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CROSS-EXAMINATION

Thanks from a Grateful New Priest
By The Rev. Kent Higgins

Dear Friends,

My sincere thanks to you for your generous and thoughtful gift of a cloak on the occasion of my ordination to the priesthood. It is truly something I wanted, but which I have hesitated to purchase for myself because, in truth, one needs it infrequently. As David noted, however, there is no substitute for it when one is standing on a windswept hillside or on the church porch. Perhaps I will wear it to my regular office this coming winter, especially if there is lots of snow!

I had not expected to be quite so emotional as I was this past Sunday, but it was a moment of real impact for me to realize that a journey of more than seven years= duration was drawing to a close as I stood before you. Even as I served Ascension Church in Hinton, I remained *your* deacon. This past Sunday morning severed that connection, but it will not break the bond that both Gail and I feel toward St. John=s in general. Please know that I will be happy to assist in any way at any time if the need arises.

Particular thanks to those who served on my discernment committee, to the vestries who signed the recommendations for me to proceed in the ordination process, Karl and Liddy especially (and also to David) who supported me personally and professionally.

You may not appreciate how the influence of St. John=s is felt beyond the walls of the building, but you have been and continue to be a beacon in the church *B* the kind of light that illuminates the gospel in our world. I am privileged to have started my ordained ministry with you, and I look forward to our working together for many years to come.

Peace and blessings!

Kent

The Rev. David R. Hackett
interim rector
The Rev. Elizabeth Hoster
associate rector
Brenda Vanderford
organist/choirmaster
David Morton
assistant organist
Brenda Dearien
parish administrator
Katherine Gillman
Bob Westmoreland
James Wilson
custodian
Greg Clarke >08
vestry
Michelle Walker >08
priest=s warden
Becky Burns >09
people=s warden
Ellen Archibald >09
treasurer
Cynthia Barrett >10
Joe Howard >09
Cheryl Clements >10
Pete Hamrick >09
Diane Hendricks >08
Dan McDonald >10
Ann Morris >08
David Ramkey
Assistant Treasurer
David Ramkey/Becky Burns
Wanda Dettmer/Rose Smith
organists/new members
Beth Marquart
Donna Harney Fitzerald
Bob Cochran/Dan McDonald
Bob Swartz
Nathan Annet
children=s Christian formation
youth staff
Diane Hendricks
Marion Perry
Pete Hamrick
Bar Oweas
Bob Swartz/Rob Miller
Cathy Lundon
Betty Lloyd
Martha Cole
Ann Carcello
Julianne Benson
interchange editor

Saint

Yeeeeeeee-Ha! Take a wild ride through God=s word at Avalanche Ranch and join the Vacation Bible School stampede at St. John=s July 23-27 from 9 a.m. to noon. *Wah-hoo!* We=ve got Prairie Dog Preschool, Sing & Play Stampede, Chuck Wagon Chow, Cowpoke Crafts, Horse Play Games,

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.

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Sundays July 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 2007 Fifth through Ninth Sundays After Pentecost

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**
- 8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion**, library
- 9:30 a.m. Episcopal Church 101**, summer informative sessions on the Episcopal Church, offered by the clergy, Room 109. (See inside for the complete schedule.)
- 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

(Adult Forum and Sunday School classes will resume in September)

Clergy On Call: During the week both of your clergy are available to you for pastoral care. Please call the church office 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: July 6-7 and July 13-14, the Rev. Elizabeth Hoster, 925-3675; and July 20-21 and July 27-28, the Rev. David Hackett, 347-0986.

Interchange Deadlines: The next issue of Interchange will be for the weeks of Aug. 5, 12, 19 and 26. Items may be submitted to bdearien@stjohnswv.org by Tuesday, July 24, 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

Wild Bible Adventures, Wild West Theater -- and a real, live eagle making an appearance. We need to hire-on some help to keep the stampede from running over the edge of the canyon: decorators, people movers, video operators, clean-up help at the end of the week and food servers. If you have a hankering to help all week, terrific! If you can hang around the wagon for a day or two, come on along little doggie! Kathie Giltinan (346-0359, Ex.12), the ranch overseer, is taking names and will fit you to a task that suits your pleasure. Cowpokes between the ages of 3 and 13 are welcome to meet up at the corral. Please call the church office (346-0359, Ex.10) to register your children and feel free to round up your friends for this exciting adventure. Walk-in registrations are welcome on Monday morning, July 23, at 8:30 a.m.

New Manna Meal Director: The Board of Directors of Manna Meal Inc. is pleased to announce that Jean Simpson will become its new executive director. Jean will replace long-time executive director Judy Teel, who will retire July 31. Jean comes to the job with years of experience in the food industry and with a strong commitment to the mission of Manna Meal, which is to feed the hungry. Special recognition honoring Judy Teel=s many years of service will be given at the 10:30 a.m. service on Aug. 5.

Perfect Picnic: Thank you to everyone who made our Memorial Day Picnic a success. Eli Rouse and Brian Hamra managed the grilling with some help from Sue Dust, a Soho chef and friend. The Arnett/Bailey family helped with ice, coolers and set-up duties. The Vitaglione family handled games for the children. Michelle Walker brought recording equipment and set up a listening booth to capture the stories of St. John=s. Michelle also helped set up and helped Cynthia Barrett with clean-up duties. Thanks also to everyone who came and contributed a covered dish.

Karl=s New Position: Our former rector, the Rev. Dr. Karl Ruttan, has been called to be the Dean of the Anglican Academy in Southern Ohio. The Academy includes the School for Deacons and the Southern Ohio Lay Leadership Initiative. This is a half-time position. He starts on July 1. He will continue to be active in the ETS program, along with many other retirement activities. Please keep Karl in your prayers as he begins this new retirement ministry.

Beaucoup Birthdays: Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating birthdays in late June and during July: June 25, Alexander Canfield; June 26, Brian Hamra and Shonda Newsome; June 28, Perry Nassif, 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, Stephen Love IV and Don Tabor; July 7, Landon Palmer; July 8, Neale Blackwood; July 9, Dotty Moore; 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 18, Billy Smith; July 19, Nancy Bird, Georgia Hamra and Carolyn Nelson; July 20, Caitlin Downey; July 21, Timothy Bradford and Sean Jarrell; July 23, Robert Lawson; July 26, Ted Armbrrecht and Tom Burns; July 27, Calvert Armbrrecht and Lora Thompson; July 28, Ardeth Rosengarten and Robert Young; July 29, Wes Blanchard; and July 30, Linda Cooper.

EFM Graduates and Openings: Tim Bradford, Danny Cline, Pat Hammer and Stan Forrest have graduated from the Education for Ministry program, completing the four-year University of the South

lay education curriculum. We have two groups at St. John=s, Thursday afternoon and Wednesday evening, and both groups have openings for the fall. Each group meets weekly for 36 weeks during the year (late August to early June), studying Old Testament the first year, New Testament the second, Church History the third, and Theology the fourth. Open to adults of all religious backgrounds, participants contract for one year at a time. The program is community-oriented and is facilitated by a mentor. The keystone of the curriculum is the Theological Reflection, a way of putting the Bible into current perspective and showing us that we're never alone. Mostly we have lots of fun learning about our relationship with God in community and God's relationship with the community God created. The cost of the program is \$325 for the year. Beth Marquart is the contact for the Thursday afternoon group (382-3109) and Edna Thomas (346-7530) or Beth Hamrick (345-0634) are the contacts for the Wednesday evening group.

Episcopal Church 101 B A Survey: During the summer when the Adult Forum is not meeting, the clergy of the parish are offering an opportunity for adult education which will serve as a "refresher" for long-time members of St. John's and an introduction to the Episcopal Church for newcomers. We will gather in Room 109 at 9:30 a.m. for 10 weeks to discuss the beliefs and practices of this branch of the church. The remaining dates and topics are as follows: July 1, The Holy Scriptures; July 8, Holy Baptism; July 15, Holy Eucharist, followed by an instructed Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.; July 22, The Episcopal Church, Catholic and Reformed; July 29, The Book of Common Prayer; Aug. 5, Issues Before the Church Today; Aug. 12, The Mission and Ministry of St. John=s Church; and Aug. 19, Summary Session.

Rainbow Volunteers: Thanks to all the Saints of John who supported the Covenant House Rainbow Run on June 2. They were everywhere -- walking, running, handing out water, directing traffic and even selling SAGA T-shirts and books. Many of the children from Sunday School also took part, making a banner to carry in the walk. It was a beautiful morning and a lot of fun.

Thanks Sunday School Volunteers: Sundae Sunday was June 10 and we recognized the volunteers who have worked all year for our Christian Formation programs. Many of the 40 people were in church and came forward to get a flower and the thanks of a grateful congregation. Next, we celebrated their gifts of time and talent along with the end of the Sunday school year at an ice cream sundae buffet at coffee hour. Those 40 have made our children=s programs possible because they=ve assisted with nursery duty and events throughout the church school year. Special attention is due some of these teachers and volunteers who have been with the children week after week. They have missed church and spent lots of time in preparation for their classes. Julia Beury and Katherine Paybins have taken the Eagles class from fall to summer. Beth Hamrick and Brenda Vanderford have brought new music and joy to children=s chapel. Every week Sara Walker has prepared lunch and lessons for, as well as given support to, the teenagers of St. John=s. Sally Love has been a regular helper in the Toddler Room and Nathan Arnett has contributed countless hours to CFT as its chairperson and parish liaison, as a teacher and a volunteer for our Saturday events. Warmest thanks to everyone. Our summer schedule for Sunday is in progress. Each week at 10:10 a.m., the nursery and chapel will be open. There will be a short chapel service at 10:30 a.m., followed in the Toddler Room by a lectionary-lesson for all ages. This schedule will continue until Sept.16, Kick-Off Sunday.