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# The Outrider

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JULY – AUGUST 2005

## *The View from Above the Close*

*AS IF MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT...*

*"Theological reconciliation moves at a pace that makes the advance and recession of glaciers seem like the oscillation of a gnat in the golden light of a golden evening."*

*--Mark Helprin, The Pacific*

By the time you read this—early July sometime—I will have been through three weeks or more of radiation at the Lever Center. Not to worry, it has always been a part of the treatment for my prostate cancer. Remove the gland and then radiate where the gland was to make sure all of the cancer is gone. But one thing I've noticed is that I show up at the Lever Center every day at 2:45 p.m. for my treatment, "as if my life depended on it...."

I'd invite you to consider, just like a possibility, how your "showing up" at St. John's for Eucharist each week might just be a little like how I "show up" at the Cancer Center every day, on time, without fail, no matter what else I could be doing. I'd invite you to consider the possibility that showing up for church could be as if your life depended on it... Like, no kidding, like really, like that is just the way it is.

What if "your life depended on it"—the showing up at church, no matter what, no matter how inconvenient it might be or "how boring" you might think it is...what if, just "what if"...your life depended on being present week by week at the breaking of the bread and sharing of the wine? What if that were simply true?

I happen to think it is—but since I'm paid to show up week after week I'm hesitant and shy about saying that out loud. But my faithfulness in showing up for the radiation I receive each day has taught me something: it has taught me that simply showing up is 90% of life—of hope, of healing, of possibility. So, "simply showing up" matters greatly, immensely, profoundly.

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If I didn't "show up" at church week after week, one of my excuses would be that the Episcopal Church is involved in such a horrific struggle these days that it exhausts me, wears me out, discourages and depresses me.

The quote above is from a novel, not a theological treatise. And it rings true, true, true.

For three decades the Episcopal Church has been involved in the struggle about homosexuality and the role of gay folks in the church. For me, the struggle is over. Gay Folks are fully and completely accepted into my vision and understanding of the church. For lots of folks, that isn't true yet. And the "reconciliation" between the two sides will take decades if not a generation. So, what I've decided to do is "move on". Let the church fight and fuss, I will simply move on and seek to proclaim and lean into the "gospel" of Christ.

Just like every day at 2:45 p.m. I'll show up for my radiation—I will "show up" for Christ every day in every way and let the glacial reconciliation between people of good will who disagree absolutely go on at its petty pace. I'm out of the loop from here on out. Let the glaciers of theological thought advance and recede. Let the gnat wear itself out in the golden light.

I'm just going to "show up" every day and be who I am and do what I do. That's enough. More than enough. All I can do.

Shalom,

JIM



#### BAPTISMS AT ST. JOHN'S

Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, is the next date for baptism. If you or your child desires the sacrament of baptism please contact one of the clergy as soon as possible. Classes for candidates and parents and godparents will be August 13<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.



#### PRAYER SHAWL & KNITTING MINISTRY

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl and Knitting Ministry will be at St. John's on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 am - 11 a.m. in the Guild Hall. If you're interested, sign up on the hall table.



#### YOUTH WORKER FOR HIRE

St. John's is seeking a youth worker 10-12 hours per week, working with teens of both the Anglo and Hispanic parish. Duties to include: planning program with input from the clergy and staff and Acolyte training and scheduling. Sunday mornings a must - other times are negotiable. Resumes are accepted by mail to the church office or by email: [stjohns@stjohnsonthegreen.org](mailto:stjohns@stjohnsonthegreen.org).



### SPIRITUALITY AND SUPPORT FOR MOMS

Need a break? Are the kids running you ragged? Worried you'll do something stupid if there's one more snow day or delayed opening this year? Actually, even if you're not a desperate housewife, if you have young kids, this group is for you! Please join us on Sundays beginning September 11<sup>th</sup> from 9-10:00 a.m.

Each week we'll read some short piece of poetry or prose by folks like Anne Lamott or Mary Oliver or Anna Quindlan, and then we'll spend some time enjoying grown-up conversation and spiritual companionship.

Let Malinda Johnson know if you're interested (203) 754-3116 or (203) 558-2557. FREE BABYSITTING PROVIDED.



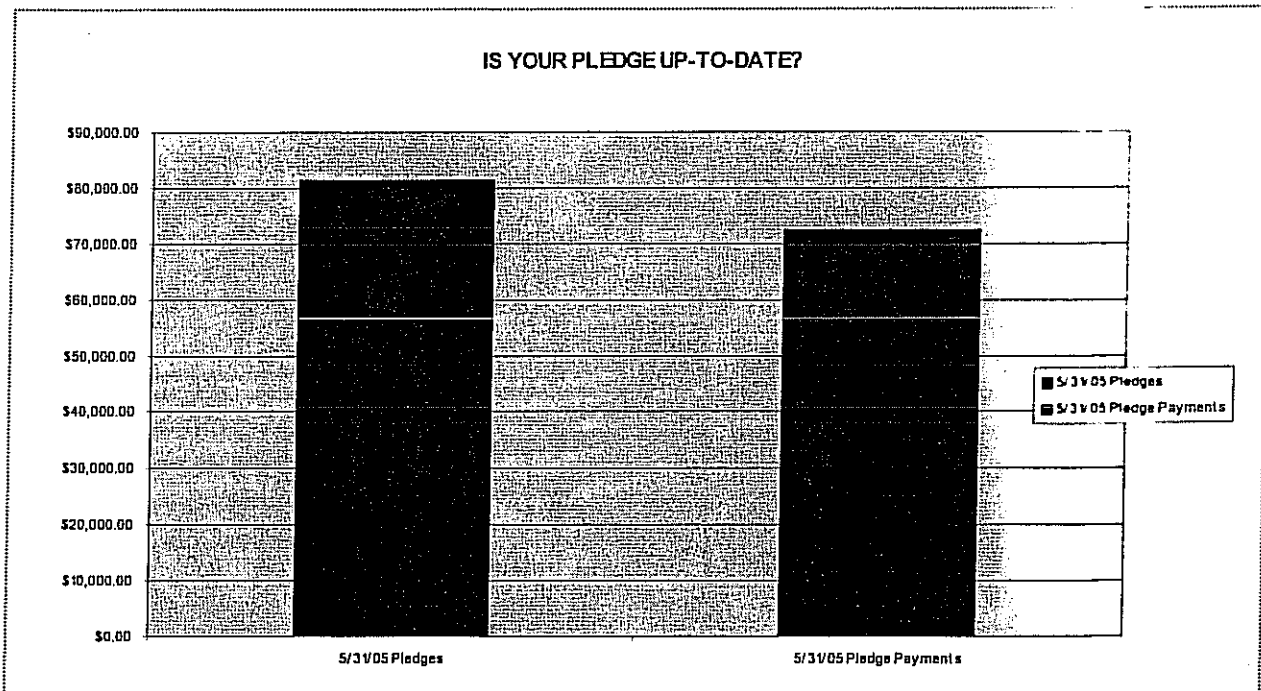
### BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Book Club will be Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the Library. We'll be discussing East of Eden by John Steinbeck. Join us for discussion and bring a bag lunch!



### CHURCH SCHOOL

The Creative Church School will begin Sunday morning, September 11<sup>th</sup>, from 9-10:00 a.m. on the third floor. New students are always welcome.



In July everyone who donated funds to St. John's in 2005 should receive a statement for the first half of the year. Please review the information carefully and call the office if you find any errors or have any questions (203-754-3116). Ask for Harriet.

## I Chop Some Parsley While Listening to Art Blakey's Version of "Three Blind Mice"

And I start wondering how they came to be blind.  
If it was congenital, they could be brothers and sisters,  
and I think of the poor mother  
brooding over her sightless young triplets.

Or was it a common accident, all three caught  
in a searing explosion, a firework perhaps?  
If not,  
if each came to his or her blindness separately,

how did they ever manage to find one another?  
Would it not be difficult for a blind mouse  
to locate even one fellow mouse with vision  
let alone two other blind ones?

And how, in their tiny darkness,  
could they possibly have run after a farmer's wife  
or anyone else's wife for that matter?  
Not to mention why.

Just so she could cut off their tails  
with a carving knife, is the cynic's answer,  
but the thought of them without eyes  
and now without tails to trail through the moist grass

or slip around the corner of a baseboard  
has the cynic who always lounges within me  
up off his couch and at the window  
trying to hide the rising softness that he feels.

By now I am on to dicing an onion  
which might account for the wet stinging  
in my own eyes, though Freddie Hubbard's  
mournful trumpet on "Blue Moon,"

which happens to be the next cut,  
cannot be said to be making matters any better.

from *Picnic, Lightning* by Billy Collins, copyright ©1998 by Billy Collins - U.S. Poet Laureate 2001-2003

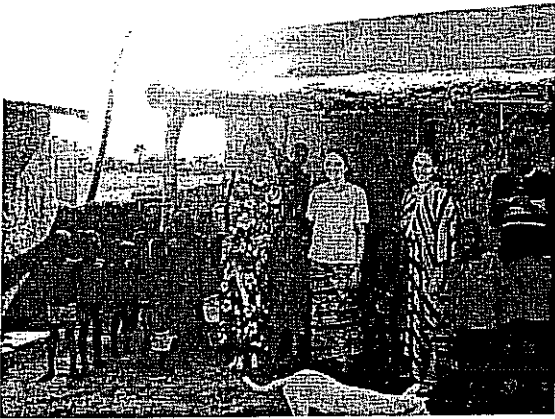
This is the first Billy Collins' poem I ever heard. Malinda read it to me one day in my office. Then she gave me a copy. Thus began my love affair with poetry.

Have you ever noticed that on the window ledge of the St. James' chapel at St. John's, mixed in with the prayer books, there are books of poetry - some of Billy Collins, some collections? We read poetry every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at noonday prayers. We bring in favorite poems to share with other members of the staff and anyone who shows the slightest interest - gifts of ourselves. So, if you like this poem, please cut it out and share it with a friend or your children or spouse.

Harriet Fotter

# Everyday Life in Benin

Pictures of life at work and play in Benin for our Peace Corps volunteer Katherine Haines.



Kathy, the new Peace Corps country director for Benin, other volunteers and the neighborhood kids in front of Kathy's



Kathy dancing with the midwife at the health center in her village—Tayacou



Kathy and her garden



Kathy at work looking at a growth chart at the health center

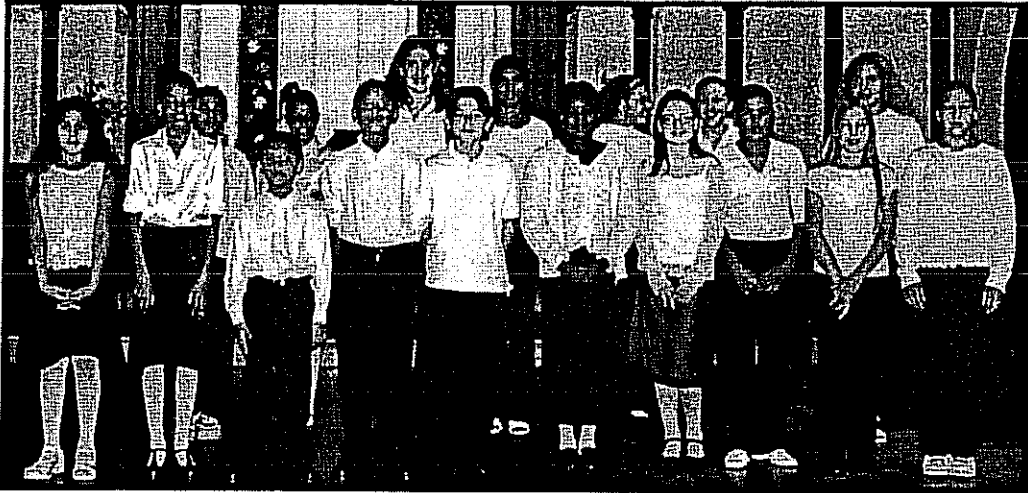
It sure looks like Kathy is enjoying her life in Benin and that she is appreciated for her work there. I know that she appreciates our prayers and thoughts. If you get a chance, write her at:

Katherine Haines, PCT  
Corps de la Paix Americain  
Cotonou, Benin  
Afrique de l'Ouest

Please mark all envelopes "par avion" & "air mail"

# Celebrations

by Lorene Castle



This month I celebrate this wonderful church for starting the Chorister Academy. I don't think many other churches would have taken the risk when we wondered whether we would find the children. Thanks to God's work in our midst, Maria Coffin, Armando Gonzalez and the wonderful Choristers it became a reality.

Congratulations!





The Chorister Academy  
at  
St. John's





### JULY

7/1 Eric Beaudoin  
7/1 Nicholas Mattson  
7/2 Riley Belury-Matos  
7/2 Emily Belury-Matos  
7/3 Glenn Thompson III  
7/3 Ray Barker  
7/6 Jamie Taylor  
7/7 Lee Bossio  
7/8 Brianna Longo  
7/8 Edna Schneider  
7/8 Briana Varrone  
7/9 Jeremy Vermette  
7/10 Nicolas Longo  
7/13 Kiana Livingston  
7/13 Carla Cinquegrana  
7/14 George Zucca  
7/14 Donald Regan  
7/15 Ena Dover  
7/15 Christopher Townsend  
7/15 Jerry Sooklall  
7/15 Kayla Bellavance  
7/16 Zashea Nelson  
7/16 Nardane Mamudi  
7/17 Sharon McDonald  
7/17 Lorraine Barker  
7/17 Ines Rosado  
7/20 Michael Sims  
7/20 Nelson Tchakirides  
7/20 Courtney White  
7/21 Malinda Johnson  
7/21 Robert Klein  
7/21 Nicky Rosa  
7/21 Harvey Udell  
7/22 Jason Lewis  
7/23 Jo-Ann Plunske  
7/23 Susan Boucher  
7/23 Ashlee Gurtowski  
7/24 Peter Gervickas  
7/25 Elizabeth Frazine  
7/25 Robert Farina  
7/25 Aye'Jha Punter  
7/25 Kyla Walker  
7/25 Ana Moore

7/25 Nathan Lyman  
7/25 Joaneth Quiles  
7/26 Alison Jeannin  
7/26 Don Langlais  
7/27 Colin Bossio  
7/29 Nicholas Capobianco IV  
7/29 Nicholas Mastropietro  
7/29 Crystle Tellerday

### AUGUST

8/1 Marina Marques  
8/3 Joan Kachergis  
8/4 Helen Pritchard  
8/4 Eileen Hamilton  
8/4 John Kolodziej  
8/4 Eugene DiCorpo  
8/5 Aida DaSilva  
8/6 Jeremy Gambino  
8/6 Suleika Cabrera  
8/7 Doris Hollenstein  
8/8 Christine Jeannin  
8/8 Gabrielle Tittle  
8/9 Larry Tapley, Jr.  
8/9 Daniel Gates  
8/9 Michelle Castro  
8/10 Kenneth Aubrie  
8/10 Louise Raleigh  
8/12 Pam Toffey  
8/12 Toni O'Connell  
8/12 Emily Lanoie  
8/13 Matthew Mastropietro  
8/13 Angela Misurelli  
8/13 Jane Yuhas  
8/13 Keriann Lamy  
8/14 Steven Gordon, Jr.  
8/14 Dorothy Raleigh  
8/15 Susan Coleman  
8/16 Thomas Presbie  
8/17 Mario Varrone  
8/17 John Champagne  
8/18 Marjorie Parker  
8/18 Andrew Skipp  
8/18 Tom Cook  
8/19 Charles Frazine



### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS (Continued)

8/19 Dorothy Reymond  
8/20 Amelia Iorio  
8/20 Richard Collins  
8/22 Stacy Petrosky  
8/23 Bill Conda  
8/23 Christine Greggis  
8/23 Catherine Groshans  
8/24 Taylor Eagan  
8/24 Alexandra Greider  
8/24 Sally Harris  
8/24 Justin Mancinone  
8/24 Nicholas Weis  
8/25 Tianna Umbro  
8/25 Sandra Regan  
8/25 William Weiler  
8/26 Pinki Chillemi  
8/26 Brandon White  
8/26 Olivia O'Connell  
8/27 Jeannette Carrillo  
8/27 Rory Healy  
8/28 Ryan Caggiano  
8/29 Michael Smith  
8/29 Jetta Slater  
8/31 Dorothy Ferguson  
8/31 Jenna Munson  
8/31 Jennifer Perreault

### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/2 Marian & Mike Carroll  
8/3 Bob & Alice Cook  
8/4 Michael & Sharon McDonald  
8/5 Fred & Gina Loomis  
8/8 Ray & Audrey Sperring  
8/10 John & Melissa Torrance  
8/15 Lance Belury & Pam Ulrich  
8/19 Glenn & Anna Decarolis  
8/20 Peter & Laurie Eagan  
8/22 Richard & Sandra Knapp  
8/23 Michael & Jacqueline Quirici

### JULY PARISH PRAYER CYCLE

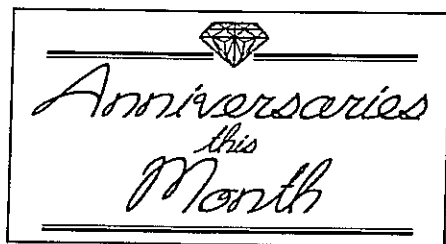
July 3: Michael & Jacqueline Quirici & Family, Louise Raleigh, Moe & Sandra Redzep, Jeanne Reed, The Regan Family, Dorothy Reymond, Cshilla Ricciardi & Joseph Scognamiglio, Daniel Richardson, Karen Rodgers & Family, and John Rodriguez.

July 10: Wilson Rodriguez, Nicole & Ray Rosa & Family, The Rosado Family, Judy & Philip Rowley, Clair & Kirk Rundhaug & Family, The Ruocco Family, The Russo Family, John & Roseanne Sabol & Family, Michael & Cindy Saindon, the Salzer Family.

July 17: Eric & Lillian Sanderson & Family, Jacilyn Stanchfield & Kenneth Sanford, Arlene Santa Maria & Family, David & Elizabeth Santa Maria, Roberta Santa Maria & Family, Thomas Santopietro, Elizabeth & Paul Santoro, Margaret & Susan Savageau, and Victor & Paula Saverino.

July 24: Ernest & Linnea Savoy & Family, Edna Schneider, Bill & Dawn Schuster, Mabel Schuster, The Scott Family, Jeffrey Scott, William & Gina Serrell, Jason & Donna Sevas & Family, Tiffany Sevas and Sarah Shatney.

July 31: Roseanna Shea & Wayne Levandoski, Virginia Sheehan, Cathy Shelburne & Mark McKee, Roberta Sherman, Beth & Carl Siemon & Family, Michael & Judy Sims, Andrew Skipp & Jill Stevenson & Family, Warren & Cynthia Skipp, Christopher & Anna Slater and David & Francine Smith & Family.



### JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/9 David & Janet Gurniak  
7/16 Donald Anderson & Donna Ploski  
7/17 Joe & Rebecca Cipriano  
7/20 Evanson & Ena Dover  
7/20 Tom & Bonnie Flanagan  
7/26 Don & Linda Pomeroy  
7/31 William & Laura Breslin  
7/31 Andrew Skipp & Jill Stevenson



St. John's Flower Ministry has modified the way altar flowers are dedicated on each Sunday. Altar flower offerings of nature's beauty are acts of worship that enhance the liturgical seasons, provide beauty to God's altar, and express our love of God's creation in all seasons.

The Flower Ministry has issued an "open call", if you will, for anyone to have altar flowers donated in memory of a loved one, regardless of the amount donated.

Attached to this Outrider are two forms to fill out: one form if you just want to make a general donation to the altar flower fund and a second form for those who wish their loved one(s) to be remembered in the Prayers of the People.



I wish to make a donation to the flower fund:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amount Donated: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We wish to have:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Remembered in the Prayers of the People  
on Sunday, \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Communion Bread and Wine Offering

If you would like to have Communion Bread and Wine offered in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for someone or something, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection plate or mail into the Church Office (Donation is \$10):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Thanksgiving For: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sunday you wish Bread & Wine  
celebrated for: \_\_\_\_\_

**AUGUST PARISH PRAYER CYCLE**

**August 7:** James R. Smith, The Snyder Family, Michael & Amy Spencer & Family, Ray & Audrey Sperring, The Spinella Family, The Steisel Family, Mrs. Maude Stevenson, Michael & Robin Stokes & Family, Christine Stolfi & Family, and Pam Strassner.

**August 14:** Albert Strobel, Keith Sullivan & Carrie Zimyeski, Barbara Sylvestro, Aaron & Elizabeth Syman, Gail & Mark Szantyr, Mark & Ann Tabaka, Greg & Erin Tani, Larry & Kathleen Tapley, Montgomery & Renee Taylor, Peter & Sharon Taylor.

**August 21:** Nelson Tchakirides, Peter Tchakirides, The Tellerday Family, Mary Terrell, Mary Beth Thompson & Family, Monica Tiso, Shawn & Susan Tittle & Family, Bob & Pam Toffey, John & Melissa Torrance, and Carmen Torres & Family .

**August 28:** Rafael & Rosa Torres, Sandy Totoritis, Kathleen & Robert Trowbridge, Ruth Truelove, Elizabeth Trzcinski & Jenn Moniello, Harvey Udell, Diego Urena, Anthony & Anne Vaccarelli, Claudine Vaccarelli, and Charlotte Vanasse.



**FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST, WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO GIVE THANKSGIVING FOR:**

**July 27:** The 25 years of shared lives of Pat Hart and Sandy Allard.

**August 7:** The life of Mrs. Emma Bishop.