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CROSS-EXAMINATION

The Year of Women By Lawton Posey

It is remarkable that both the Presbyterian Church (U. S. A.) and the Episcopal Church have elected women to lead their depleted forces. My own Presbyterian connection has elected lay person Linda Valentine to be the executive of its General Assembly Council. Joan Gray, a minister, will be Moderator of the church=s General Assembly for two years. Now, the Episcopal Church comes along and elects Katharine Jefferts Schori as its Presiding Bishop for the customary nine-year term.

These two Aold line@ denominations have different polities, of course. The Episcopal Church is, well, Episcopal. Presbyterians are Presbyterian. Our two governmental systems stand in the way of full communion, even though there are some similarities shared one with the other. Our constituencies are largely, but not exclusively, white and middle class. We have wide differences among our communicants as to theology and the understanding of Scripture. All in all, though, we are a moderate people in the main. In fact, we may take our cues from Paul=s letter to the Philippians where he says, Alet your moderation be known to all.@ (Phil 4:5) But we have our divisions, also.

These divisions are often called Awings,@ but they are not the kind of flappers that allow for free flowing flight.

Now, three women, all of similar age, well educated and sophisticated, are leading the parade. Gray is a self described Apolity wonk.@ Valentine made a career in secular administration. Schori flies a Cessna Skyhawk to visit her Nevada churches. They have differing roles. Presbyterian moderators are temporary. Presiding Bishops have a longer shelf life. However the particulars are worked out, the elections of Grey, Valentine and Schori send important signals to church and world.

I say, AGod bless them.@ May they not be discouraged. May they not bend to political forces or become beholden to any single power group, liberal or conservative, or in between. May they become as one of the lessons proclaimed in this church recently, ambassadors of reconciliation. Christ makes an appeal through Joan, Katharine and Linda. (2 Corinthians 5:16).

And us.

The Rev. Elizabeth Hoster
associate rector
Brenda Vanderford
director of music
Brenda Deaugh
pastor in charge
Katherine Gillman
Christian formation
Bob Westmoreland
verger
Jack Wilson
custodian
vestry
Greg Clarke >08
priest-s warden
Lila Ramkey >07
people-s warden
Bren Pomponio >07
clerk
Becky Burns >06
treasurer
Ellen Archibald >09
Joe Boyard >09
Cheryl Clements >07
Page Hamrick >09
Diane Hendricks >08
Ann Morris >08
Bob Swartz >07
Michelle Walker >08
David Ramkey
Assistant Treasurer
David Ramkey/Becky Burns
finance
Wanda Dettiner/Rose Smith
evangelism/new member
Mary Fitzgerald
parish life
Mary Barkalow/Donna Hamra
worship
Bob Cochran/Dan McDonald
stewardship
Bob Swartz
Nathan Annet
children-s Christian formation
Melonie Knorr/Kasey Russell
youth Christian formation
Diane Hendricks
confirmation
Marion Coffey
Phyllis Atwood
pastoral care
Ben Oviess
Bob Swartz/Rob Miller
Carter Blundon
after school
Beth Jo Lloyd
worship rota
Mattha Cole
rector
Ann Asarco
Thrift Shop
Julianne Bellor
intelligence editor

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.

July 20, 2006, Vol. 46, No. 13

Sundays July 30 and August 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2006

Eighth through Twelfth 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)

The Collect: Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Check Out Our Web Site: If you haven=t done so yet, go online to our new web site at www.stjohnswv.org. Since we announced this in our last issue, there have been several updates including recent sermons by Dr. Karl Ruttan as well as his reflections on the General Convention. Michelle Walker headed the committee which gave input to assist in the redesign of this site for which Charlie Bowen of Bowen Designs was webmaster. The site shows both the beauty of our church and all that it offers to the community.

Interchange Deadlines: The next issue of Interchange will be for the weeks of Sept. 3 and 10. Items may be submitted to julkemp@charter.net or bdearien@stjohnswv.org by Tuesday, Aug. 22, at 4 p.m.

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

Saint

Come Out to See the WV Power: St. John's has reserved seats and a picnic area at Appalachian Power Park on Aug. 6. Game time is 5:05 p.m. Kids get to run the bases after the game. Tickets with a picnic meal are \$18; tickets without picnic are \$7. If you have not had an opportunity to check out the new ballpark, this is your chance. Join us for fellowship at the old ballgame. Contact Bren Pomponio, 610-5120, or bren@msjlaw.org for more information.

Birthdays Galore: Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating birthdays now through August: July 24, David Christian; July 26, Tom Burns; July 27, Calvert Armbrrecht and Lora Thompson; July 28, Bernice Deem, Ardeth Rosengarten and Robert Young; July 30, Linda Cooper; Aug. 1, Donna Hamra, Sam Kitching and Ben Warren; Aug. 3, Harold Howie and Nikki Price; Aug. 4, Ben Owens and Kellen Paybins; Aug. 5, Matthew Feinberg; Aug. 6, Andy Blackwood and Zach Warren; Aug. 7, Judy Lewis; Aug. 8, Karl Ruttan; Aug. 9, Juanita Reed; Aug. 10, Rick Hunter and Jane Leasor; Aug. 11, Christa Hamra; Aug. 12, Evelyn Harris; Aug. 14, Elizabeth Clarke and Eric Wilson; Aug. 15, Sheila Farris and Chris Mullen; Aug. 16, Christy Morris and Karen Simon; Aug. 17, Sam Revercomb and Dick Young; Aug. 18, Sally Love; Aug. 20, Bob Miller and Danielle Simon; Aug. 21, Frank Lattimer; Aug. 22, Joe Bolyard, Hannah Mullins and Gwyneth Owen; Aug. 25, Carolyn Thaw and Roger Wolfe; Aug. 26, Elliott Blackwood, Doug Price and Frederick Walker; Aug. 27, Kim Ramsey; Aug. 28, Daniel Coffield, John Revercomb and Rebecca Revercomb; Aug. 29, John Johnson and Aaron Wood; Aug. 30, Anne Marie Snyder and Lydia Wright; and Aug. 31, Barbara Clarke, Katherine Giltinan, Henry Leef and Thomas Morris.

Please Pass the Cereal: Manna Meal has a desperate need for boxes of cereal to supplement the breakfast offerings. Please contribute what you can by dropping it off at St. John's kitchen or the basket next to the Visitors' Table. Your own breakfast will taste better.

Visitors' Sunday: Sunday, Sept. 10, at 10:30 a.m. will be a special day at St. John's. Parishioners are invited to bring guests to see what a vital church we have and what we have to offer. By tradition, the sermon will explain our Episcopalian beliefs and the order of our services. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone brought someone?

Covenant House Needs: The Clothing Closet, located at St. Mark's United Methodist Church on Washington Street East, hopes for contributions of the following items: men's clothing for restaurant work (white shirts and black pants), men's large shoes, socks and underwear, children's underwear and socks and women's dresses. At the Drop-In Center on Shrewsbury Street: shampoos and postage stamps; and at the Food Pantry, canned soups.

How Covenant House Came To Be

Longtime Charlestonians may remember that a white frame boarding house B the Hudnall house at 1107 Quarrier St. B was where our parking lot is today. And next to that, at 1109 Quarrier St., was the Bibby property, purchased by St. John's in 1972 and leased to Spaulding Opticians.

Thanks to some extensive research through vestry minutes and church bulletins by Janet Morris, church archivist, we are able to trace the history of these two properties.

Through a generous gift, we acquired the Hudnall property in 1968. At first, part of the first floor was used for a youth coffee house (85 attended the first night on July 21, 1968) and our thrift shop, the Opportunity Shop, had its beginning on the remainder of the first floor. Lack of staff caused the closing of the coffee shop in October. In 1971, the Opportunity Shop was given use of the former lawnmower shop at the back of the Hudnall house which was demolished in 1972.

Vestry notes for Jan. 13, 1977, were the first indication of plans for the development of a plan and program of downtown ministry to transient people which would utilize 1109 Quarrier St.

On Aug. 15, 1980, 1109 was recommended as the focal point for a downtown ministry. The Charleston Interdenominational Council on Social Concerns was formed and represented an agreement to the concept of an ecumenical urban ministry in which 17 churches and synagogues were represented.

In October, 1980, the vestry decided to no longer rent 1109 as commercial property. The rear portion of the property was to become an apartment to house the new urban ministers. In November, the Charleston Interdenominational Council named the property Covenant House. The first group to occupy a portion of Covenant House was Kanawha Hospice in December, 1980.

Two sisters of Notre Dame, Barbara Ferraro and Patricia Hussey, were hired in May 1981, as Covenant House's new ministers, to begin their work in late August, 1981. In the meantime, Pat Perlman of Christ Church United Methodist coordinated work of volunteers from March through August of that year. The property was completely renovated and opened Sept. 28, 1981.

West Virginia Health Right was established there in August 1982.

From that beginning, Covenant House grew through Ferraro and Hussey's guidance until in 2001, a new 13,000-square foot facility opened on Shrewsbury Street as a collaborative effort of 35 congregations of various faiths. Programs help more than 30,000 people a year in 32 counties.

People may drop in for a safe place to shower, do laundry, make telephone calls, receive mail, obtain counseling or get emergency assistance with rent, utilities, travel or medicine. For further assistance they are referred to a clothing closet at St. Mark's United Methodist or a food pantry at First Presbyterian Church. As a separate organization, they also are aided by Manna Meal, which was incorporated as a soup kitchen in November, 1978, at St. John's.

After 25 years, co-directors Ferraro and Hussey will be leaving their posts in late 2006 to return to their native New England. Before their departure, they hope to complete a fund-raising campaign, A Renewing the Covenant, to raise \$2.5 million for an endowment fund to combat social injustices.

Today, 1109 Quarrier St. houses the thrift shop, now named The Back Door, and the Charleston AIDS network and formerly hosted the Diocesan Bookstore.

But in retrospect, 1980 should be remembered as the year that St. John's made the historic move to give church property to the Charleston Interdenominational Council for Social Concerns for the establishment of Covenant House.