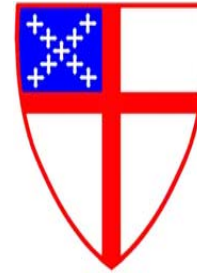


St. Francis of Assisi  
Episcopal Church  
7555 Ooltewah-Georgetown Rd  
Ooltewah, TN 37363  
[www.sfaec.org](http://www.sfaec.org)



*St. Francis of Assisi  
Episcopal Church*



**NEWSLETTER**  
“The Hoot”  
Aug./Sept. 2008

**Find the lost; Heal the broken; Celebrate God’s love for all.**

**BRIEF REMINDERS (see details in The Hoot)**

- **Prayer & Bible Study Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the Episcopal Churchmen of Tennessee, August 15-17, 2008, DuBose Conference Center, Monteagle, Tennessee.**

The St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church newsletter is named “**THE HOOT**” because the name “**Ooltewah**” has been variously interpreted to mean “**Owl’s Creek**” or “**Owl’s Nest.**” In either case, hooting is involved and communication is the result. **THE HOOT** is published occasionally by St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church in order to keep members and other interested persons informed about Church activities. The due date for articles is published in each issue. Please e-mail articles to the church office at [sfaec@comcast.net](mailto:sfaec@comcast.net) or mail to 7555 Ooltewah-Georgetown Rd., Ooltewah, TN 37363.

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The Rt. Rev. Charles G. vonRosenberg, Bishop of East Tennessee

The Rev. Howard Bowlin, Interim Rector – (423) 238-7708

William Barger, Organist & Music director – (423) 894-2309

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Shelia Crane – Treasurer (423) 296-1667

6819 Chiswick Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37421

## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI EPISCOPAL CHURCH WINE TASTING

The next meeting of the St. Francis wine tasting group will be held on Friday, August 1, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the “All Saints Fellowship House”. Since this is part fellowship and part outreach, please feel free to invite friends and neighbors who are not presently communicants of St. Francis.

Participants are requested to bring one hors d’oeuvre to share. The theme will be Rieslings, so the hors d’ oeuvres should be appropriate to lighter wines. There will be a modest fee in the area of \$7 to \$8 per person to cover the cost of the wine

VESTRY		
Class of 2008	Class of 2009	Class of 2010
<b>Lucy Austin</b> (423) 326-2115 Grounds	<b>Lynn Armstrong</b> (706) 937-6926 Outreach & Service	<b>Mike Bowland</b> (423) 238-9365 Building
<b>Stacy Hall</b> (423) 479-8659 Parish Life & Youth Director	<b>Sheila Crane</b> (423) 296-1667 Treasurer	<b>Dexter Cantelou</b> (423) 344-2893 Junior Warden & Communications
<b>Lenora Lee</b> (423) 238-3889 Hospitality	<b>Gordon Moore</b> (423) 499-0347 Evangelism	<b>Tracy Raulston</b> (423) 344-6332 Christian Formation
<b>Maureen Scott</b> (423) 238-6190 Pastoral Care		<b>John Rouser</b> (423) 238-9272 Senior Warden & Worship Coordinator



**DEADLINE for the Next Hoot is September 18th, 2008.**

**Please e-mail articles to either**

**[sfaec@comcast.net](mailto:sfaec@comcast.net) or  
[dexcan@bellsouth.net](mailto:dexcan@bellsouth.net)**

# St. Francis Day ~ Blessing of the Animals

**Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

## Events:

- Petting Zoo
- Parade of animals (2:00)
- Blessing of the animals (2:30)
- Free pet portraits and Free pet medals for your animals
- Free T-shirts, visors and koozies (while supplies last)
- Hamilton County Humane Society Adoption Unit
- Free Pony rides
- “Ask the Vet” – Veterinarian available for pet health advice
- Beekeeper exhibit
- Chattanooga Aquarium program and exhibit
- Companion animal exhibit
- Birds of prey and release of doves
- Animal day care and boarding exhibits
- Blessing of animals that have passed away or are unable to attend



## St. Francis Prayer List

We have short and long-term prayer lists that at times become difficult to manage without having some guidelines to follow. The vestry wants to make sure everyone understands the guidelines that will help the list become more manageable.

The short-term prayer list is intended for those people who have acute illnesses, surgery, or other hospitalization. Their names will be kept on this list for four weeks, or as long as the person who put them on the list continues to request that they remain. Their name will automatically be removed after four weeks unless the church office is notified that the name should remain on the list. To help everyone keep up with when a person’s name is scheduled to be removed, a list will be available in the narthex and website (sfaec.org) in the “Members” section, showing the scheduled removal date for each person on the prayer list.

From the list in the narthex or website, you can request the following changes: add a new name to either list, remove a name from either list, move a name from one list to the other or request that a name be kept on the short term lists for four more weeks.

There is no automatic removal date for the long-term list so please help us by requesting that names be removed when it is no longer necessary that they be included.

+ + + + +

# The Rector's Message

I spent a week in July 2005 at the Washington Island (Wisconsin) Forum with a pastor and scholar named Eugene Peterson. He is probably best known to popular religious audiences as the author of a paraphrase of the Bible that he calls *The Message*. According to his own preface to this book, "This version of the New Testament in a contemporary idiom keeps the language of the Message current and fresh and understandable in the same language in which we do our shopping, talk with our friends, worry about world affairs, and teach our children their table manners. The goal is not to render a word-for-word conversion of Greek into English, but rather to convert the tone, the rhythm, the events, the ideas, into the way we actually think and speak."

In the fifteen years or so that I have been reading Dr. Peterson's book, I have received much joy and "ah ha!" moments. It is not that his version is "liberal" or "inclusive" that moves me. Rather it is that it is fresh and provocative and oftentimes brings me up short in a story that I thought was familiar—perhaps *too* familiar.

Dr. Peterson's presentations at the Washington Island Forum focused on Jesus' leadership in the culture in which he lived, ministered, died, and rose from the dead. Peterson accomplished his goal by comparing and contrasting Jesus with three contemporary (to Jesus) leaders and political/religious movements.

First, from the time of Jesus' birth, Dr. Peterson offered us a study of the life and career of Herod the Great, the ruler who met the Wise Men on their search for Jesus, as well as the religious party of the Pharisees. Herod was a builder of grandiose proportions. His buildings were magnificent but ultimately lifeless and forgotten. The Pharisees made The Law their God. Their religion became horribly burdensome and lifeless.

Jesus, in contrast, sought to bring simplicity and life to his followers.

# LAST CHANCE

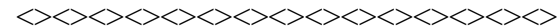
## Episcopal Church Wearables & Usables Sale

We have some items from the Episcopal Media Center still available for those who are looking for a special gift for himself or herself, a family member, or friend.

Left in stock are sweatshirts, tote bags, purse, Teddy bears, dog leashes and collars, and key rings. Items not sold will be returned to the Episcopal Media Center in August.

If you are interested in purchasing any of these items please contact Arline Caliger in church or by telephone. 326-3654

All proceeds are for the (ECW) women's parish ministry...





**Sunday Schedule:**  
**9:00 Christian Formation**  
**10:00 Children's Chapel**

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**Summit Hats – include with any other Outreach articles**

Take your knitting or crocheting with you to doctors' appointments, watching TV, etc. to work on your hat(s) for the children at Summit Headstart. Remember we need approximately 75 hats, and we need to finish many during the summer months.

**“South Pacific” – is a RU55 small group activity**

Our RU55 group has been invited to join the Grace Church RU55 group for a day trip to Cumberland County Playhouse in Crossville on Saturday, September 27, to see the musical “South Pacific”. The cost is \$54 per person which includes transportation, lunch and tickets to the play. Please make reservations by August 1. Contact Betty Morris for more information or to make reservations. Telephone: 238-4684

**St. Francis Knitting/Crocheting “School”**

We have many qualified knitters and crocheters at St. Francis. Interest has been expressed in meeting in the evening (maybe once a month?) for beginners to learn the basics and others to advance their skills in one or both of these handcrafts. A side benefit – it would be a fun social time in addition to the “learning”.

Please call Betty Morris 9238-4684 or Ellen Hartsfield (344-8897) if you are interested.

Then, from the time of Jesus' death, Peterson reviewed with us the life and work of Caiaphas, the High Priest who presided at Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin and later at the trial of Peter as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. His was a religious rule of corruption and personal gain, empty and lifeless in its rejection of the common person. From the same period, Peterson spoke about the religious sect of the Essenes, a group that withdrew from the rest of society and lived in communes apart from everyone else who didn't share their rather individualistic view of God.

Jesus, in contrast, ate, drank, and associated closely with “sinners” and all those on the margin of society: tax collectors, prostitutes, all those whom society rejected.

Finally, from the time of the “resurrection community” that emerged following Jesus' resurrection and ascension, Dr. Peterson offered us Josephus, a Jew by birth who betrayed his own people to the Roman Empire and died as an “adopted” Roman. The religious/political group associated in this part of the presentation was the Zealots. This was a sect within Judaism who sought the violent overthrow of Roman rule in Palestine. That was the key word in this lecture: “violence.”

Jesus, in contrast, voiced a message of peace: “Blessed are the peace makers, for they will be called children of God,” or, in Peterson's translation: “You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family.”

As interesting as Dr. Peterson's lectures were (and the above synopsis does not do them justice), perhaps the most intriguing thing he said was an offhand response to a question from the audience. Peterson replied, “Jesus said, ‘Follow me.’ When we follow Jesus, *we end up where Jesus wants to go, not where we want to go.* They are rarely the same place.”

Faithfully yours,

Howard Bowlin  
 Interim Rector

## St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church

### Rector Search Committee

The search committee met Tuesday night, July 1<sup>st</sup>, and after much discussion, we made several decisions regarding the content, the timing, cost, and other particulars surrounding the upcoming parish survey. Relevant decisions include:

- Using a very attractive vendor, Holy Cow, as our survey instrument designer and results tabulator
- Designing a plan to inform our parish about the importance of taking the survey
- Asking parishioners 16 years old and older to take the survey, either at home or at church
- Planning for computer availability at the church and assistance for those parishioners unfamiliar with computer techniques
- Preparing a timeline for the survey, and
- Making editorial changes to the standard survey format in order to accommodate our particular needs.

Thanks go out to Gordon Moore and his sub-committee, including Ellen Hartsfield and Lenora Lee, for their preparation work on the survey plans. Thanks also to David Rose for taking the lead on managing the parish access to the survey and the computers that will be available for parish use.

Here are some particulars:

1. The survey will be available beginning on Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup> and continuing through the month of September, closing on Tuesday, September 30.
2. Parishioners are encouraged to go to the church website ([www.sfaec.org](http://www.sfaec.org)) and take the survey; it will be automatically tabulated and is anonymous unless the parishioner wants to attach a name to the survey.

## All Saints Cabin Gets Face Lift

Recently the vestry decided that All Saints Cabin needed some interior improvements to make it more inviting for our new interim



rector and a user-friendlier environment for meetings and events. As normal when the vestry makes a decision they back it up and this was no exception. Stacy Hall coordinated the project and contacted Judy Taylor to advise on interior decorating. Shelia Crane donated a

dishwasher, refrigerator, television, dining table and other furnishings. Mike Bowland and Bill Allen installed the dishwasher, refrigerator and reinforced the new kitchen island. Lenora Lee made two financial donations toward kitchen upgrades and furnishings. New kitchen countertops were contracted out by Mike Bowland and installed along with a new kitchen island. Mike also installed a new gas log and reshaped the back yard to divert water from the house. The kitchen cabinets were painted to lighten the dark kitchen area. A cleaning and painting crew consisting of Stacy Hall, Dentzel and Kathy Landstreet, Lynn Armstrong, Sheila Crane, Pat Allen, John and Gerry Rouser and Lenora Lee cleaned the entire cabin. Thanks to the efforts of all these parishioners the cabin is now a warm and inviting place for everyone to enjoy





## From the Library shelf...

### "The Last Laugh"

By Gail Peterson & John Trotta

CAT# 808.88 LAS

It is a fact – life, as we know it ends in death. You cannot beat it but you can have the last word in the afterlife by writing your epitaph in this life. The authors, in *The Last Laugh*, have disinterred epitaphs from various parts of the world. Some are cryptic while others tell the story of a life.

#### Found in Maryland:

Elizabeth Scott lies buried here,  
She was born November 20<sup>th</sup> 1785,  
according to the best of her recollection.

#### Found in New London County, Conn:

Four graves carry the following notes beneath each name of the deceased:  
My I wife.  
My II wife.  
My III wife.

In the center of these four graves is a grave marked:  
Our husband.

#### Found in Eastport, Maine on a gardener's grave: Transplanted

#### Found in All Saint's Churchyard, Newcastle, England:

Here lies Robert Wallace, Clerk of All Hallows,  
King of good fellows, And maker of bellows.  
He bellows did make Till the day of death,  
But he that made bellows Could never make breath.

#### Found in Block Island, N.Y., a tribute to a fisherman:

He's done a-catching cod And gone to meet his God.

As samples depict it is better if you have the last word. Try writing your own epitaph, then have a friend, wife, husband or other family members write what they would etch on your tombstone. This can be an interesting and learning exercise. Take all in good spirit, as we will later. Enjoy...

**Your Library Committee**

3. Survey time required: approximately 30 minutes.
4. Hard copies of the survey will be available for those reluctant to use a computer, but by far the most helpful way to take the survey is via the church website, as any hard copy survey results must be hand entered by a volunteer.

PLEASE NOTE: this survey will be our primary avenue of collecting data about who we are and what our hopes and dreams for St. Francis are, now that we know they include finding a new rector to lead us into further ministry together. Acknowledging that taking surveys is not popular, it is critical to note that the more data we collect on our parish, the more likely we are to find the very best person to be our leader. Please resolve to take the survey faithfully and on time.

In the meantime, the search committee will see that every avenue of information will be utilized to get the word out about the survey and how to take it. Further, the search committee will spend the rest of the summer weeks before initiating the survey August 31<sup>st</sup> working on getting financial data from the vestry, preparing to make computers available for the survey takers, and getting our search request formatted and complete before we go to the national church office with it.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. You can help us by continuing to pray for our plans and deliberations. Our energy remains high, and we have good leadership in Stephen Askew from the Diocesan Office. We are committed to seeking God's will in this process and working toward completion in a deeply meaningful way. Thank you for your partnership with us in this process.

For the search committee,

Curtis Baggett



I hope everyone has enjoyed the alternative Eucharistic Prayers we have been using this summer as much as I have. I know you are shocked to hear this from me since I am such a traditionalist. One word that has caught my attention in both prayers is the use of the word “friends” when mentioning the disciples at the last supper. I have never given this much thought because too many times I think

only of the fully divine Christ and not the fully human Christ so I never imagined him having friends. This has been such a fun idea to ponder and the first thought I had was an experience from last fall.

As most of you know, Gerry and I accompanied the Ooltewah High School Marching Band to NY last Thanksgiving to march in the Macy’s parade. To reward the seniors for four years of dedication and hard work the boosters paid for the senior’s to have dinner at Sardi’s on Tuesday night. Sardi’s is one of NY most famous restaurants and they have signed caricatures hanging on the walls of all the famous people that have been there to eat. Well here we were this group from Ooltewah, TN sitting in the middle of the theater district in NY having dinner. The seniors were divided into two tables and the adults were seated at a third. I remember looking up during dinner and watching the table where Jacob was sitting. These 12 young adults were having the time of their lives. Joking and laughing and just enjoying one another’s company after 4 years of hard work. I thought to myself then and I still think it, this is the type of memory that will bring a smile to their face long into the future.

Now this brings me to another dinner table 2000 plus years ago, when a group of friends gathered around a table. I feel sure they were full of good spirits and laughter after their successful arrival into the city. At the time only Jesus knew what the next few days would hold, but I do imagine the first half of the dinner was a celebration of their hard work over the past couple of years. We celebrate a reminder of that supper every Sunday; although, as Paul Harvey used to say we know the rest of the story. So let’s not come to the table sad for the death, but rather happy for the resurrection and truly offer a “sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving”.

I am thankful for all my friends at St. Francis and enjoy all the meals we share together from Bread and Wine to BBQ and Fish (it should have been chicken). I also ask each of you to bring a new friend to St. Francis so that we can share with them the joy found at the table of our Lord and Savior.

Yours in Christ,

John R. Rouser  
Sr. Warden



## **Notes From the Music Desk**

by Bill Barger

### **We’re Off!**

Well, not quite yet, but we are going to be off to St. Barnabas Nursing Home sometime in the earlyfall. The “we” in this case, of course, is our St. Francis Choir. And, although some of you may think that we need to check into St. Barnabas, we are actually going there with the choir from St. Thaddaeus Episcopal Church to present a music program for the St. Barnabas residents. Then the combined choir will present special music at both churches. This special music will be presented at St. Francis on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Thaddaeus on the feast of St. Thaddaeus. (Both of these Sundays are in October.) In between now and this next really special musical happening, the choir will continue to offer special music every now and again at the 10:00 o’clock service.

If you like to sing, you should join us. You do not have to read music or know anything special – you only need to enjoy singing. The choir rehearses every Tuesday evening at 7:15 PM. Besides learning the music we are working on, we are also spending a little time at each rehearsal learning about topics that include singing better, the history of Christian Church Music in general and Anglican and Episcopalian church music in particular, how service music is used in the Liturgy, and other topics of interest. We would be delighted to have you join us. See me or any choir member for details, or to have your questions answered.

