



enhancing
communication
among area
episcopalians

**A publication of
the Episcopal
Commission of
Southeast
Tennessee
(ECSET)**

Fall 2007

Reading Center Inspires Children to Read

The volunteers at the St. Elmo Neighborhood Reading Center don't teach children to read."We inspire them to read," said Linda Cooper, volunteer center director and communicant at the Church of the Good Shepherd. The center is located at Thankful Memorial Church and is a Jubilee Ministry Center of the Episcopal Church. It reaches infants through students in the eighth grade.

"We do outreach because the kids don't have transportation to the center," Mrs. Cooper said. Satellite centers have been established at the South Chattanooga Recreation Center and the Church of the First Born, and students in the Cedar Hill Head Start program are also served.

The center operates during the school year and also in the summer. An art camp was held this summer that involved both art activities and reading. In addition, the center was involved with the Church of the First Born's Most Valuable Person program.

ECSET recently granted \$500 to the center, and the bulk of the money was used to buy books and start two new reading groups for elementary school children.

In addition to inspiring children to read, the center seeks to increase the availability



Barbara Ensley and her children, Elliott and Kaleb, at the reading center.

See Reading - page 2

St. Barnabas Reaches A Centennial Mark

The new St. Barnabas Senior Living Services skilled nursing facility is only a few months old, but it has already marked a centennial.

In early October the number of residents topped 100, which is near the facility's 108-bed capacity. The census, however, changes daily due to discharges, hospitalizations and new admissions.

"The St. Barnabas Centennial Class of 2007 is a very special milestone," said Eric Boston, president and CEO of St. Barnabas.

The facility is located on the campus of the Siskin Hospital for Physical Rehabilitation and represents a unique partnership between the two institutions. Short-stay residents have access to physical therapy treatments that might otherwise be unavailable to them due to Siskin's rigorous three to four hours daily of inpatient therapy. They can then transfer to the Siskin program which could lead to a discharge to home or a more independent environment.

Twenty-five percent of new admissions have already transferred to independent environments.



Local artist Mary Jane Kelly, her sister, Pamela Anne Ferris and Eric Boston by the sculpture "Celebration."

See St. Barnabas - page 4



Fall 2007

In cooperation with its member churches, elected representatives, and the Bishop of the Diocese of East Tennessee, ECSET seeks to strengthen the ministry of the Episcopal Church by promoting fellowship and communication among member congregations and by providing financial and/or spiritual support for initiatives in the ECSET area. Those initiatives include the Metropolitan and Campus Ministries, St. Barnabas Apartments & Nursing Home, ECSET Youth Ministries, new worshipping communities, parishes with extraordinary needs, and other projects as approved by the general members and the Board of Directors.

Board of Directors

Holt Westbrook
President

Mark Keown
Vice President

Suzy Deierhoi
Secretary/Treasurer

The Rev. Gary Callahan
Gaines Campbell
Pete Cooper
Jim Fisher
John Grant
James Johnson
Emily McDonald
The Rev. Lou Parsons
The Rev. Buckley Robbins

ex-officio

The Rev. John Talbird
Metropolitan Ministry

Rick Govan
Diocesan Representative

The Rev. Kuulei Green
St. Barnabas Senior Living Services

Thomas Kale
Chancellor

The Rt. Rev. Charles vonRosenberg
Bishop of the Diocese of East Tennessee

ecsetera

is a quarterly publication of the Episcopal Commission of Southeast Tennessee (ECSET). Emily McDonald, Editor

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Episcopal Metropolitan Ministry

People begin gathering outside about 5:30AM each day at the ministry center. At 8 they are given a number and welcomed. At 9 before our faithful volunteers begin seeing each person and determining their needs, we come into the waiting area and say, "Everybody stand up and hold hands. We are going to start with prayer. Who will pray for us today?" Usually one of our clients will pray. Almost always they begin with giving thanks to God for "sleeping through the night; for being able to get to the ministry; for people who will reach out and help those in need; for the sun that warms them...." Their first prayers to God are ones of thanksgiving, not of what they need or want.

The staff and volunteers at the Episcopal Metropolitan Ministry have learned a lot from our clients about prayer and thanksgiving. As we move toward the holiday season, Thanksgiving reminds us of the need to give thanks to God for the many gifts we have received.

We give thanks to you who have supported the Human Needs Fund of EMM. This fund enables us to meet some of the needs of those who live on the edge and those who have actually fallen off the edge. Your gifts are all the money we receive at this point, and 100% of this money goes to help with human needs. Because of the generosity of many of you, we have been able to help people this year to the tune of about \$180,000.

If you have not contributed to this fund in the past, we invite you to consider the blessing of your own lives and give thanks to God by reaching out your hand to help those who are so often invisible and expendable to society. These too are God's children and they are the ones that Jesus said, "If you help them, you have helped me."

This is our only funding request of the year, and we ask you to consider a gift to EMM. It has been gratifying that many of you "pledge" and give a regular amount each month. We can't tell you how much that helps us. In addition to your gifts, we ask for your regular prayers for this ministry and those who are served. Thank you for making this work possible.

The Rev. John Talbird, Metropolitan Minister

Reading - Continued from page 1

of books to children who otherwise wouldn't have them and to reach out to the St. Elmo/Alton Park community to support, develop and provide volunteers for reading programs.

The center was one of several neighborhood reading centers established by the United Way of Greater Chattanooga in 2000. The United Way partnered with the St. Elmo/Alton Park Partners Association to set up the center, and Thankful Memorial agreed to house it.

The United Way provided books, supplies, equipment, etc., but it became the responsibility of volunteers to run it. Eventually, the church assumed primary responsibility for operating the center and adopted it as an outreach project. The center became a Jubilee Ministry center in 2002. Volunteers are needed at the center to read to children there or at other community centers during the school year. They are also needed during the summer for reading programs for elementary school children.

For more information call Mrs. Cooper at 304-0079.

What's Up/In ECSET Region

The Community Kitchen, a Jubilee Ministry Center of the Episcopal Church, will be among the agencies taking part in **Unity in the Community, a Thanksgiving Day Celebration** to help feed those in need. The participating organizations will feed dinner to the homeless between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Nov. 22 in the First Tennessee Pavilion.

"We are thrilled about this cooperative effort," said Charlie Hughes of the Community Kitchen. "Unity in the Community is an excellent way to celebrate Thanksgiving."

For more information or to volunteer call 756-1023 or 756-4222.

The Rev. H. King Oehmig has written a new book designed to help bring the Sunday scriptures alive. "**Understanding the Sunday Scriptures: A Companion to the Revised Common Lectionary Year A**" (ReadMark Press, \$21.95) provides commentary on the four lessons for each Sunday, a prayer for the day, a reflection section, points to ponder that can be used by both individuals and Bible study groups and a notes section.

Books covering Years B and C will be published at a

later date.

Rev. Oehmig is founder and editor of Synthesis Publications, a lectionary-based ministry serving members of the Anglican Communion. He is also vicar of St. Barnabas Church in Trion, Ga., and a resident of Chattanooga. The book is available at the Grace Church and Church of the Good Shepherd bookstores or may be ordered by calling 1-800-722-4124 or online at koehmig@readmarkpress.com.

The Church of the Good Shepherd served as host for the "**Sacred Studies Fall Conference 2007**" held Oct. 26-27.

Dr. Allan Chinen, an author and a clinical professor of psychiatry at the University of California at San Francisco who also has a private practice in psychiatry, was the featured speaker. His topic was "Living Happily Ever After...The Development Tasks of Middle and Later Life in Fairy Tales."

Lori George of St. Martin's and Beth Nichols of the Church of the Nativity have each received \$600 in scholarship funds from ECSET to attend the two-year **Leadership Program for Musicians** being held in Atlanta. The program is a project of the Episcopal Church to help train musicians serving small congregations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The ECSET fall general meeting will be held Monday, Nov. 26, at the **Church of the Good Shepherd**. Eucharist will be celebrated at 6 p.m. followed by dinner and the program.

The Advent Concert series at **St. Paul's Chattanooga** will begin Dec. 5 with a performance by the Chattanooga Girls Choir. Chattanooga Wind Quartet will play on Dec. 12, and the Chattanooga Society for the Preservation of African American Song will sing on Dec. 19.

The concerts will begin at 12:05 p.m. and will be followed by lunch. The cost for lunch is \$5, and no reservations are required. Call 266-8195 for more information.

The Bach's Lunch series at **Grace Church** will open Dec. 7 with a concert by Laura Elder, harp, and Nora Kile, flute. Organists Karla Fowkes and Adrienne Olson, will perform organ duets Dec. 14, and the Chattanooga Boys Choir will appear Dec. 21.

The concerts will begin at 12:05. Lunch is \$6, and lunch reservations must be made by the Wednesday prior to each concert. Call 698-2433.

Grateful Gobbler Walk Scheduled Nov. 22



The 2007 Grateful Gobbler Walk, Roll and Stroll to benefit the homeless takes place on Nov. 22, Thanksgiving Day.

The event is sponsored by the Chattanooga Homeless Coalition and members of Chattanooga's faith community, including several Episcopal parishes.

Over \$60,000 was raised by the walk in 2006 and distributed among 21 agencies that serve the homeless, said Karen Blevins, acting director of the coalition. The agencies include the Episcopal Metropolitan Ministry and St. Catherine's and St. Matthew's shelters located in St. Paul's Chattanooga.

Participants may designate the agency they would like to benefit from their contribution.

The three-mile, 5K course begins and ends in Coolidge Park. Late registration is scheduled between 7 and 8:30 a.m., and the walk starts at 8:30 a.m.

The fee is \$10 for children 12 and under, \$25 for an individual and \$50 for the leadership category.

For more information call 752-4807 or go online at www.homelesscoalition.org.

Support Our Metropolitan Ministry

Area Episcopalians can band together to help those less fortunate than ourselves through the Episcopal Metropolitan Ministry's Human Needs Fund. This vital resource helps people who need assistance with food, utilities, prescriptions for the elderly and other critical necessities. Donations are tax-deductible and go directly to those in need, as all administrative expenses for the Metropolitan Ministry are funded through ECSET's budget. Please send your donation to:

**Episcopal Metropolitan Ministry
1112 McCallie Ave.
Chattanooga, TN 37404**

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

To make your contribution in memory of or in honor of someone special, please indicate on a separate sheet of paper (1) their name (2) "In Memory of" or "In Honor of" and (3) the name and address of anyone whom you would like us to notify regarding your gift.

St. Barnabas - Continued from page 1

In other St. Barnabas news:

*The second floor nursing and central court have been named in memory of Jack Martin, who was a St. Barnabas Nursing Home resident for five years before his death in 2007. Mr. Martin, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict, was nationally known in the kitchen industry and had his own sales and marketing firm in Chattanooga.

The plaque noting "given in memory of Jack Martin" was provided by Kerrie Bartlett and Scott Martin.

*Local artist Mary Jane Kelly designed a bronze sculpture for the lobby of the new facility. The piece is titled "Celebration" and depicts a vibrant woman representative of the spirit of Mrs. Kelly's sister, Pamela Anne Ferris, a long-time resident of St. Barnabas.

The St. Barnabas heart, which symbolizes St. Barnabas' reputation for providing a nurturing family environment, is incorporated into the edging of the figure's fringed cloak.



EPISCOPAL COMMISSION OF SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE (ECSET)

**Episcopal Metropolitan Ministry
1112 McCallie Ave.
Chattanooga, TN 37404**

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chattanooga, TN
Permit No. 315

Churches are asked to include **ECSETERA** on their newsletter mailing lists, as we may include items of general interest in our next issue. Send correspondence to: Emily McDonald, **ECSETERA** Editor, 724 Bacon Trail, East Ridge, Tennessee 37412.

PLEASE NOTE:

Send all **ECSETERA** address changes to:

Lynn Lazlo
Diocese of East Tennessee
814 Episcopal School Way
Knoxville, TN 37932
865-966-2110