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## CROSS-EXAMINATION

## Of Baseball Players and Bishops By Carrie Swing

With summer comes the leisure to curl up with a good book. For me this summer, one such book has been the David Maraniss biography of the late Roberto Clemente.

The late who? If you're not from Pittsburgh or a baseball fan, you may not know who Clemente was. Roberto Clemente played 18 seasons for the Pittsburgh Pirates beginning in 1955. He finished his career in 1972 with exactly 3,000 hits. Clemente played on 11 All-Star teams, earned 12 Gold Gloves and four batting championships, and was the National League Most Valuable Player in 1966 and the World Series MVP in 1971.

Those are his numbers. I can tell you from personal experience, from watching Clemente play at Forbes Field or Three Rivers Stadium or by listening on the radio, that he was the best right-fielder who ever played baseball. He regularly threw out runners attempting to score from second base on a deep fly ball. As a hitter, he was universally feared. In fact, Clemente was responsible for ending Don Drysdale's pitching career, after he hit a line drive to center that took the skin off the top of Drysdale's ear. I'm not kidding. Read Maraniss.

Life should have been easy for Roberto Clemente, but it wasn't. Clemente came to baseball as a black Puerto Rican not long after Jackie Robinson broke the Major League color barrier. However, there were two strikes against Clemente: being black and Latino. His heavily accented English was often parodied by sportswriters. When Clemente expressed anger at this, he was criticized even more.

It was partly time and partly Clemente's on-the-field excellence that helped overcome the strikes against him and led to his becoming one of the most revered players in baseball. After he was killed on New Year's Eve 1972 when his plane crashed into the ocean while bringing relief supplies to Nicaraguan earthquake victims, Clemente became only the second player in baseball history to be named to the Hall of Fame without the customary five-year wait.

I write all of the above in the context of our recent General Convention, and particularly in response to the election of Katharine Jefferts Schori as our next Presiding Bishop. Like Clemente, the Rt. Rev. Jefferts Schori is a pioneer. As a pioneer, she could be subject to discrimination, likely from those most afraid of change. (The same could be said about the Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson). Like Clemente, a combination of time and personal excellence will likely overcome the initial prejudice.

Jefferts Schori's job during this time is to do her job excellently. Our job is to pray, not only for those who are the current pioneers in the Anglican Communion, but also for those who are afraid of the change such pioneers represent. That's difficult, but I believe it necessary to eventual reconciliation.

In our present service order at St. John's, the first piece of service music contains the words, "One family with a billion names." Wouldn't it be great if we all really treated each other in a way these words represent, revering one another as a fellow family member while being accepting of the wonderful differences that make us each individuals? It's easy for me when I think of names such as Clemente, Schori, or Robinson. Not easy when I think of other names. But it's necessary. Even when we disagree, we are all one family and all children of God.

The Rev. Dr. Karl D. Ruttan  
The Rev. Elizabeth Hostler  
Brenda Vanderford  
Katherine Gillman  
Bob Westmoreland  
James Wilson  
Greg Clarke  
Lila Ramkey  
Bren Pomponio  
Becky Burns  
Ellen Archibald  
Joe Bolward  
Cheryl Clements  
Diane Hendricks  
Ann Morris  
Bob Swartz  
Michelle Walker  
David Ramkey  
David Ramkey/Becky Burns  
Wanda Dettinger/Rose Smith  
Mary Fitzgerald  
Mary Barkalow/Donna Hamra  
Bob Cochran/Dan McDonald  
Bob Swartz  
Nathan Annet  
Melonie Knorr/Kasey Russell  
Diane Hendricks  
Phyllis Atwood  
Ben Owens  
Bob Swartz/Bob Miller  
Cagier Blundon  
Betsy In Lovd  
Mattha Cole  
Ann Clancey  
Julianne Kemp

# 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.

August 25, 2006, Vol. 46, No. 14

## Sundays September 3 and 10, 2006

### Thirteenth and Fourteenth Sundays after Pentecost

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Visitors= Sunday Sept. 10)**
- 8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library**
- 10:00 a.m. Sept. 10, Tour of Sunday School Classes**
- 10:10 a.m. Chapel for Older Children, Room 225**
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, with choir (Visitors' Sunday Sept. 10)**
- 11:30 a.m. Sept. 3, Coffee Hour, Hunter Hall; Sept 10, church picnic and dedication of Children's Chapel windows and Memorial Garden**

The Collect: *Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.*

**Visitors= Sunday:** As is our tradition, we will observe Visitors= Sunday on Sept. 10. We will have an open house of the Sunday School rooms at 10 a.m. Both services, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., will feature an Introduction to our Worship. After church we will have a church picnic with the dedication of our Children's Chapel windows and the Ann Clancey Cooke Memorial garden. Opportunities to sign up for St. John's ministries will be provided. Come and join us and bring a friend. Bringing a friend to church is the number one way that churches grow!

**Garden Dedication:** Thanks to Zeb Wright and his committee for the great work of re-planting the garden. We will dedicate the garden on Sept. 10 and remember Ann Cooke and those who have donated memorials for the garden. The committee also has proposed that we create a garden area with raised beds and perhaps a statue at the gate near the Quarrier Street door. (This would screen the air conditioning units.) If you would like to do a memorial gift for this project please let us know.

**Centering Prayer:** Two Centering Prayer groups are beginning at St. John's. Centering prayer is the ancient Christian practice of sitting in stillness before God. Each session will have some time of sitting as well as a video presentation by Thomas Keating. Six sessions will be offered as a follow-up to our conference on Aug. 26. All are welcome, even if you were unable to be at the conference. One group will meet on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and another group will meet on Wednesdays at 12:45 p.m. Both will meet in the Molly Warwick room beginning the week of Aug. 28.

**Save the Date:** Our annual parish weekend at Camp Virgil Tate is scheduled for Oct. 6-8.

**The Bread of Life:** Whenever you receive bread at Eucharist, you have parishioner Pat Stevens to thank, as she has been baking this bread for the past 12 years. Pat revealed that she makes three batches at a time, each batch making two big loaves and a small one (their use depending upon the size of the service). AI really enjoy doing it,@ said Pat. AIt=s really an honor. The bread that I=ve made is now the body of Christ and that just blows me away,@ she said. AThe recipe is from an abbey and I have taken some liberties with it, so we now have St. John=s bread.@

**Parking Assistance:** The Vestry has been looking for ways to allow the elderly and handicapped to have parking closer to the church. You may have noticed that on Sunday mornings we put out a sign to reserve an additional handicapped space. Starting in September we also will make arrangements for two additional spaces for the handicapped or elderly. The spaces normally used by the clergy will be available for these purposes on Sunday morning. A sign will designate these places. If you need to park in closer we hope this will assist you.

**WIFFF Luncheon:** One of the most decorated women in American military history will pay a visit to St. John=s Church in a Chautauqua performance Thursday, Sept. 14, at 11:30 a.m. when Women In Faith, Fun and Fellowship resume their monthly luncheon meetings. In a West Virginia Humanities History Alive! presentation, Ruby Bolte will portray Col. Ruby L. Bradley, a native of Spencer, WV, who served in World War II. Denise Giardina will pay tribute to her late mother, Leona Giardina, who served as a WWII nurse. Please make reservations for the luncheon by calling the church office, 346-0359.

**Knitters Welcome:** All who knit --beginner or advanced -- will meet after the WIFFF luncheons on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month beginning Sept. 14. There are a variety of projects that we are doing: 7@ x 9@ knitted rectangles for a blanket for a shelter; mariners= scarves for the men who work on rivers; and the shawls for different needs. All other knitted projects, for any cause, are certainly needed, so bring your project of knit and join our fellowship. If you have any questions call Barb Knight at 346-3610.

**Altar Flowers:** There are two open dates for the September flower calendar, Sept. 17 and 24. If you would like to place flowers in memory or in thanksgiving of someone, please call Carter Blundon, 342-5878, or Brenda Dearien 346-0359.

**Upcoming Birthdays:** Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating birthdays during the next two weeks: Aug. 31, Barbara Clarke, Sept. 1, Chuck Bird and Catherine Korwan; Sept. 2, Anna Barrett, Bailey Knorr and Dan Taylor; Sept. 5, Kent Higgins; Sept. 7, David Cooper and Jesse Lowe; Sept. 8, Lauren Arnett and Mary Knighton; and Sept. 10, Roy Pfeiffer.

**In Memoriam:** We are sad to report that parishioner Billy Smith=s mother, JoAnne Smith, died on July 30, and parishioner Elliott Birkhead=s father, Godfrey M. Birkhead, died on Aug. 2. *May light perpetual shine upon them.*

**Christian Formation Team Update:** The Christian Formation Team is getting back into our post-VBS summer swing. Vacation Bible School=s AFiesta@ was a wonderful time! Kasey Russell did a fantastic job of directing and dozens of volunteers gave countless hours to the effort.

Now it=s time to get ready for **Visitors= Sunday**, Sept. 10. We=re planning to welcome returning families and visitors at an open house on the second floor. We=ll have refreshments and registration in the Mollie Warwick room at 10 a.m. and will welcome visitors to the nursery and classrooms. If you=d like to help, please call Kathie Giltinan at 346-0359, extension 12.

Our August team meeting followed church on Sunday, Aug. 20. We discussed J2A kick-off plans, the next Rite 13 and Parish Weekend. We heard from your new **POINTS** coordinator, Sarah Korwan, about plans for the fall meetings and we set other important dates. Watch the online calendar for upcoming events.

Also at our August CFT meeting, we heard reports from the subcommittees formed at CFT=s workshop on June 10 about all the progress being made on:

**Property and Environment:** Susan Ferguson, Melonie Knorr, and Bonnie Bailey; **Volunteer & Curriculum:** Cheryl Clements and Lisa Cline; **Communication:** Guy Vitaglione, Nathan Arnett and Kathie Giltinan; **Job Description:** Kasey Russell and Bren Pomponio.

In addition to the subcommittees, another development from our June meeting was careful consideration of a request for greater consistency in Sunday school teachers. Our children may benefit from having the same teacher for several Sundays. The teachers benefit from this consistency also, by gaining closer relationships with the children. At the August CFT meeting we introduced a team teaching plan, similar to the VBS teams we=ve used for games, video, food, etc. Under this arrangement we have teams for Godly Play I, Godly Play II, St. John=s Eagles, and Children=s Chapel. Teams are Aon@ for set periods of time such as fall, Advent, and spring and have autonomy to meet and schedule as necessary to accommodate the needs of members and the requirements of their classes.

Thank you to everyone who works so hard to make our children=s programs happen. A special thank-you goes to Nathan Arnett, Nathan has stepped in as our CFT parish leader and does great work on Sundays, at special events and with day-to-day operations. B *Kathie Giltinan*

**Interchange Deadlines:** The next issue of Interchange will be for the weeks of Sept. 17 and 24. Items may be submitted to [julkemp@charter.net](mailto:julkemp@charter.net) or [bdearien@stjohnswv.org](mailto:bdearien@stjohnswv.org) by Tuesday, Sept. 5, at 4 p.m.