

Diocese of the Central States News

Issue 1: Ascensiontide 2012



News from The Church of the Redeemer, Wilson, NC

By Fr. Paul Edgerton

In February Fr. Paul Edgerton of The Church of the Redeemer, an extension work in Wilson, NC, was given opportunity to teach at a large worship conference in Virginia Beach. The annual worship conference hosted by Keith and Michele Duncan of HisCall Ministries gathers some thousand or more worshipers, pastors, and worship leaders from a wide range of charismatic churches. Keynote speakers this year included Dr. Mark Rutland, current President of Oral Roberts University, and Don Potter, a worship writer known for his work with Morningstar in Charlotte, NC.

The conference has never extended an invitation to an Anglican minister or a priest of any historic tradition, but the hosts were interested in material Fr. Edgerton has put together for his thesis work at the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies and interested as well in bringing a more diverse perspective to the conference. Fr. Edgerton was assisted by the pianist of the Church of the Redeemer, Tyler Crocker. Four breakout sessions were taught by the team addressing topics such as *Lectio Divina*, the relationship of congregational singing to the Scriptures, chanting the psalms, and enriching the language of "free praise" in the charismatic tradition. The sessions were very enthusiastically received as many participants were interested in the convergence of charismatic worship with the riches of the ancient Church. Those who attended the sessions were given suggestions for resources to further this interest - including Anglican resources and the prayer book, and many bought CDs of the sessions to bring back for their churches. CDs remain available for purchase through Redeemer. Though there were some looks of confusion as some entered the lecture room expecting anything but a guy in a collar, a spirit of truly Christian ecumenism prevailed throughout the weekend. Don Potter, known for his pioneering work in spontaneous and prophetic worship quite distinct from much in our own tradition commented to Fr. Edgerton, "You've got your finger on the historic Church traditions that are so rich, that we need so much."

Though the conference is shifting from a large annual event to smaller, regional events next year, Fr. Edgerton has been told that his name is on the "short list" of speakers for upcoming events. We at The Church of the Redeemer are thankful to God that some part of what we are experiencing of his grace here in such a small extension work can be impactful of the wider Church, even well beyond our own Anglican tradition.

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Diocese of the Central States

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Episcopal Visit Schedule

May

5, 6 — All Saints, Raleigh, NC and St. Andrew's, Asheboro, NC (Sunday evening)

18, 19 — Trinity, Evansville, IN

27 — Pentecost

June

2, 3 — (Trinity) Holy Trinity, Fairfax, VA

4-10 — ACNA College of Bishops, Ridgecrest, NC

A Note from the Bishop

I would like to thank Dss. Teresa Johnson for editing this newsletter and encourage all of our churches to send in pictures and articles. You may email information to Dss. Teresa at trjohnsn@gmail.com.

See page 6 for a notice about Synod.

News from The Church of the Redeemer (Cont.)



Palm Sunday saw The Church of the Redeemer in new worship space in Wilson, North Carolina. The current facility comfortably seats sixty worshipers in 1425 square feet of commercial space beautifully adapted for worship use. Three weeks of scrubbing and painting, building a platform, and preparing the sanctuary for worship were rewarded as the congregation processed into the building with palms, dedicating their use of it to the worship of the Lord.

The Reformed Episcopal mission in Wilson was founded in the fall of 2008 when Fr. Paul Edgerton was ordained and his wife and two others confirmed by Bishop Morse. The mission has remained very small but fiercely dedicated to the vision of worship and discipleship they had received from the Lord. In 2011 Redeemer began to see its first growth, with three confirmed and one received. It was not until Christmas of that year that the tiny office space they were renting began to feel crowded. By March it was clear that a move had to happen, and quickly! In prayer several members discerned that we were to move by Easter, a task that seemed impossible. One of our intercessors reminded us of the impression she had received from the Lord at Easter 2011: that we would not have another Easter service in the office building and that my father (at that time not attending Redeemer) would be key to the transition to new space. We knew that the Lord was up to something we would not be able to accomplish on our own.

Dan Edgerton, the father of Father Paul who had recently joined the church along with his wife, indeed took the lead to make contacts with realtors and renters and to negotiate lease terms. By March 10 we had found the new property, negotiated

excellent terms, and begun the transition. It was a wonderful bonding experience for our congregation to work and rush to get everything prepared and an absolute shock when we realized that all would be ready by Palm Sunday except for the cross above the altar. Holy Week services in the new building were solemn and wonderful. Easter Sunday was joyous in the extreme. Above the altar that morning was a cross constructed by church members bearing a statue of our risen Redeemer.



The congregation averages over twenty for Sunday worship now, modest by most standards but far more than the five to eight we averaged for years. By the time of our episcopal visit in August we plan to have five or six prepared for Confirmation. We are thrilled with the building and at the way that the church is taking root but thrilled all the more for the vibrant presence of the Lord with us as we worship and work together.

We have witnessed several physical healings in answer to prayer in our services recently and continue to see folks drawing closer to the Lord through the Word, sacraments, and discipleship.



News from Christ Our Hope Church, Westpoint, TN

By Daniel Freemon, Junior Warden

Christ Our Hope Church in Westpoint Tennessee celebrated Easter Week with solemn reverence and gay festivity. The message of the 2012 Easter season will be with us daily throughout the coming year.

As a prelude to the Easter Season the membership kept a Lenten rule and fast suggested by Rector Franklin Sanders. This went a long way toward helping the individual members to anticipate and participate in the Easter feast.



The Easter Week actually began for our church the Saturday before Palm Sunday with a 24-hour fast and prayer session. The fast aimed to help our church leadership with serious issues facing Christ Our Hope Church: developing Eight Oaks Lodge (a gift to the church in late 2009), a school, and church growth. How do we best develop the lodge for the benefit of our Church and Christ's Kingdom? Additionally, we have been trying for some time to establish a church school, both for church members and the community. Lastly, the church has been struggling with church growth and how best to bring the Christ's love to our rural community. For 24 hours volunteers prayed in hourly session over these issues while all the rest of the church fasted. After Holy Communion, we broke our fast with a Saturday night, leaving us ready to enjoy Holy Week beginning the next day, Palm Sunday.

Palm Sunday's Service was especially delightful because of Brian Garrett Bankston II and his

parents, Brian and Annmarie. Because Brian's key line ploughing keeps them travelling around the country, they have not stayed in their native Arkansas long enough to establish a church home, so they asked Christ Our Hope to baptize little Garrett. Palm Sunday's sanctity was sweetened by Garrett's solemn and joyful baptism.



The remainder of Easter Week was celebrated with Morning Prayer at 7:30 a.m. and Holy Communion at 6:00 p.m. daily. On Maundy Thursday we witnessed the rector washing feet – three pairs, at least -- even as Jesus had, followed by Holy Communion. After communion on Good Friday the Altar was stripped to prepare for Easter.

We celebrated Easter even with the Great Vigil of Easter at 8:00 p.m., led by our diocesan bishop, the Right Reverend Dan Morse.



Of all the services held annually at Christ Our Hope, the Great Vigil of Easter is my favorite. After sundown the congregation gathers on the porch before the entrance and announces that the King of Glory is coming in. Before entering, we made sure that we chase away the devil whose gravelly voice can be heard from inside. The congregation throws open the doors, enters the sanctuary in darkness and takes their places. Once the New Light of Christ is kindled at the back, middle, and front of the church everyone presses to the nearest candle to light individual candles and returns to their seats, carrying the New Light of Christ from the Church into the world. This is followed by the exultant *Exultet* proclaim Easter's arrival, many readings recounting our God's saving deeds throughout history, and Holy Communion.

We got to the point on Easter Sunday where the bishop was again to celebrate Holy Communion and Easter with us. In addition to our regular service, the congregation was treated to a rendition of, "By the Mark" by Justin and Ellen Sanders accompanied by Justin on the guitar.



We were also blessed by the presence of many guests for the Easter Service. After the service everyone attended a fellowship dinner which could only be called a feast that included roast lamb, roast prime rib of beef, turkey with mushrooms, roasted ham, just to mention the meats as well as many vegetable casserole dishes, salads, sweets of every nature or diet to such an extent that it would have been practically impossible for

someone not to have found their favorite dish among the items available. All the adults having been adequately sedated by indulgence in this delicious meal, the younger members of the congregation were left free to enjoy their annual Easter Egg Hunts. For in number, with various levels of difficulty assuring that even the youngest member of our church family obtained Easter treasures galore.

The location of Christ of Hope Church is not one that you would stumble across while cruising the interstate highway system. However, like many of the hidden treasures in this country it is worth seeking out. We encourage anyone in the area of Lawrence County, Wayne County Tennessee or anyone coming through southern middle Tennessee to visit our church. Especially on days of fellowship dinners, which are generally the first Sunday of each month and every Wednesday after the Wednesday service. You will find a church grounded in Anglican Traditions and values in worship service grounded in scripture.

This indeed was our best Easter yet - until next year.

Christ Our Hope meets for worship at 8391 Ella Gallaher Road, Westpoint, Tennessee. Please call (931) 724-2214 for directions.

For more information, visit the parish website at <http://christourhoperec.com/>



Mothering Cliff Notes

By Liberty Sanders Bain

My daughter Liberty has four sons, and her friend in Memphis also has four boys. Together they write an Internet blog, "16 Balls in the Air." Her recent effort described so well the real duty in raising boys or girls that I want to share it with y'all. – Franklin Sanders

You know those little yellow and black striped books you can buy to summarize just about any classic, Cliff Notes? What if you'd gotten the Cliff Notes on classic loving mothering? A way to keep necessary lessons close as you began your journey on the sea of mamma-hood.

I've been irascible lately. I want to blame it on the end of a long winter. But we didn't have one. I could blame it on my husband's six day business trip, though I'm positive it started before he left on a jet plane.

The most obvious example is my instruction giving routine. It goes from kind and encouraging to shrill and demanding in less than 60 seconds. These are my harshest, most graceless and un-evolved mothering moments. There's no way to convey the remorseful regret that follows every time the drill sergeant in me emerges, as if I had studied and reviewed my dog-eared mothering guide, but all the pertinent information had evaporated at the crucial moment.

So I've been thinking about Cliff's Notes. What if I could make a useful summary to remind me that my most important job is to *love* and recall *Who* I'm working for.

A paraphrase of some original instructions sprang to mind:

- *When they were hungry*, you made another quesadilla and cut it up into the shape not specified the first time and you didn't grit your teeth or tell them to eat the original misshapen one anyway.
- *When they were thirsty*, you provided four different drinks in four specific cups to each one with a smile.
- When they acted like strangers, monkeys, cowboys, aliens and anything other than a resident of earth, you encouraged their imagination and you welcomed them home with open arms.

- *When they were naked* and couldn't find their favorite jeans or had a melt down because their socks felt funny, you remembered that little details to you are big deals to them and that your own closet is strewn with clothes you didn't like at the last minute either.
- *When they were sick*, you rose without a hint of frustration, ran a warm bath for the ailing one, grabbed a vomit bucket or helped them gag meds down.
- *When they were in the prison* of mean, hurtful and selfish behavior, you exhaled and reminded them nothing they did could ever make you stop loving them.

I'm not claiming to be magically back into the land of even-keeled mothering, but the Cliff's Notes are helping. My self-made study guide is helping when the inevitable moments of forgetfulness arise.

Back to the *Original* classic mothering instructions: *Whatever you do for the least of these.*



New Pro-Life Website Saves Lives, Offers Hope to Struggling Women

What have millions of pro-life Americans accomplished over the past 40 years? Virtually nothing. While countless numbers of pro-life organizations have been working to put an end to abortion, the abortion rate in the United States has only increased since the passage of Roe v. Wade. In 2010 alone, over one million unborn babies were aborted. And next year, just like the last, over one million unborn babies will fall victim to the same fate as the nearly 50 million aborted unborn babies of the past half-century.

But that won't stop some pro-life Americans from getting creative when trying to prevent abortions from happening.

One Sonogram (onesonogram.com) was started by two college students working from their dorm room. Armed with a vision to finally see abortions cease, they built an organization that might just prove the key to ending abortion for good.

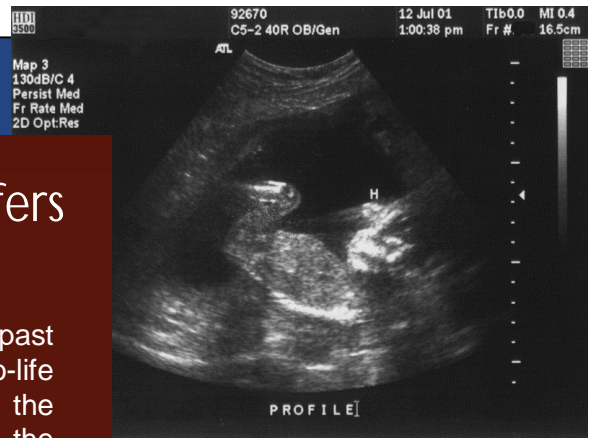
One Sonogram is a website that allows individuals to make a lasting, tangible difference in the lives of women struggling with unplanned pregnancies through the gifting of sonograms. Studies have shown that up to 90% of abortion-minded women who see a sonogram of their baby choose life. There is no better way to make a difference for the pro-life movement.

The website gives those passionate about stopping abortion many different ways to contribute. Among the most popular way is the "\$100 t-shirt"—the costs of which cover the cost of one sonogram for a woman who otherwise could not afford one.

"One Sonogram is the most innovative approach to stopping abortion," says Bonnie Schaeffer, director of the Alpha Omega Center—a pregnancy resource center in Slippery Rock, PA. One Sonogram is also unique in that it is non-partisan and has no political agenda. Reaching out to pro-choice and pro-life Americans alike, they have gained a huge following of those who simply want to see the abortion rate decrease. In just their first two months of existence, One Sonogram has seen their Facebook page attract over 7,100 fans, and they received numerous donations from individuals all around the country.

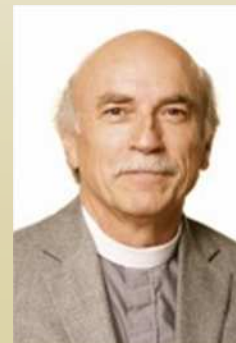
"We want to end abortion," says Gret Glycer, co-founder of One Sonogram. "By reaching out to women who are struggling with unplanned pregnancies, we believe we can make a huge difference and saves thousands—even millions—of lives."

For more information, visit their website at <http://onesonogram.com>.



Diocesan Synod

The Diocese of the Central States will meet Oct. 25, 26 in Shalimar, FL near Ft. Walton at Church of the Resurrection. Special thanks to the Vestry and Rector, the Rev. Frank Gough. The preacher for our opening worship and Holy Communion will be the Rev. Dr. Jerry Smith, Rector of St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, Nashville, TN, and the Most Rev. Leonard Riches will be there to give his greetings to the diocese as a full diocese in the REC.



The Rev. Dr. Jerry Smith