 104, will be named the Curt Coburn Conference Room and a plaque will be installed memorializing this site. Ann Clancy Cooke also served in many capacities. As a member of the Vestry, she was church treasurer, was a member of the Altar Guild and lent her distinctive decorating talents to many areas of worship. She helped plan the complete re-landscaping of the church gardens which will soon bear a plaque denoting them as the Ann Clancy Cooke Gardens.

**Get Cooking With Your Recipes:** The Cookbook Committee still needs recipes -- lots of them - in order to produce a cookbook that will be representative of the entire church. To date less than 100 have been submitted. They would like to have at least one and no more than five from every parishioner. Their goal is to have this book ready in the fall so it will be available for Christmas gifts. Committee members are Juanita Cook, Wanda Dettinger, Ann Garcelon, Gary Frame, Sandy Morris and Juanita Reed. All have e-mail addresses which are listed in the church directory, or the recipes can be turned in to the church office. The recipes don=t have to be original, just favorites. So please share them.

**Altar Flowers:** There are two open dates on the calendar for placing flowers on the altar in honor or memory of someone. These are July 23 and July 30. Please call Carter Blundon, 342-5878, or the church office, 346-0359, if you are interested

**Travel to New Orleans July 16-22 for Post-Katrina Help:** Join us in a post-Katrina disaster response. Tish Lawson of All Saints Episcopal Church in South Charleston was a parishioner at Grace Episcopal Church, 3700 Canal Street, New Orleans, before moving to West Virginia years ago. Grace Church recently began a distribution center and requests help with it and in cleaning out houses, in construction, and other work. No expertise is needed. We will leave here on Sunday, July 16, and return on Saturday, July 22. Cost will be for transportation and meals. One minivan already is committed to provide travel. Lodging and kitchen facilities will be at Chalstrom House at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, [http://www.edola.org/odr\\_volunteer\\_housing\\_options.php](http://www.edola.org/odr_volunteer_housing_options.php). A volunteer agreement and release form, medical information form, information and supply list and additional information about the Diocese of Louisiana disaster response are online at [http://www.edola.org/odr\\_volunteer\\_main.php](http://www.edola.org/odr_volunteer_main.php). Information about ethnically diverse Grace Church is at <http://www.graceepicchurch.org/>. If interested please contact Joyce Wilkinson at [joycemwil@yahoo.com](mailto:joycemwil@yahoo.com) or call 304-395-5344.

**Many Happy Returns:** Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating birthdays during the next four weeks: June 26, Pat Fot; June 28, Lila Ramkey and Walt Ramsey; June 29, Tammi Wilson-Blundon; June 30, Daniel James, Lillian Kelly and Corey Morris; July 1, Janice Miller, Nina Peyton and Angela Reese; July 2, Geoff Korwan; July 3, Augusta Kosowicz; July 4, Maria Kershner and Kasey Russell; July 5, Bob Toney; July 6, Dee Blundon and Don Tabor; July 7, Landon Palmer; July 8, Neale Blackwood; July 9, Dotty Moore and Lora Ruttan; July 10, Deb Lewis, Katherine Lewis and Bruce Wilson; July 11, Phyllis Atwood; July 13, Gail Higgins and Mike Walker; July 14, Fred Barkey; July 15, Ann Bird; July 17, Jerry Harper and Carol Ramirez; July 19, Nancy Bird, Georgia Hamra and Carolyn Nelson; July 20, Caitlin Downey; July 21, Timothy Bradford; and July 23, Robert Lawson.