



enhancing
communication
among area
episcopalians

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

Spring 2007

ECSET Seeks to Unite Episcopalians in Service

Relevant is a word Holt Westbrook uses frequently when talking about the future of ECSET.

“Our challenge is to determine what is relevant and reach out and do those things,” said Mr. Westbrook, the new president of the ECSET board and a communicant at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Mr. Westbrook has been listening to a lot of comments about ECSET lately, and has been “hearing drumbeats for a mission review and change.

As a result, he said, “we need to restate what our mission is.”

ECSET’s initial mission was to help establish new churches and was quite successful. “Our largest fund is dedicated to that,” Mr. Westbrook said. In recent years, however, the focus has shifted from providing bricks and mortar to social ministries, such as establishing the Metropolitan Ministry and supporting agencies like the Hosanna Community.

“I do not see why we can’t be a platform for collaborative efforts by Episcopal churches to do ministry,” he said. “We can take a look at our structure. There are a lot of opportunities for ministry. We can open the doors for ministries to find us.”

With that in mind, the board recently adopted a new mission statement: “Uniting Episcopalians to serve God’s people.” That builds on ECSET’s uniqueness as a partnership among 18 parishes in Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia.

See *ECSET* - page 2



Newly-elected ECSET officers, Holt Westbrook, President; Suzy Deierhoi, Sec/Treas. and Mark Keown, Vice President.

John Talbird Works with EMM and ECSET



Ordination didn’t prepare the Rev. John Talbird or his predecessors, the Rev. Jim Bills and the Rev. Lou Garcia, for doing the job of metropolitan minister, Rev. Talbird said.

The Rev. Talbird, who retired last year as rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd, is serving as interim metropolitan minister.

“I find this a steady learning curve,” he said. “I learn more and more every day about the human drama that constantly goes on in life.”

People come to the Metropolitan Ministry needing help to “get them to a place where they can change their lives,” Rev. Talbird said. “I am impressed we are able to help.”

One of the “brilliant things” his predecessor, Rev. Garcia, did was hire Rebecca Whelchel as the ministry’s executive director. She has “the unique qualities” that make it possible for the ministry to provide the assistance it does.

“I am impressed that only two people are employees,” Rev. Talbird said. “The ministry is run by volunteers who are really the ministry. We need to quit using the

See *Talbird* - page 2



Spring 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

ECSET - Continued from Page 1

Mr. Westbrook paid tribute to those who preceded the present ECSET leaders. They created ECSET and “gave us a platform already in place.” What they created has been successful, but all successful organizations need to review where they are.

A new structure would mean that ECSET could become a platform for ministry, look at needs for new ministries in the community and become a site to address those needs. ECSET could also find new ways of supporting existing ministries rather than always looking for something new to do, he said.

Mr. Westbrook has asked the finance committee to look at the structure of ECSET’s funds and possibly do some revising, such as broadening the mission fund to permit other uses. Any changes, however, will be taken to the general membership for approval.

Communication with parishes is a key focus for ECSET, and Mr. Westbrook hopes communication can become more effective by such things as publication of an annual report and visits to ECSET churches.

“Having John Talbird here adds such a dimension to our potential,” he said. Rev. Talbird, the interim metropolitan minister, led a board retreat in March that focused on the future of ECSET. “We can think through what our mission could be. He will be able to go out and get input from parishes, and we can refine that.”

With Rebecca Whelchel serving as executive director of the Metropolitan Ministry, Rev. Talbird is free to contact parishes and also to raise funds for the ministry. “She gives us the ability to have these concerns,” Westbrook said. Otherwise, Rev. Talbird would have to spend all his time at the ministry office.

“She gives us another dimension, she gives us the freedom to grow,” he said.

Talbird - Continued from Page 1

word volunteer. This is truly a ministry of giving help to people, many of them in temporary hopelessness.”

Ms. Whelchel “says over and over, ‘we want to say yes to you,’ but sets parameters,” he said. The intent is to treat everyone with dignity and respect, and “that comes across to the people who come here.”

In addition to heading the ministry, Rev. Talbird is working with ECSET as it seeks to redefine its mission. In March he led an ECSET retreat at Grace Point Camp and Retreat Center and was “so impressed by the people on the board, their energy, creativity and imagination.”

“I feel God is ready to do a good thing with ECSET,” he said. “I really see my role as being a connector, to connect people, churches, ideas and ministry.”

Rev. Talbird said he is doing a lot of talking, and he hopes to eventually meet with all of the ECSET clergy. He also wants to meet with the vestry of each parish and preach at every church. His goal is to reconnect the 18 parishes in a relationship with ECSET. He feels very fortunate to be involved at this time and help pave the way for a new day. “It’s not my vision but is really God’s vision for ECSET,” he said.

What's Up/In ECSET Churches

Zammarin, a group of musicians and singers at **St. Timothy's**, has released a CD called "Zammarin" featuring such songs as "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" and "Be Thou My Vision." The CD was professionally produced, recorded and mixed by well-known musician Fran McKendree.

It sells for \$15 and is available at the church, (423) 886-2281 or www.sttims@sttimsignal.com.

St. Mathew's Dayton has an organist, Keith Attle. Mr. Attle, who has been playing the piano and organ most of his life, is retired from McKee Baking Co. in Collegedale and is the father of Danny Attle, the church's senior warden.

A service to mark the fourth anniversary of the start of the war in Iraq was held April 16 at **Christ Church Chattanooga**. It was held in conjunction with a worship service and prayer vigil held in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and other organizations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

■ The **ECSET quarterly meeting** will be held Monday, May 21, at St. Luke's Cleveland. The evening will begin with Eucharist at 6 p.m. followed by dinner and the program.

■ Six camp sessions are scheduled at **Grace Point Camp and Retreat Center** during the summer. They are Session I, June 5-11, rising 10th through 12th graders; Session II, June 15-21, rising 8th and 9th graders; Session III, June-26-July 2, 6th and 7th graders; Session IV, July 7-13, rising 4th and 5th graders; Session V-a, July 16-18, rising 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders with parent; Session V-b, July 20-22, rising 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders with parent. The fee is \$275 per child per week. For more information: www.etdiocese.net or (865) 966-2110.

■ The **61st Annual Conference of the Episcopal Churchmen of Tennessee** is scheduled Aug. 17-19 at DuBose Conference Center in Monteagle, TN. The theme is "Suffer the little children to come unto me," and the speakers include the Rt. Rev. Leo Frade of Our Little Roses in Honduras, Dr. Scott Howard of St. Jude Children's Research Center and Chris Newlin of the National Children's Advocacy Center. For more information: www.episcopalchurchmen.net or call Ed Miller, (615) 457-5313, 476-2576.

Sponsors Sign Up for Golf Scramble

Major sponsorships have been obtained for the State Farm Collegiate Players Tour Collegiate/Amateur Scramble to be held July 23 at Bear Trace at Harrison Bay.

The scramble is a benefit for the Metropolitan Ministry. It will feature four-person teams paired with one collegiate player.

Enterprise Rent A Car has committed to a \$5,000 Gold Sponsorship and also to sponsor the dinner following the Scramble. ServiceMaster has signed up for a \$3,500 Silver Sponsorship and also to provide a ServiceMaster Golf Cart to distribute beverages during the event.

A putting contest is planned on the day of the Scramble and proceeds are earmarked for the CPT tournament. There is also the option of holding a silent auction with the potential of earning additional funds.

The CPT tournament will also include 36 holes played by collegiate players on July 24 and 18 holes on July 25. For more information about sponsorships, teams or volunteer opportunities call Al Carrico, (423) 855-6706.

Legal Clinic Established

The Episcopal Metropolitan Ministry now offers clients the pro bono legal services of several local attorneys.

The two-phase clinic was developed by Brad Weeks, attorney, EMM volunteer and communicant at the Church of the Good Shephrd.

First, when a volunteer perceives an immediate legal need while interviewing a client, he or she takes the matter to Rebecca Whelchel, the ministry's executive director. Ms. Whelchel, in turn, contacts one of the attorneys who has agreed to answer questions in his or her area of expertise.

This makes legal assistance "a whole lot more accessible," Ms. Whelchel said.

If there is a need for a personal interview, the volunteer schedules it during pre-determined times for attorney conferences. Currently, these conferences are scheduled twice a month at the EMM office.

"The emphasis of the attorney's participation is to give telephone advice to help the counselors in the EMM office and the client with their specific legal question," Mr. Weeks said. "Ultimately, we hope to be able to, with the help of Legal Aid of East Tennessee, get appropriate legal assistance for our clients."

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.

What's UP/In the ECSET Region

New leaders have been chosen for the **ECSET** board. Holt Westbrook is serving as president (see page 1) and Mark Keown as vice president. Both are parishioners at the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Suzy Deierhoi of St. Timothy's was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

New board members are Gaines Campbell, St. Thaddaeus; Pete Cooper, Good Shepherd; Jim Fisher, St. Timothy's, and the Rev. Buckley Robbins, St. Francis of Assisi.

The **Metropolitan Ministry** provided 1,358 services during the first quarter of 2007 and dispersed \$47,617 from the Human Needs Fund. Sixty-five percent of the total was allocated for utility bill payments. Food vouchers were 15 percent of the total and rent assistance 13 percent. Over 700 volunteers hours were logged during the period.

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