



Love

A Magazine for
the Members of
Holy Comforter
Episcopal Church
and their Community

FALL 2022



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by Mtr. Beth†

3,2,1...AND WE HAVE LIFTOFF!

Well, this summer our vacation time was quite different. We spent the first part of our time “away” packing up and moving our son Matthew to Kansas City, Missouri. It is a joyful time for him, and we support his move 100 percent.

The empty nest, however, is going to become a new normal for Father Stephen and myself. Change is difficult and even good change can be hard to accept.

This move got me thinking about how sometimes parents talk about their children and their “Failure to Launch.” In Florida, especially, we understand the term “failure to launch” in a much more practical or scientific way as we have waited and watched for the “Go” or “No Go” of various rocket launches. To be honest, I never thought much about rockets until we moved to Central Florida and heard talk about the Space Coast and Cape Canaveral.

As a Canadian, my only knowledge about astronauts and outer space involved some national pride over the invention of the Canadarm and Commander Chris Hadfield. My knowledge of Commander Hadfield’s career was limited to watching some YouTube videos of his time on the International Space Station including him singing “Commander Tom” while being

accompanied by the Toronto band, *Bare Naked Ladies*.

It always amazes me how God manages to use little signs to direct my attention. Suddenly I am seeing rockets and outer space everywhere. This July while we were driving home from Kansas City, we stopped



(at right)
Fr. Stephen, Matthew and
Mother Beth enjoying a
family moment on the trip
to Kansas City.

at the Alabama Welcome Center and were intrigued by the sight of a huge rocket parked by the highway. I searched for a sign of explanation but there was no indication about why

this rocket was there. As we drove along, I noticed pictures of rockets on many billboards and other advertisements. The final clue was a sign, “Launch your Career in Huntsville, Alabama.” This sent me on a search for more details. I love discovering new information and was pleased to read that Huntsville, Alabama, is known as “Rocket City” because of its impact and influence in the building of rockets and its contributions to NASA and the space industry.

Ironically or maybe coincidentally last Christmas, Matthew bought me the book titled. “An Astronaut’s Guide to Life on Earth” authored by Commander (then Colonel) Chris Hadfield.

You add to this strange list of connections

the newly observed pictures (posted online) from the James Webb Space Telescope and I cannot help but think that God is trying to say something.

So what would that be exactly? How can astronauts, rockets and outer space be a relevant message for us at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church as we approach Fall 2022?

In his book, Commander Hadfield, talks about his process of becoming an astronaut. He mentions “I wasn’t destined to be an astronaut. I had to turn myself into one.” This got my attention. I was thinking about how we as Christians sometimes get trapped into the thought that God makes us Christians and that is the end of it.

And for sure God is the one who loves and accepts us. God is the one who forgives our sins and extends grace to us. And yet there are still things for us to do in partnership with God. We have to choose to follow Christ. We have to decide each day that we are going to make decisions based on this new life.

Commander Hadfield’s comment made me think about how we turn ourselves into disciples of Christ. We exercise and practice the gifts that God has given us and in so doing become better at walking out



Many thanks to
Fr. Jim May who
served as our
supply priest while
Mtr. Beth was on
vacation in July.

the practice of Loving God and Loving our Neighbor.

In reading his story, I also realized that like becoming a Christian, becoming an Astronaut was not as simple as a name change. It is a process. We are saints in the making, if you will, and that process begins when we accept the name of Christian. Chris Hadfield’s life began to change as he accepted the call to become an Astronaut and yet he admits, “But the most important thing you need to change? Your mind. You need to learn to think like an astronaut”.

Certainly, this is true in the church too. If we want to grow as Christians we need to learn to think like disciples of Christ. We hear in Romans 12, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is - his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

As we approach the fall and various ministries restart, I would like to encourage you to prepare for launch. Please continue to join us for Sunday services. Consider in what other ways you might prepare yourself and transform your mind. Join us online for Morning Prayer or midweek Bible Study, or Wednesday service. Seek out new ways to practice becoming more and more like Christ through the various opportunities for service in the community or service to the community.

While we prepare to make way for a new Rector, we continue to hone and develop our gifts and talents. Together we make up the Body of Christ and each of us has an important contribution to make to the

(cont’d on p.31)

(at left) Commander
Hadfield’s historic guitar
solo in space. Photo
courtesy of NASA.



by **Julianne Chester**
Director of Children &
Families Ministry

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022

Discovery Adventure Island

Arise! Shine! Your light has come: the Lord's Glory has shown upon you! (Isaiah 60:1)

A. Janice Mazza and Joy Green were the Bible story leaders for VBS
B. Volunteers Corinne Johnston and Patricia Trom enjoy games and activities with the children
C. Julianne Chester, director of Children & Family Ministry, telling a story
D. Decorating for VBS - (top to bottom) Lisa Peerson, Elley Hall, Laurel and Pat Hall.
E. Our dedicated group of VBS volunteers
F. The children loved creating craft masterpieces

Background photo: The nave and narthex were creatively transformed by our volunteers into a tropical adventure island

For five days our adventurous island explorers searched for lanterns to light the path to the lighthouse on Adventure Island. Along the way they learned how God is the light of the world and His love shines in their lives and through them. They discovered the lanterns of joy, hope, faith, trust and love.

Beacon the puffin puppet, and the Lighthouse Professor started and ended each day with lively assemblies. Bible stories came to life with fun activities and many props including a burning bush! The mad scientist and his able assistant amazed the crew with a variety of experiments including pendulums, volcanos, lava lamps, and exploding bottle rockets.

Weaving, molding, cutting, coloring, and bejeweling were just a few of the craft-making skills used to create puppets,

lizards, fish and lighthouses. Jenga, limbo, balloons, puzzles, and chalk drawings were a few of the recreation activities.

Snacks? You bet! Popcorn, cupcakes, and ice cream sundaes were a few of the hits enjoyed while engaging in the day's theme song and motions.

The island theme peaked with monkeys climbing palm trees and schools of fish swimming in the stairwell. It took months of planning and weeks of construction, but wow, how it came to life! Several dozen volunteers did everything from assembling craft packets, preparing snacks, teaching and leading activities to decorating and assisting in all manner of things.

Thanks to the many people who gave of their time, talent and treasures to create an unforgettable week of praising God and sharing the good news to 29 children and youth.



A



B



C



D



E



F



by **Jeanie Beyer**
Deacon

Opportunities to Serve



I have always loved the fall. Coming from the Midwest, we looked forward to the crispy fall mornings, the changing colors of the leaves, new sweaters, and the starting of school and fall sports. It always felt like new beginnings to me.

Reading this issue of the *Dove* energizes me as I read of the many opportunities for us to serve God, the world and each other. These opportunities make me think of new beginnings.

God has given each of us gifts. He has called each of us, gifted us and empowered us to use these gifts in service to Him and others. Do you question what you have to offer?

The apostle Paul tells us: “There are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit: there are a variety of services, but the same Lord: and there are a variety of activities, but it is the same God that activates all of them in everyone.” (1 Corinthians 12:4).

God has given each of us at least one gift and will give us the Grace to use our gift for ministry.

Please read the articles about our ministries and pray about what you feel called to do. The Chairperson of each group will be glad to talk to you about the ministry. Mother Beth and I are also available to help you begin to discern what might be your spiritual gifts.

When I talk to future deacons as they begin to explore ordained ministry, I encourage them to try on as many hats as possible to see what kind of ministry makes their heart sing. I would encourage each of us to do the same thing.

If you are curious about the Food Pantry, come and volunteer one Saturday. If you think being in the choir might be a fit for you, talk to John-Mark, our music director, and come observe a choir practice. Curious about what happens at Grace Mission? The Women’s Group will be making a visit to Grace Mission in September to become acquainted with servant opportunities there. Please tag along. If you love meeting people, maybe becoming a Greeter at services is a place for you.

Take a risk and try something new. God will give you what you need. When we serve, we become more the person God intends for us to be. We meet new people, and we have fun.

The most important thing about serving is that when we offer our gifts and use them even to minister to someone who is viewed as unimportant or forgotten, we are ministering to Jesus, Himself (*paraphrase of Matthew 25*).



Holy Comforter Ministries

We Want You and Your Talents with Us

The focus of this issue of our *DOVE* magazine is ministry, or more specifically, our church ministries. Even more to the point, our personal involvement in church ministries.

I suggest that a basic working definition of ministry is service to others to meet someone’s needs. These needs can be spiritual, physical, or emotional. These needs can be within our Holy Comforter family, our local community, or our world.

So, how does ministry look at Holy Comforter? In this issue, we will present the variety of ministries that our church currently supports. Some have taken a hiatus due to the pandemic. These ministries may need new leadership to restart.

Traditionally, at the start of the new school year, the church designates a Sunday to hold a “ministry fair” after service. At this time, each ministry made a display to explain its purpose and activities to attract parishioners to join and participate. Some years this display could remind one of a middle school science fair! After several iterations our last Ministry Fair in 2019 featured opportunities to sign up in the Parish Hall and to enjoy a lovely luncheon.

Unfortunately, during COVID we could not gather. Some ministries continued while taking precautions because the needs were so great. Our Food Pantry kept helping to provide weekly assistance to those facing food insecurity in our community. Other ministries were put on hold or attempted to meet through Zoom. How we all missed those Buck Breakfasts!



by **Frances Fincham**
Editor

Although COVID is still with us and probably will be for the foreseeable future, many parishioners feel safe enough to resume some normal activities, with precautions.

I encourage you to read the next few pages in which the Vestry has provided information about the variety of ministries at Holy Comforter. Keep in mind that some ministries are opportunities to gather and others are opportunities to serve. How are you comfortable gathering and how can you best serve? Prayerfully consider your choices.

There is something about the onset of a new school year that instills a willingness to make a fresh start with new commitments and great expectations. As an elementary school teacher, I would inevitably get caught up in this excitement, and I loved it! I hope that you are excited about new opportunities and will join with enthusiasm.



Holy Comforter Ministries

We Want You and Your Talents With Us!

CHURCH CARE

This group of committees deals with the Church's physical site maintenance, beautification, and security.

The **Building and Grounds Ministry** maintains a safe and suitable facility for worship and parish events, with an emphasis on maintaining, repairing and replacement projects. This year a new roof was constructed by volunteers over the Administration Building front door. Another is slated for the Children's Education Center by fall. The new front doors of the church are being painted and readied for installation.



Maintaining the labyrinth and vegetable garden is the responsibility of the **Garden Guild**. Vegetables from the garden are shared through the food pantry. Plants, wildlife, and pollinator-friendly trees and flowers are featured in the church landscape. If you have a green thumb and like to get dirty, this guild is for you! Already this year they have had an early spring workday to cleanup, prune and mulch the labyrinth beds.

The **Creation Care Ministry** gathers to celebrate and advocate for God's gift of creation. It monitors and implements conservation and sustainability practices in the church building and on church property.

The **Safety and Security Committee** assesses and develops programs for safety and security at the church facilities. It also coordinates training of staff and ushers on the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED), basic first aid care and fire safety. The ushers are trained on security measures.

CHURCH/COMMUNITY

Holy Comforter has always had a strong sense of community and the ministries under the umbrella of Church/Community Ministries plays an important role.

Supper Club is a social ministry that provides an opportunity for bridging church pew acquaintances into something deeper. Groups meet and dine together, breaking bread in the most literal of ways. After a two-year hiatus, Supper Club hopes to restart this fall.

The **Holy Comforter Book Discussion Group** (aka "The Book Club") provides a forum for discussion of interesting books, as selected by the participants. The book choices have constituted a wide range of titles, authors, and topical subjects over the years, although fiction is preponderant.

The **Home Meals Ministry** provides meals to parishioners who are ill or otherwise in need of food. When you submit a request through the clergy, it goes to Jan Calvin for coordination. We've had two requests to date in 2022.

The **Men's Cooking Crew** normally provides the beloved Buck Breakfast on specified Sunday mornings and also assists for special events. All men are welcome in the kitchen.



The **Hospitality and Bereavement Teams** serve as hosts for a variety of events at our Parish including baptismal receptions, weddings, funerals and special events like our Concert Series. The Hospitality team also provides refreshments weekly at Coffee Hour after the 10:30 a.m. service. The capable teams are renowned for their food, decorations, and warm, caring accommodations.

The newly-formed women's group, **Women & Wine**, meets monthly as both a social group and also as a ministry to serve as an outreach group. Meetings are held in the parish hall, a member's home or at an outreach ministry.



The **Communications Team** oversees the transmission of news and information of activities at our Parish. The group oversees the weekly E-Dove, social media postings and the quarterly DOVE Magazine. Considering the Greater Church's call is to spread the Good News we are very much in the communication business.

EVANGELISM

The **Evangelism Commission** ministry is responsible for attracting, welcoming, and incorporating new members into the church life. How will people outside our parish know how warm and welcoming we are, if we don't tell them? And more important, we share the warmth and welcome of Jesus Christ. The commission encompasses several components.

The **Sunday Greeters** are responsible for welcoming new visitors and returning parishioners to the Sunday morning worship services and distributing Holy Comforter visitor bags. Greeters are usually scheduled to serve at one service a month.

The **Bread Bakers Ministry** is responsible for providing the bread that is included in the visitor bags distributed to new visitors and returning parishioners. Bread makers usually bake bread three to four times a year.

Mtr. Beth Pessah is the leader of the **Church/School Ministry**, which is responsible for supporting and enhancing the relationship between Holy Comforter Church and HCES through staff appreciation, student gifts, and community building events. This is a ministry vital to our combined identity.



FINANCE

The **Stewardship Ministry** organizes, advertises and encourages pledged giving from our congregation. This entails working closely with the finance committee in preparing the next calendar year budget. The annual campaign typically starts in September with preparation of new pledge cards, written commentary about the needs of the church and spiritual aspects of giving. A dinner is organized as a celebration of the kickoff and as a thank you for pledging. Most of the physical work for the committee is in the dinner. Members also provide follow-up in collecting pledge cards.



The **Finance Committee** oversees spending and monitors the church's adherence to the Vestry's approved budget. Normally meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month so that financial statements can be reviewed and ready for the monthly Vestry meeting. The budgeting work is fairly basic, even if you do not like accounting, and is a good way to get an idea of what it takes to operate a church financially if you have not participated in this type of committee.

The **Fundraising Committee** activities were put on hold due to COVID in 2021. The committee will carefully and thoughtfully resume those events as restrictions are lifted.

OUTREACH

Holy Comforter's **Food Pantry Ministry** is open every Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. and serves an average of 100 families per week. It is supported by Second Harvest of the Big Bend. Volunteers are needed to bag and put away deliveries during the week and to help distribute food on Saturdays.





Holy Comforter Ministries

We Want You and Your Talents With Us!

The **Cuba Ministry** works to support churches in Ceballos and Baragua. Mission trips are set to resume sometime during the coming year.

After Hurricane Michael struck over three years ago, members of Holy Comforter formed the **Disaster Relief Ministry** to help with recovery from natural disasters, including financial support and work groups to clean up and make repairs.

Technology has been an essential outreach ministry during the pandemic. Livestreaming has been available for Sunday worship services and memorial celebrations of life. In addition, parking lot services, weekly streaming videos, and video recordings have enabled family and friends who could not attend in person to participate. Technology works closely with our **Concert Series Ministry**.

Grace Mission's Ministry to the poor is supported by Holy Comforter. Church services, meals, showers, and education are being resumed. Volunteers are needed to serve meals and organize clothing giveaways.



SPIRITUAL LIFE

Spiritual Life Ministries are designed to encourage and support the overall health and spiritual well-being of members of our church community.

The **Centering Prayer Ministry** meets every other week on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. for contemplative meditation, Bible study, discussion and reflection.

Members of the **Spiritual Journey** group meet every other week for Christian book study. The group reads and discusses a book over weeks, chapter by chapter which enables participants to dig deep and discuss thoroughly.

The **Banner Committee** designs and creates banners for baptisms and confirmations at Holy Comforter. Members meet to discuss the projects, then each person takes home the materials needed to make a banner. The banners become treasured keepsakes for those who have received them over the years.



The **Grief Support Group** meets monthly to support each other in the journey through grief. Most in the group have lost a significant person in their lives, but others have lost pets or experienced a different type of loss.

Birthday cards and anniversary cards are among the communications sent by the **Card Ministry**. There are no meetings, but members send greetings to those in the Holy Comforter family to celebrate and affirm special occasions.

Prayer Angels support anyone who chooses to submit a request for prayer. This request can be submitted by the individual in need of prayer or a family member or close friend. Prayer requests remain confidential.



Cursillo of the Apalachee Region organizes and holds weekend spiritual retreats. These gatherings have been restricted due to the pandemic, but are returning this fall.



The women of **Daughters of the King** (DOK), Mary and Martha Chapter meet to pray, provide outreach and service. Women who wish to join go through a discernment process.

The **Brotherhood of Holy Comforter** is a spiritual and social group open to all men of the parish. Quarterly gatherings for all men of the church are held.

Volunteers with **Children & Families** support Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and other activities for pre-K through 5th grade children.



Weekly meetings are held for **Youth** in grades 6-12 during the school year. They are involved in a variety of activities both fun and spiritually rewarding.

WORSHIP

Worship ministries involve a variety of activities that support the worship service.

There are **Readers and Acolytes** that assist the Deacon in setting the table and reading the lessons during each service. Contact Rev. Dn. Jeanie Beyer if you would like more information about being a Reader or Acolyte.

Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, and Intercessors are selected and trained by the Deacon as well.

Ushers are available at the 10:30 a.m. service to seat late arrivals, recognize any special needs of congregants during ingress or egress or when receiving the Eucharist.



The **Altar Guild** prepares the altar for the Eucharist. Specific duties include preparing the altar, cleaning up after each service; maintaining the linens, and polishing the brass and silver. In addition to regular church services, guild members prepare for weddings and funerals as well as school Eucharists several times a year. The Altar Guild is seeking new members, both men and women.



The **Flower Guild** uses flowers to make the Church more beautiful and to honor and bring joy to friends and parishioners. Special flower arrangements are used for Christmas and Easter. New members are needed to assist in this ministry.



The **Choir and Music** ministry includes both vocalists and instrumentalists. Subsequent to COVID, they resumed weekly rehearsals and participation in the Sunday 10:30 a.m. service.





Holy Comforter Ministries

VESTRY LIAISONS 2022

CHURCH CARE

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Building & Grounds: To be filled.

CHURCH/COMMUNITY

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EVANGELISM

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SPIRITUAL LIFE

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Youth: To be filled.

WORSHIP

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From Bassett Hounds to Communion Linens -

a New Handler Receives DOVE with Equal Care

A retired teacher of 41 years and an active member of HCEC since 2011, Frances Fincham has accepted the role as editor of *DOVE* magazine. She had just started her teaching career when *The Dove* was first published in 1981.

Frances recollected her life back then. She was living in Ormond Beach, two blocks from the ocean. She spent her time teaching pre-K, raising Basset hounds, and riding her bike on the beach.

"Carefree times," she summarized. "I loved every one of my 41 years of teaching."

Frances first taught in Charleston, S.C., after graduating from Wake Forest University, with a degree in intermediate

education. Then she went on what she refers to as a "teaching tour of Florida," with stops in Daytona Beach, Fort Myers, Hollywood, and finally Tallahassee. As a national board certified "middle childhood generalist," she holds endorsements in reading, gifted education, and English for speakers of other languages.

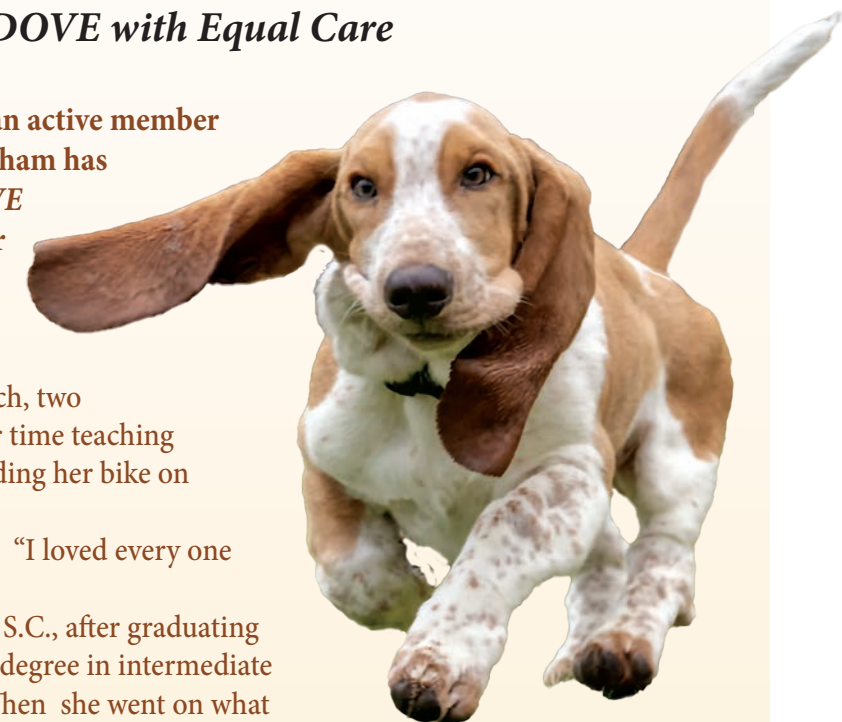
At Holy Comforter, she has served in multiple responsibilities including being chair

of the Evangelism Commission, a greeter for years, and a part of the hospitality/bereavement team. She also serves on the Altar Guild, where she launders the communion linens.

"We have such interesting parishioners so I'm not at all worried about running out of material," Frances said. "The support I receive from office staff and volunteer writers and editors is a crucial part of the publishing process."

Let it be known, if one can handle communion linens, she can certainly handle the printed page. Although she credits the last issue of DOVE as "a group effort," Frances was excellent handling her first spin cycle in the transition role as editor.

by Rod Wenzel



(above)
Frances and her students pose for a classroom photo in the early 1980s.

“Receive what is being
offered to lead us
deeper into our
intimate dance with God”



by Pat Horn

When our children were growing up, we were friends with a Jewish family with children the same age as our children. In the fullness of time, we were invited to their son's bar mitzvah, and I was surprised to recognize our "Morning Prayer" liturgy in Hebrew. It awakened me to the reality of our Christian roots in Judaism.

I knew that intellectually, but that day I experienced it in a new way. I didn't know it at the time, but now I see it as a first step in coming to know the immense generosity of our God.

Years later, Bob and I attended a writers' workshop at St. Mary's Retreat Center in Suwanee, led by a Jewish rabbi. He was a delight, and his generous presentation, drawing from various faith traditions and incorporating their teachings and practices, demonstrated that clearly there is no separation in Divine Love for God's children, no matter our religion of choice. Another step for me in recognizing the inclusiveness of God.

Somewhere along the way, I had already come across Matthew Fox's "One River, Many Wells: Wisdom Springs from Global Faiths." He uses the wells

as metaphors for the religions around the world, drawing sustenance from the living water of the river of God. That opened the gate of my mind and heart to see the Holy One at work since the very beginning of humanity, drawing us all, every last one of us, into the way of God. That was a big step for me, then.

Not long after the Suwanee retreat, one of the women who had touched my heart there called and invited me to lunch. While she lived in Georgia, she had a beach place in Panacea, not far from my home in Apalachicola. We had a lovely visit, and when she started to leave, she gave me a Christmas gift, a book titled *The Essential Mystics, Poets, Saints, and Sages: A Wisdom Treasury*, edited by Richard Hooper. He includes quotations from folks, ancient and modern, from the religions around the world, organized by topic, rather than by religion. For example: The Beloved; Oneness; The Mystics; The Narrow Gate; The Path Within; etc. After each quote, the editor cites the author and the author's religion.

On opening his book at random today, I see these two facing pages have four quotations, one Roman Catholic, one Hindu, one Sufi, one Eastern Orthodox. As I used that book in my quiet time

meditating on one page of quotes each day, I was surprised to notice that, over and over, the Hindu quotes sounded very Christian. If I closed my eyes and didn't look at the citation, I often expected it to be Christian when it turned out to be Hindu. I had not expected such a close connection.

Meditating daily on the quotations opened my heart more fully to the Oneness of God with all creation, expanding my experience with Matthew Fox's work. As I have often said, "with God, there is always more, that the Beloved is always stretching us beyond our comfort zone, showing us there is no limit to where the Holy One may lead us, what steps we may encounter on the way."

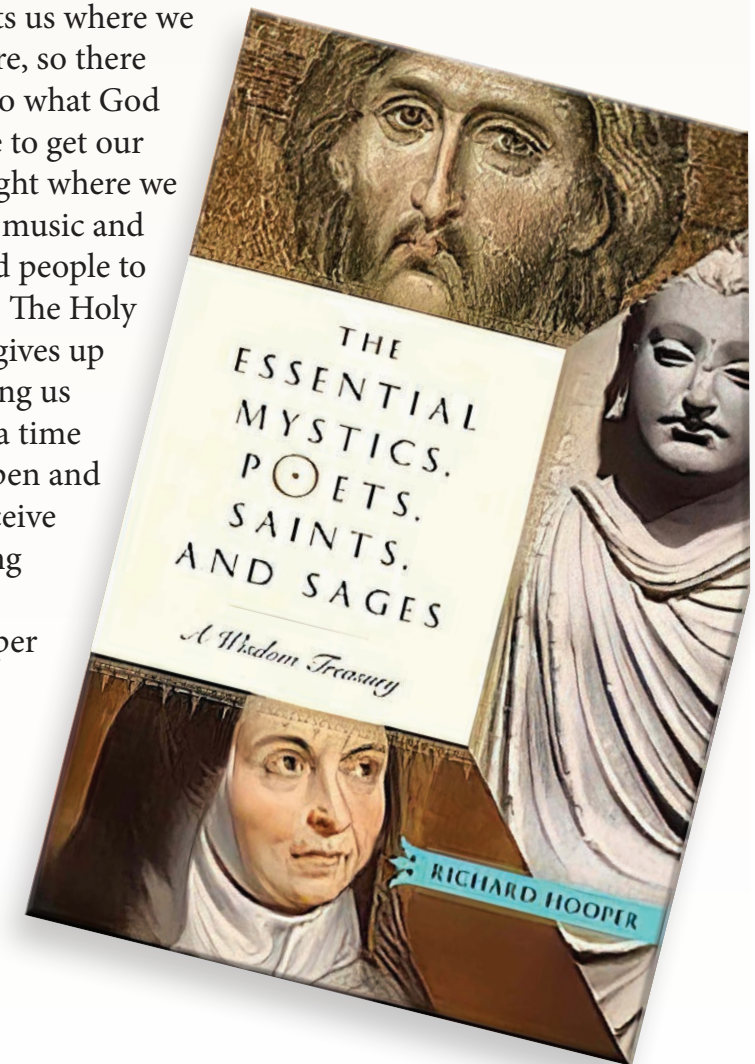
Recently, a spiritual friend mentioned he had been reading *The Bhagavad Gita: A Walkthrough for Westerners* by Jack Hawley and was moved by this translation. I decided to try it for myself and found it amazingly exciting and inspiring. On the back cover, the editor says, "The Gita is a universal love song sung by God to his friend Man." And that is exactly what it felt like--that the God I know speaking to me in the language I know from my Christian tradition reaching my heart rather than my head. I plan to read it again during my morning quiet time, aloud this time as the author recommends, hoping to hear the message with my name on it as well as see it.

I remain open to whatever will come from the Beloved's love and grace on this never-ending path toward the Wisdom of God, into union with the Holy One. Looking back over my

spiritual journey, it is easy for me to recognize how the Holy One has used books to lead me deeper into my relationship with God.

Once, while I was sitting quietly in my library in Apalachicola surrounded on three sides by bookshelves filled with spiritual books, suddenly, a book fell to the floor. The house did not shake; there was no earthquake or storm, but there was the book on the floor. I was stunned and got up to pick it up. I had previously read it, but I knew that I had to read it again. I did and found it fruitful in my life at the time.

God meets us where we are, as we are, so there is no limit to what God may choose to get our attention right where we are, nature, music and the arts, and people to name a few. The Holy One never gives up on us, leading us one step at a time as we are open and ready to receive what is being offered to lead us deeper into our intimate dance with God.



“The Dove” Turns 40; “DOVE” Finds its Place



by Rod Wenzel

(at right)
The first issue of
The Dove newsletter
from March 1981.

Hold the calendar. Order a birthday cake. We’ve got to go back a year and a few months, but we missed a milestone. A big 4-0.

When doing some background work for the Search Committee of which he is a member, Dr. Pat Hall located and shared the very first issue of “The Dove” published back in March 1981. Right there on the banner it reads “Volume 1, Number 1.” So, “The Dove” or “DOVE” turned 40 last year. Four decades of all kinds of information about our beloved Holy Comforter Episcopal Church. A treasure revisited. A keepsake kept.

The importance of a periodical like “DOVE” cannot be understated as:

- a historical record (for 41 years now);
- a critical tool for evangelism, member recruitment and good community relations (its usages could be expanded); and
- an accurate source of organization news, our church searching for its next rector, a former rector having died unexpectedly, and this issue of the magazine being under the direction of a new editor.

Many of us have our eyes on the road ahead while knowing the objects in the rearview mirror are closer than they appear. For example, in those 40 years, only four rectors have succeeded George

Kontos at HCEC. Those have been F. Thomas Crittenden, Ted Monica, who died in June (see profile obituary), Teri Monica, and Jerry Smith.

“The Dove” publication has changed in different ways due largely to the ease and expanse of publication production and design via desktop publishing. First published in 1981, “The Dove” was an 8-page, monthly newsletter in black-and-white with each page a standard three-column format. Because column width did not vary, two uninterrupted gutters split the middle of every page.

Taking on the task of producing such a newsletter monthly was Herculean for the time. Keep in mind, most newspapers did

not computerize their newsroom and operations until the 1980s. That first issue had only two stories on the front page. One was by then-Rector George D. Kontos introducing the publication and its logo. The other was about the school’s fundraising efforts to reduce the cost to \$100 per student for the sixth-grade class to go to Washington, D.C. The headline for the story “Potomac Fever Hits Sixth Graders” would not be used today.



Fast forward to today when “DOVE” magazine has become a 32-to-40 page, high-quality, full color, well-designed publication that has been competitively judged as a showcase periodical of excellence by the Episcopal Communicators. Today’s “DOVE” magazine provides in-depth stories, diverse topics, numerous color photographs, a professional design, and spiritual-based columns. Yet, it’s main objective remains as stated by then Rector Kontos. He wrote: “It is our hope and prayer that the Lord will use this communication vehicle not only to draw each member of our parish into closer communion with one another, but also as a tool of EVANGELISM (all caps used by Kontos mostly likely for emphasis, but maybe it needed to be shouted).

To further make the point that some things never change that much, Rector Kontos added, “If you know of someone who needs to know about a special ministry available to them at Holy Comforter, we will send “The Dove” to them.” Coincidentally, this current issue of “Dove” focuses on the numerous opportunities for ministry at HCEC.

Some notable highlights and tidbits from that first issue of “The Dove”:

- Dixon Robinson, a district sales manager for Lewis Business Products, Inc. served as senior warden and Jane Mooney, an English instructor at TCC, served as junior warden. The first mention of her name was listed as Mrs. Neil (Jane) Mooney.

■ Known as the “PPR,” a Program Planning and Review Committee existed to act as a steering committee for the Vestry. Appointed by the rector, the chairman was Harriette McCarter, an HCEC founding member, who died 40 years later in 2021.

■ Also, serving on that PPR committee as head of Parish Life Ministries was long-time HCEC member Tony Sturges.

■ Another timely coincidence, the youth program was being evaluated ‘to develop a stronger and more exciting youth ministry.’

To address the bird in the room. Do we call it “The Dove” or “DOVE.” It appears the name change occurred with the redesign and use of the publication’s banner that reads: “DOVE.” No “The” shown. I like the change. We don’t call “Time” magazine, “The Time.” For clarity “The Dove” can refer to the newsletter format that was used for years and effectively so. Simply “DOVE” can refer to the current magazine format, with a bound side, quality stock paper, an attractive cover, in-depth treatment of subjects, and numerous colorful photos.



Designer’s Note: The word ‘Love’ was integrated into the new typographic design for the magazine masthead six years ago.

A Precious Experience Best Shared with Others



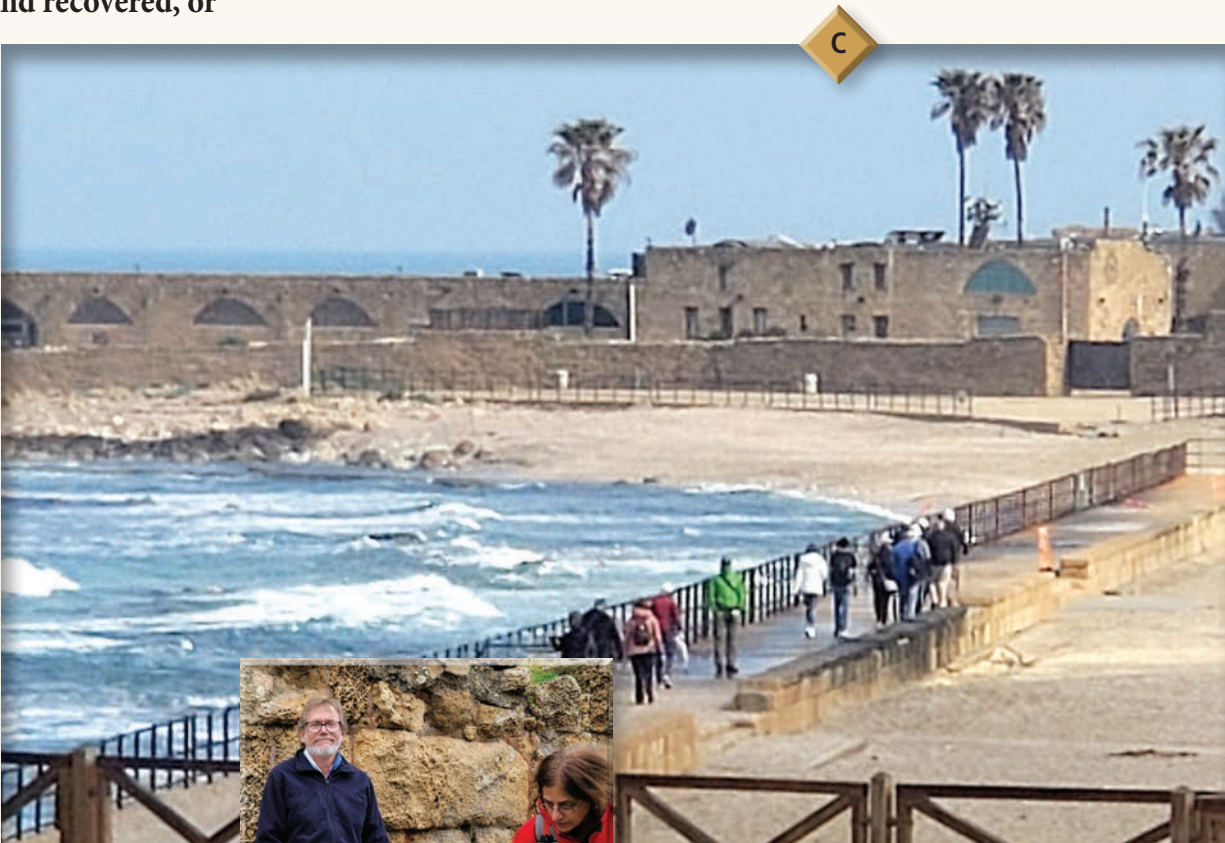
by John-Mark Schacht

To visit the Holy Land is said to come into the presence of The Fifth Gospel. After being privileged to make the journey and witness what has been established, preserved, and recovered, or to simply be in contact with the land itself, its people, and its treasured places, I can certainly understand why.

Biblical Journeys, LLC, superbly assembled a quality package of touring sites, shopping, accommodations, and meals with professional-class transportation and guidance. We visited more than 50 sites of historical significance, lodged in three Jewish hotels, and enjoyed nine evenings. We were chauffeured by an Islamic entrepreneur and guided by an Armenian Orthodox Christian, university-trained in the liberal arts.

Meredith Smith was our mistress of ceremonies and coordinator of spontaneous fun, in partnership with her father-in-law, our tour captain, Father Jerry Smith. It was an opportunity to meet and make new friends. Our tour group included pilgrims from several states and provinces. In addition to suitcases overstuffed with acquired “Jesus Junk” we returned with a lifetime of precious memories.

Willing pilgrims still come to the Holy Land to tread the very same pathways once kept by prophets, saints and our Emmanuel...to feel Lake Galilee’s cool waters...to kneel and pray at ancient churches, chapels, basilicas and a famous Western-facing wall...to wander among the olive trees on the Mount and in Gethsemane while pondering the momentous events surrounding a particular Jerusalem Passover in the time of Herod, Pilate and Augustus, and coming, at last, to stare – in awe and wonder – at the still-empty tomb.



- A. St. Peter’s statue at Capernum
- B. John-Mark demonstrating how to sit on an toilet in an ancient public bathroom
- C. Caesarea Martina – Harbor founded by Herod the Great and where Paul spent two years before being transported to Rome.
- D. Janice Mazza, Tricia Culbertson and Mary Whitmire (l to r) pause for a breather from the miles of walking in Israel

The First Visit is “Life Changing” by Janice Mazza

I had heard from friends who visited Israel in the past that it was “life changing” but I really didn’t understand what that meant until I made the trip. Visiting not only all the Biblical sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, but throughout Israel brought a better understanding of my faith. Having communion daily; whether sailing on the Sea of Galilee, visiting an ancient church, or sitting in the Garden of Gethsemane, brought our group together for a special time of prayer and reflection. Each day brought new experiences and emotions. I walked where Jesus walked and lived. I was overwhelmed by the history and religious significance of Israel. And I truly understand what “life changing” means.

The Second Visit is Still “Awesome” by Mary Cordero

My first trip to the Holy Land was in 2013. That spiritual journey was led by Fr. Ted Monica.

People have asked me if the experience of a second trip in 2022 was as powerful as the first. I can honestly say it was still an emotional, spiritual walk. For me, places we visited were still awesome to experience. Jesus was showing me a different point of view because my understanding of the Bible improved over the 9-year difference. The second journey was well worth it!

It is Real, Not Just a Story by Jackie Watts

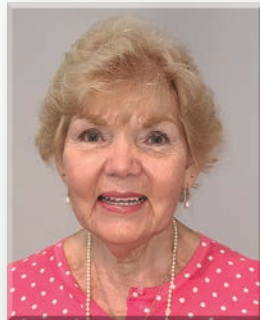
The best part of our experience going to Israel was meeting people from different places. It was also amazing that Fr. Jerry Smith seemed to know everybody. From the tour guide to the bus driver, he had met them over the many years he had been offering this pilgrimage.

I thought the Mount of Olives site was a turning point in the trip for me. It touched me emotionally. Then, there was the graveyard of the Jewish people...ascending to Heaven. Muslims built a temple to the gate at Old Jerusalem for the coming of the rapture as a barrier to the apocalypse. So many sites, so much history. The most fun was swimming in the Dead Sea. You can’t swim as much as float!

The trip brought to life all the teachings I had learned over the years. Where I walked, so did Jesus. It was real, not just a story. I was there!

Two Beautiful Gardens

One of Color, the Other of Comfort



by Pat Desilet

The Garden at Gethsemane ~ the scene of the agony and the arrest of Jesus.

I had the amazing privilege of visiting two renowned gardens in two very different places within the span of about a month.

Keukenhof Gardens, just outside of Amsterdam, is a place to enjoy millions of flowering tulips, daffodils, and other bulb-based flowers especially in the springtime. This beautiful, world renowned, springtime garden offers a special scent and color experience, spectacular flower shows and inspiring gardens.

Keukenhof is a unique setting for photos and selfies with a sea of flowers as the background (as well as other visitors in your photo). The garden buzzes with visitors' chatter commenting with "oohs" and "aahs," "amazing," "spectacular," and "oh my," coming from the thousands in awe of what they see.



In contrast, Gethsemane is a garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem where, according to the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, Jesus often went with his disciples to pray, was betrayed, underwent agony and was arrested before his crucifixion. To get there, we followed in Jesus' footsteps as we descended from the Mount of Olives to the Garden and were allowed entrance, according to our reservation.

Gethsemane is a place of quiet, reverence, whispers, talking with God

and remembering the love He had for us and the humiliation and pain He endured. The Garden of Gethsemane became a focal site for early Christian pilgrims, who were accustomed to praying there, and we did the same. After a time of quietly walking around, observing the ancient olive trees, experiencing nature, and losing ourselves in thoughts and reflections, we gathered for a service with song and communion. To participate in the Eucharist in Gethsemane offers an experience that reaches deep in your soul, remembering his suffering, death, and glorious resurrection.

No songs/hymns came to mind while in Keukenhof, but my mind was full of them in Gethsemane. Keukenhof awakened my senses, but Gethsemane awakened my soul. As a child, my parents played LP vinyl recordings and I memorized most of the hymns like "In the Garden," "I Come to the Garden Alone" and "The Beautiful Garden" and they kept ringing in my ears. I hope you listen to George Beverly Shea sing "The Beautiful Garden." The words are:

*"There's a garden where Jesus is waiting,
there's a place that is wondrously fair,
For it glows with the light of His presence,
'Tis the beautiful garden of prayer.
There's a garden where Jesus is waiting,
and He bids you to come meet Him there.
Just to walk and to talk with my Savior,
In the beautiful garden of prayer."*

I was honored to do just that.



2022 Tour of the Holy Land



B



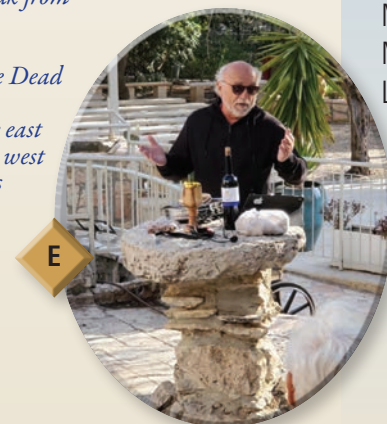
A



C



D



E

- A. Via Dolorosa
- B. Lillian Williams and Clarine Lizana (l to r) taking a coffee break from all the walking
- C. Janice Mazza and Tricia Culbertson floating in the Dead Sea – a salt lake in Asia bordered by Jordan to the east and the West Bank to the west
- D. The room where Jesus was held after his arrest
- E. Father Jerry Smith leads Eucharist

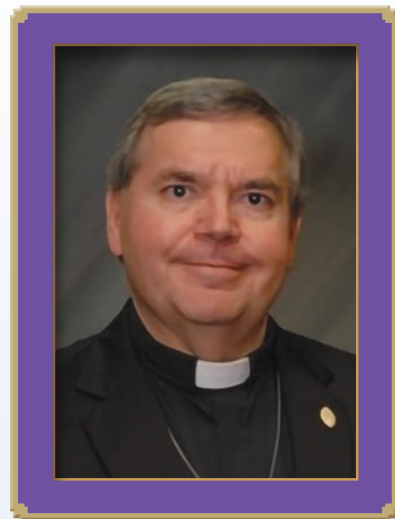
Holy Comforter members and friends who travelled to Israel August 27 – September 4

Pat & Randy Desilet
Jackie Watts
Mary Whitmire
Janice Mazza
Mary Cordero
Marcia Fulton
Fr. Stephen Pessah
Clarine Lizana
Carol Brady
Tricia Culbertson
John-Mark Schacht
Lillian Williams
Fr. Jerry Smith
Maria Taps
Meridith Smith
Laura & Tom Keller



Remembrances

Father Ted Transitioned from Hardship to Heaven



As a boy, a student, or a priest, he stayed in almost perpetual motion, big feet and all. He went from being the family cook as a child to a reverend canon, putting himself through Catholic high school, college and then seminary and into the priesthood. Even in his retirement, he remained active and blessed, finding and marrying the light and love of his life near the end of his life.

The Reverend Canon Ted Jay Monica died Sunday, June 5, 2022, in Tallahassee. He was born March 24, 1959, in Watertown, New York. Father Ted was 63 years old. His obituary said he “transitioned from sales to management.” Let’s add that in his lifetime, Father Ted also went from hardship to heaven.

His brother called him, “larger than life,” and one who “would always put others before himself.”

His childhood friend of some 50 years said, “I don’t understand the kind of strength, the kind of courage that Ted had to give to care for those around him when he was so young,”

His church warden and golf partner said, “I think he was the best man I’ve ever known,”

And his bishop said, “Ted is now singing to our Lord, ‘lead us, guide us, stay right beside us as we go in procession with you, Lord.’” (As Ted so composed.)

Father Ted is survived by his wife, Lynn Caley Monica of Tallahassee. They were

married in November 2018. Other survivors are siblings Mary (Ray) Carley of Adams, New York, Mark (Penny) Monica of Syracuse, New York, Tammy (Tony) Pecori of Watertown, New York, and Billy (John) Monica of Watertown, New York; mother-in-law Freda Caley of Tallahassee; sisters-in-law Lisa (Eric) Wirick of Tallahassee; and Ann Chevalier of Ruskin, Florida; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Ted graduated from Immaculate Heart Central School (IHC) in Watertown, New York, Wadham’s Hall in Ogdensburg, New York, and Christ the King Seminary East Aurora, New York.

Father Ted was installed at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church and School in June 2009 and retired in December 2015. The church hosted his funeral June 25 at 1 p.m. The Reverend Beth Pessah, Associate Rector, officiated. Preceding Ted

in death have been his mother, Rosemarie Shirley LaVere Monica, who died when her children were young, his father, Oliver John Monica, and his brother, John Lawrence Monica.

The Celebration of the Life of Ted Monica as a reverend canon of the Episcopal Church included the Holy Communion, the Commendation, and the Committal at the Columbarium. The service featured the Homily given by Bishop Howard, three eulogies, and processional and recessional hymns written and composed by Ted, who



(at right)
Bishop John Howard
giving the sermon at
Father Ted’s
funeral service.

was a talented musician and songwriter.

Father Ted reinforced his life-and-death faith in Jesus using the great passage from Romans 14:8: “If we live, we live in the Lord. If we die, we die in the Lord. Whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s possession.”

His brother Billy said in his eulogy that “our mother would have been very proud of the man Ted became and his strong faith in God.” He also said, “Ted would often laugh and tell jokes about his poker and golf buddies. He was quick with amusing anecdotes. He loved his church and church family, and he always had great love for the Lord.”

Billy shared two heartwarming stories about Ted and his love for family in the earliest years of his life and his love for wife Lynn late in his final hours.

Growing up poor, when Ted was 12 and his four siblings younger, their father said he was not going to put up a Christmas tree. However, a family just five houses down sold Christmas trees, so Ted took the money he earned from his paper route and bought them a tree. The siblings decorated the tree together in celebration. They didn’t have much, but they had a tree and each other.

The second story is indeed a love story. Even with Ted in the hospital and heavily sedated, the sound of Lynn’s voice or the touch of her hand raised his heart rate. Just as the Christmas tree showed his love for his siblings, his heart monitor showed proof of his love for Lynn.

HCEC’s affable Jimbob Maddox provided a personal eulogy about his former priest, golf pal and lunch buddy, and he read the comments from Ted’s brother Billy. With a heavy heart, tear-stained voice, and love overflowing, Jimbob effectively delivered the brother’s touching words.

Jimbob also brought a shot of levity to the service when he recalled their golfing trio including the late, great Wayne Makin. “Father Ted was no fashion horse on the golf course,” Jimbob assessed, “unlike Wayne and I who wanted to win Best Dressed awards. Anyway, one day, Ted decided he needed some new golf shoes. But he couldn’t find any, and then we found out why.

“Honestly, Father Ted had the biggest feet in Dixie,” Maddox stated candidly followed by collective laughter from those attending the service. “They were enormous; they were clownish. They were size 13-and-a-half or 14! We found one pair in the whole town. They were beautiful, but they cost \$200... but after Wayne negotiated with the store manager, we paid \$75, and Ted had some new (and beautiful) golf shoes. And his game improved when he wore those shoes.

There is still a saying on the golf course, ‘never bet against a preacher wearing \$200 golf shoes’.”

Joining Jimbob and Wayne as honorary pallbearers were George Boyer, Fred Chester, Randy Desilet, and Joe McCann. As a social pack, they were known as “The Holy Ones” or “Friar Ted’s Band of Merry Men.” They could write a book but that’s another story. Then again, Father Ted liked good stories.

by Rod Wenzel

Writer’s Note: Becoming a part of HCEC after Father Ted’s tenure, I first met Father Ted at a Jimmy Buffet-themed charity for Grace Mission. An unknown attendee stood by us and asked, “So what’s your pick of Buffet songs?” The questioner took “Margaritaville,” I took “Son of a Son of a Sailor,” and as best I recall, Father Ted went for “Cheeseburger in Paradise.”



(above)
Father Ted was a big
Buffalo Bills fan!

(at left)
Jimbob Maddox gave
a personal eulogy for
his dear friend.



Remembrances



A Tribute to Artist Extraordinaire Stuart Riordan

PAINTING A PROFILE OF A PAINTER AND PARISHIONER

Stuart Riordan made impressions. Lots of impressions. In lots of ways.

By showing her brilliant, often bizarre, paintings, slapping spoons to the rhythm of a Cajun band, baking a marzipan cake to look like a real flowerpot, or greeting fellow HCEC worshippers during The Peace.

The well-known Tallahassee artist impressed even as she fought pain before dying of cancer on April 25, 2022, at age 72. Her close friend of many years, the award-winning critic and columnist Mark Hinson said: “Her memory was vanishing, and she was aware of the decline. She found solace in God and Christian religion. The art talent slipped away but she seemed happy. I miss her like mad, but I am glad she didn’t fade away. She was so alive.”

Because of her vivacious personality, the abundant wealth of art she created, and the reverberation of swirling memories about her, this is a profile of her life instead of an obituary about her death. She will be missed by the arts world, and as Hinson attests is already missed by local artisans, writers, musicians, and members of Holy Comforter Episcopal Church (HCEC).

Dave Jacobsen, a friend and fellow HCEC parishioner, recalls attending one of Stuart’s

gallery exhibits. That month-long exhibit at the Lemoyne Art Gallery impressed Jacobsen. It featured more than 75 paintings and photographs priced as high as \$30,000. He said: “As I moved through the exhibits, I got the feeling that the works of the talented and unsung artist had a deep, inspirational, and religious message. We were truly blessed to have a person like Stuart in our midst.”



Beyond the subjects of her paintings that included chamber orchestra musicians, characters from ancient myths, a fallen angel in black, and a New Orleans voodoo queen, Stuart indeed was a rare individual. In three dimensions, she was eclectic, electric and eccentric. A fourth would have been eloquent despite flashes of a pixie-voice, Southern belle presence.

A Friday morning practice brought her to HCEC to walk the labyrinth and renew her love for God and others. “I knew Stuart in the arts community earlier,” said Doty Wenzel, HCEC director of administration. “But I really got to know Stuart on Friday mornings after she walked the labyrinth. She came in to express her love for God and those of us in the office. She has truly been missed.”

Born in Virginia, her family moved to and lived in San Antonio before coming to Tallahassee. She is survived by her husband, attorney Jeff Duvall; her children, Paige Riordan of Richmond, Virginia, and Tucker

Riordan of Tallahassee; and her sisters, Sally Preston Rude of Tallahassee and Judith Stuckey of Reno, Georgia. No services have been held.

To best paint Stuart with words, Hinson knew her well for years. He introduced her to Duvall. She married Duvall in a ceremony on their boat on the Wakulla River, with everyone wearing white, an event Hinson calls “one of the best of my life.”

Rearranging some of the thoughts shared by Hinson, eight exhibits of Stuart Riordan emerged, Here’s Hinson in his own words taking you through a gallery about Stuart.

Exhibit One: The Person “Her personality may have bordered on the eccentric, but there was a keen intellect at work. She was always curious, always reading. Talent just poured out of her. Many gallery owners and curators thought she was a man because of her masculine-sounding name. The gender confusion tickled her.”

Exhibit Two: The Painter “Her detailed, commissioned portraits and her amazing, bold fine arts canvases ensure she will be remembered as a painter. She portrayed the human form as if she were from the Renaissance. Very neo-traditional. She made it look easy.”

Exhibit Three: The Photographer “Her photography, mostly black and white, was beautifully staged and composed – even if some of the images depicted the grotesque. I am missing a finger on my left hand, so of course, I became one of her models.”

Exhibit Four: The Arranger “She could arrange anything – furniture, flowers, rooms, objects d’art - because she had the eye.”

Exhibit Five: The Celloist “At the age of 50, (while living in Moldova for a stint) Stuart took up the cello. Her sawing away on the stringed instrument sounded like a live cat being disemboweled. Her ‘music

recitals’ at her house turned into fun salons. She deemed her presentation on the cello as ‘the broccoli’ and her Bulgarian music teachers from Florida State would play to provide ‘the dessert.’ I’m going to miss those Sunday afternoons.”

Exhibit Six: The Composer

“(Her) work went much deeper beyond technical ability. Some of her paintings contained cryptic messages written backwards, lyrics from songs, notes of music. Others used dirt collected from Italy or the American Southwest to give it a certain hue. During her ‘dark period,’ she painted such figures as a fallen angel in black, an angry bride wielding an axe or intimidating sharp scissors.

Exhibit Seven: The Charmer “Her talent and offbeat Southern charm attracted such well-known figures as artist James Turrell, mind-expanding guru Timothy Leary, musician Billy Preston, and movie actress Julie Adams, who starred in “The Creature from the Black Lagoon,”

Exhibit Eight: The Creator “One day, I’d drop by the studio to find her working on a neon-lit table. The next week, she might be in the kitchen baking a marzipan cake that looked like a real flowerpot. This was long before such lifelike cake creations popped up on TV shows. Or want an intricate silhouette tableau hand-cut from art paper? Wait right there.”

by Rod Wenzel



Writer’s Note: While Stuart leaves to make the tableau, I extend my thanks to Mark Hinson. His keen observations and unique history greatly enhanced this profile. Stuart Riordan broke the rules, painted outside the lines, and thought outside the box, but she left exceptional first, last and lasting impressions.



Remembrances



Marie Campo McHaffie

May 3, 1931 – July 5, 2022

Marie McHaffie was a faithful parishioner of Holy Comforter whose cheerful presence and sense of humor will be greatly missed.

She was born in Chicago, moved to Hollywood, FL in 1945 and remained in the South Florida area for most of her life. She spent her later years in Tallahassee. Marie was a great cook, had many friends, and her family was the center of her life and brought her much joy. After moving to Tallahassee, Marie became a member of Holy Comforter.

Deacon Jeanie shared: “I have missed Marie and Sandy Randolph sitting in the same row on Sundays. They were often seated where I stopped to proclaim the Gospel. We would have a secret smile. Both moved to assisted living spaces and were no longer neighbors in the same apartment complex, but their friendship remained strong. I loved to visit Marie in her new facility. She had a unique sense of humor and always made me laugh. My ministry visits to her always left me being the one that received ministry.”

Marie is preceded in death by her parents, her oldest son, Greg Cleereman, and her son-in-law Pat Harrison. She is succeeded by her children Debra Harrison, Tom McHaffie (Jackie), and Vicki Doyle, six grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren. The family plans to gather privately for a celebration.

Capital Area Justice Ministry Sets Productive Objectives

I shared the plans and actions of the new Capital Area Justice Ministry (CAJM), as a “diverse, faith-filled, people-powered, Holy Spirit-inspired ministry” in the Spring 2022 issue of DOVE magazine. CAJM strives to address the injustices in our community.

Following extensive research by the CAJM members, specific actions that can be taken by our city officials and council members were developed. CAJM is advocating for an effective, well-funded gun violence reduction strategy working with a national, evidence-based organization that trains local authorities and the community to address this significant issue. In addition, we are advocating for a significant increase (100 percent ideally) in the use of civil citations for juveniles committing minor crimes, thus avoiding criminal records and multiple barriers to future success. Finally, we are advocating for the development of a trust fund that targets the construction of rental units for very low and extremely low-income households.

These action proposals were presented to city staff and commissioners at the Nehemiah Action event on April 5, 2022.

Six hundred and forty-nine community members from a variety of faith communities were in attendance supporting these efforts.

The day after the Nehemiah Action meeting, the city commissioners took up these topics in their meeting. They are researching the reasons for officers choosing arrests over the civil citation program and ways in which TPD can improve in this area.

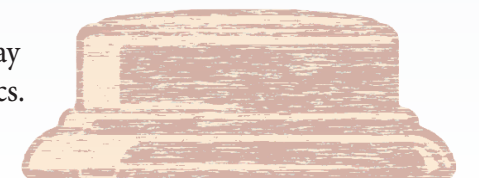
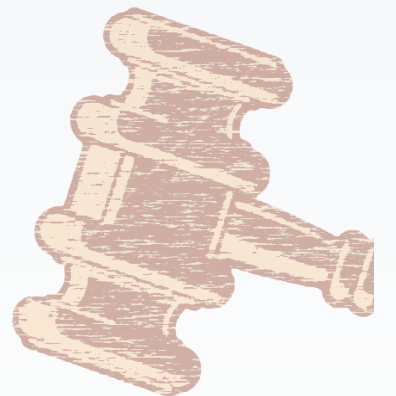
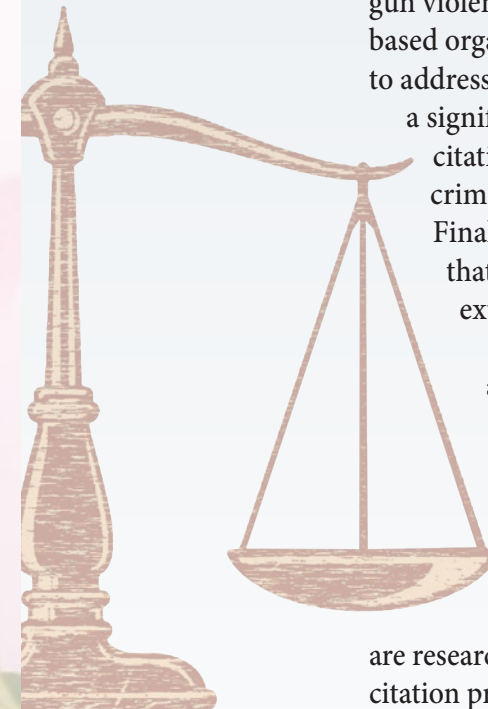
More recently, the city is proposing a \$1 million investment to target gun violence in Tallahassee. It will be important to advocate for programs that have worked in other communities.

Affordable housing has been a topic for the City Commission and staff. They have agreed to look more closely at this low and extremely low-income group to determine if their efforts are meeting the needs and find ways to do so.

As you listen to our current candidates for office, you may hear gun violence and affordable housing as common topics. All proof that we, as people of faith, can make a difference with our voices and with our votes.



by Susan Robinson



Search Committee Updates Progress and Releases a Timeline



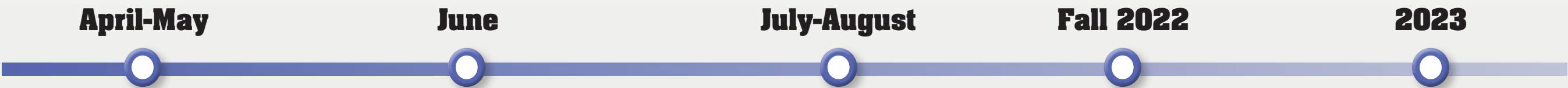
by Ruth Roaza

The search for our new rector is off to a good start. This article provides an overview of the search process, summarizes our progress, and discusses the next steps of the search committee.



by Nancy Daniels

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE



PROGRESS & PLANS

In April, the Vestry selected the Search Committee members and conducted the kickoff meeting. The committee was commissioned on May 1. Members include:

- Phil Beyer
- Gary Heald
- Paul Brown
- Amy Johnson
- Nancy Daniels
- Ruth Roaza
- Rosetta Efthim
- Susan Robinson
- Pat Hall
- Rick Wagner

Throughout May, the committee learned more about the search process, researched successful practices, and began planning tasks and activities. On May 22, Canon Allison DeFoor visited Holy Comforter, answered questions and advised us on the path forward.

Based on recommendations from the Diocese and other parishes, the Vestry selected the Church Assessment Tool by Holy Cow Consulting as a survey instrument to gather input from the parish. The Search Committee conducted the parish-wide survey on June 8 – 29. Committee members were also available after services throughout June. We had a great response - over 80 percent of our active worshippers responded to the survey.



Currently, the committee is actively working on the parish profile and rector’s job description. These will be used to advertise the position and inform candidates about our parish, the community and our expectations. The profile will be provided to the Diocese, posted on our website, a nation-wide network for Episcopal clergy, and widely distributed throughout the region.



Applications will be received and screened by the committee and the Canon of the Ordinary. The Diocese will provide training to the committee about the vetting process to ensure fair hiring practices. The committee will interview top candidates. Site visits may be made. Timing will depend on the number and quality of applications received.

The search committee will present details to the Vestry about the top three applicants and recommend a final candidate. The Vestry is responsible for electing the candidate, presenting the selection to the Bishop, negotiating with, and hiring the new rector.

Look for more updates in the E-Dove, church bulletin, and Sunday announcements. We welcome your prayers, questions, and input throughout this process. Feel free to contact any of the committee members. You can find our contact information in Realm.

We are hosting a Congregational Meeting Sunday, September 25. We will celebrate Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at 9:30 a.m. (only one service), then light refreshments in the narthex followed by the parish-wide meeting in the nave. Both the service and meeting will be live-streamed.

A Scholarship for Diversity

Church And School Partner 50-50 To Pay The Way



by Rod Wenzel



Holy Comforter Episcopal Church and Holy Comforter Episcopal School met in the middle. The church went halfway, and the school went halfway. And it's all good.

The creation of a scholarship via a church-school partnership provides a win-win-win situation for the church, the school, and a student of ethnic or cultural diversity. The school welcomed the church's initiative; the church welcomed the school's cooperative agreement, and the family of a current student welcomes the assistance. Perhaps the best part is that there's no waiting for funds to be raised, guidelines to fret over, or applications to process. Instead, a student is already benefiting.

"We are excited the church has taken this on to help us expand racial and cultural diversity," Peter Klekamp, head of HCES, said. "We need to be as representative of the Tallahassee population beyond Fleischmann Road as we can. We appreciate the Vestry for working with us."

"Diversity is an important part of our largest ministry, which the school is for us," said Trisha Culbertson, senior warden of the HCEC Vestry.

Under the agreement, the church will pay 50 percent of the student's yearly tuition plus other needs such as uniforms or field trips and the school incurs the remaining half. Tuition at Holy Comforter averages just under \$14,000, slightly less for early grades. The recipient must remain academically eligible and have transportation to and from school. The recipient is not named publicly to respect privacy and to protect against stigma.

Although a campaign for raising funds for the purpose has not been planned, Randy Desilet, junior warden of the Vestry, said a designated fund has been identified and all directed funds will be appreciated. He mentioned looking at objectives such as spreading the scholarship idea to other churches.

The first donor to the designated fund has been a vanguard for closing the education efficiency

gap for minorities particularly African Americans. Although he never had a new textbook, a good desk or climate protected classrooms and faced racial discrimination at many turns, Charles Scriven was the first donor to this scholarship effort. Today, he is 90 years old but at the apex of his career he became the first black police chief of the City of Jacksonville and the First African American appointed to the Florida Parole Commission. He has a son who is a prominent attorney in Tampa and a daughter-in-law who is a federal judge.

Nena Martinez, HCES director of admissions, notes that 13 percent of Holy Comforter students receive some financial assistance. Concerning diversity across cultural and racial categories, 5.5 percent of HCES students are identified by their parents on a demographic form as Latin/Hispanic, Asian, Black/African American, Native American or Multiracial.

Those numbers equate to a student body ratio of 19-to-1, white/Caucasian to all others. Among a student body of 540 students that results in a campus comprising 510 white students and 30 students of ethnic diversity. For comparison, the student population currently in Leon county is 42 percent white, 43.5 percent black, 6 percent Hispanic, and 8 percent all others, however public schools also see growing segregation.

School and church sources from Klekamp to Scriven voiced the advantages of learning from peers of other ethnic and cultural backgrounds and learning in a world of different voices and concerns.

With the household income in Leon County at about \$56,000 per year, private school tuition can place a heavy weight on the budget of anyone considered middle class regardless of other socio-demographics. As such, the initiative by the HCEC Vestry is likely the best way to increase the school's diversity. Helping ease the cost of such an outstanding and religious education as offered at HCES will likely take a consistent effort of one patron, one scholarship, one student at a time.

■ ■ ■

(cont'd from page 3 ~ ... We Have Liftoff)

important contribution to make to the whole. Now is the time to make our preparations.

Commander Hadfield's story demonstrates the importance of always being prepared for the next step. As he considers the impossibility of a third flight into space, he reports, "I decided it made sense to be as ready as I could be, just in case."

So, as we prepare for whatever God is calling us to next, I ask you to think about being as ready as you can be. The disciples were asked by Jesus in Luke 5 to launch out into the deep water. They were exhausted and had been fishing all night to no avail. When Jesus asked them to go further than they had ever gone before they did not hesitate. They were ready to do whatever it took to follow Christ. Often God calls us beyond our comfort zone. He calls us to go deeper and try something new. Now is a good time to look around the church and consider where God is calling you to participate. If today you were to hear Christ call you to "launch out into the deep water," where would that deep water be? What would God be calling you to do? What might be the best way to transform your mind and practice your gifts?

I look forward to the great things that God is continuing to do through the community here at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church. May this fall be a time that we do all that we need to do in preparation for the countdown to launch.

Amen.

Around the Parish Scrapbook



Robbie Brunger makes palm crosses to distribute to parishioners.



As part of the Hospitality team, Pat Desilet prepares refreshments for a reception.



Brandy and Alpha taking a break from snack duty at VBS.



Jackie Watts (l) and the installation crew for the new church doors!

Parish Roundup

Holy Comforter is an incredibly active parish. Many times, we are not aware of how things happen until someone tells us. Please help us by sharing your photos (with captions), so we can keep giving little peeks into the weekly life of the church in the **DOVE** magazine. See **page 35** to find out how and when to contribute to the next issue.



Sharing a family moment Ben Sturges-Watts received his high school graduation recognition from Holy Comforter. Ben was also one of the Best & Brightest honorees in mathematics of Leon County. (l to r) Jackie Watts, Ben, Tony Sturges and Sarah Sturges.



Choir members (l to r), Eunice Filar, Susan Parmalee, and Carolyn DiSalvo

The food and refreshments were outstanding at the first gathering of the newly-formed Women & Wine group. Pictured l to r, Sara Brunger, Susan Robinson, Kay Carraway, Mary Heald, Pat Greisl and Dn. Jeanie Beyer.



Tom Gray serving up some delicious vittles for a Buck Breakfast.



We are so very thankful to The Reverend Allen Hill and The Reverend Deacon Rachel Hill for their serving as our supply priests in August.

Frances Fincham (l) and Julie Woodworth serve on the Hospitality/Bereavement Ministry.



Laurel Hall and her grandson, Luke, put the finishing touches on some awesome decorations for VBS Adventure Island.



BAPTISMS

JUNE

5 Evan Robert Varela & Harrison Hunter Varela



BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

1 Sandi Jacobsen
1 Caroline Jones
1 David Smith
2 Matthew Antworth
2 Jason Johnston
4 Dolores Handy
4 Ethan Mistry
6 Marie Bain
6 Maurice Wright
8 Susan Hatfield
9 Karen Biddy
10 Phyllis DeHaan
12 Rhonda Laing
12 Lynn Monica
13 Stephen Moors
13 Mary Heald
13 Lois Wentworth
14 Jennifer Kissler
15 Tim Matherly
16 Joey Bazzell
16 Maggie Watson
18 Kara Loewe
22 Cynthia Jester
22 John Spillane
23 Duke Jean
24 Dakota Lizana
24 Nancy Mazek
24 Cathy Mitchell
24 Katie Parmalee
25 Bridget Garrett-James
26 Carolyn Rogers
25 Matthew Sickinger
27 Greg Simpson
26 Kathy Wolff
27 David Skelton
30 Max Culbreath
30 Chris Jester
30 Jonas Johnson
30 Karen Wells
30 Emma Terrell

OCTOBER

1 Betty Schmidt
1 Sherri Mills
1 Catherine Moon
1 Nick Parmalee
2 Cha-Che Moore
3 Beth Spear
4 Anne Vinson
5 Jeannine Peters
5 William Richardson
7 Erich Brough
7 Robert Ryder
7 James Biddy
10 Theresa Antworth
11 Suzy Young
11 Randy Desilet
12 Richard McAvoy
14 Judy Mathews
15 Keith Porta
15 Cianna Syleos
15 Libby Woodward
16 Sydney Brown
16 Mark Hamilton
17 Gene Langston
17 Denise Potvin
17 Chaylen Christy
21 Caroline Mathews
21 Brynlee Mostyn
23 Bill Scott
23 Lisa Johnson
25 Tori Trom
27 Dino Syleos
28 Jody Fitzgerald
28 Samantha Harrison
28 Phil Beyer
29 Nancy Smith Fichter
29 Isabella Kissler
29 Christina Sickinger
30 Paul Robinson

NOVEMBER

1 Nancy MacDonell
1 Jesse Wright
3 Julianne Chester
3 Chad Cole
6 Sara Brunger
6 Elane Porta
6 Merline Power
6 Ben Sturges-Watts
9 Carolyn DiSalvo
9 Devin Weinrich
10 Nancy Rubin
12 Mary Luce
14 Mtr Beth Pessah
14 Scott Smiley
16 Nicki Smith
18 Stella Corum
19 Joshua Smith
20 Casey Goznell
20 Thomas Mitas
22 Andy Granger
23 Anne Wells
24 Diane Lima
25 Chris Antworth
25 Kathy DuBose
25 Dave Wengert
26 Cay Schleich
28 Rob Smith
29 Hollie Maddox

DECEMBER

1 Alice Bejnar
2 Miles Goznell
2 Alexis Huntley
4 Kay Carraway
4 Chris Poulos
5 Robert Flora
5 Judy Scheidt
6 Casey Howard
7 John Green
8 Tor Bejnar
9 Eunice Filar
11 Debra Porta
13 Pamela Lovell
14 Fran Lewis
15 Sarah Skelton
16 Patricia Brough
16 Brandon Smiley
16 Abigail Weinrich
17 Andrew Bevan-Thomas
17 Sandra Cartwright
17 Tim Wolff
18 Joy Green
18 Allyne Smith
21 Wes Haber
21 Grant Smith
22 Tom Harrison
22 Lee McHugh
22 Joe Travis
23 Granger Russell
23 Jan Louttit
24 Barbara Denis
24 Steven Keller
24 Mary Anne Smiley
24 Dorothea Syleos
27 Charles Futch
27 Judi Kendrick
30 Robert Fichter

ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER

2 Mary & Gary Heald
3 John & Patsy Canetta
6 Bill & Pat Reineking
6 Charles & Genny Rosenberg
20 Beth & Bill Scott
21 Pedro & Josefa Schlottmann
25 Pharat & Alpha Holmes
27 Bobby & Catherine Maddox

OCTOBER

9 Larry & Jo Deeb
11 Dino & Dorothea Syleos
11 Adam & Melanie Watson
14 James & Karen Biddy
14 Chris & Beth Corum
17 Robbie & Sara Brunger
21 Nancy Daniels & Marsha Jordan
30 Robert & Cynthia Ryder

NOVEMBER

9 Frank & Frances Fincham
9 Chris & Cynthia Jester
10 Kevin & Kelly Mistry
21 Shawn & Rhaena Coughlin
21 Robert & Susan Parmalee
24 Lewis & Patsy Killian
24 Jimmy & Cathy Mitchell
25 Glen & Elaine Yaeger



DECEMBER

5 Brian & Jennifer Jacobs
31 Robert & Rosetta Efthim
31 David & Sarah Skelton

SAVE THE DATES!

If you are currently receiving 2023 calendars from various non-profit organizations that you won't be able to use personally, please consider bringing them into the church office. **We're collecting them for the Food Pantry,** and plan to insert them into the distribution bags when January rolls around. (Last holiday season we collected more than 100!) See Robbie Brunger, (850-224-7729).



Dove

The DOVE is a quarterly publication. The next issue will be out on **December 12, 2022**. As such, the deadline for the next issue's content will be **November 7**.

We encourage you to submit stories and photos that tell the story of God's work at Holy Comforter. We all like to see stories of hands, minds and hearts at work in our church family.

Please respect deadlines and submit early, if possible. Your editor and associate editors are volunteers, so they need the time to put the publication through the various edit and design stages before it goes to Doty, who guides it through publication and distribution.

For further information contact Frances at Dove@HC-EC.org or email Doty at admin@HC-EC.org. Send submissions to: Dove@HC-EC.org.



2022 Israel Trip group photo ~ taken
at the back of the Dome of the Rock.
It is located on the Temple Mount in
old Jerusalem.



Welcome to Holy Comforter!

“Living our Faith by Serving God and Others”



ORDAINED LEADERSHIP

The Rt. Rev. Samuel Johnson Howard, Bishop
The Reverend Beth Pessah, Associate Rector
The Reverend Jeanie Beyer, Deacon

VESTRY

Trisha Culbertson, Senior Warden
Randy Desilet, Junior Warden
Chris Jester
Sterling Luce
Judy Shipman
Jackie Watts
Mary Whitmire
Hollie Maddox, Treasurer
Carolyn DiSalvo, Clerk

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