

News from the Diocese of San Clemente with the Southwest, Northwest, Hawaii and American Territories of the Pacific



charismatic **evangelical** sacramental together

Current News

- Diocesan: Building Holy Trinity, Carpet Offer
- International: Africa trip, Iraq Update
- Local Churches: Happenings
- Parishioners: Authors, Commentators, Babies, and Beauty Queens
- *Current* Challenge: Church Funnies

The Charismatic Episcopal Church in Africa is not American • Canon Kevin Barry • St. Michael's, San Clemente, CA



Canon Kevin Barry with Bishop and the Patriarch

This summer I had my first opportunity to visit several of our Charismatic Episcopal churches in the continent of Africa. Abp. Randolph Adler and Fr. Steven Powers, both of St. Michael's Pro-Cathedral in San Clemente, California, were my traveling companions. While I was there, my eyes were opened to the beauty and humility of God's people in Kenya. I want to share with you my perspective of Africa and the people I encountered while we were there.

When we first arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, I felt a real peace, and the love I had always felt for the African

people was realized. Bp. Bernard Njorge was there to greet us and to transport us to our hotel. He is a wonderful man and was so honored to bring us through customs and offer us his hospitality. However, when we had gotten to his car, he realized he had lost his key. He was profoundly apologetic, knowing that we needed rest after such a long trip, and he did not want to disappoint us. It would be practically impossible to find the key in the Nairobi Airport, so we prayed for a miracle. In just a short time, two officers came up to me and asked, "Is this

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Building Holy Trinity • Tess Coates • St. Michael's, San Clemente, CA

Prior to joining the CEC, Fr. Mark Finley was an ordained Roman Catholic Priest. Since 1985 he served in three different parishes in Idaho. He said he went through a two and a half year discerning process before he finally joined the CEC. He stated, "It was never difficult to embrace the vision of the CEC, as I have always had this vision of Church."

Bishop Kessler was instrumental in starting this CEC church in Idaho. Fr. Mark said that more than anyone else the bishop has been used by the Lord to speak prophetically into his life as well

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Holy Trinity's brand new building!

Letter from the Editor • Joann Maciejewski



The Mski Family:
Back, L-R: Naomi and Jessica
Front, L-R: Fr. Rich, Nadia, Luke, and Joann

There's a lot of good stuff happening in CEC communications lately. We've got a sister newsletter up and running in the Central Province! Terri Pilcher and Deacon John Garrett are using the same format we are and have put together a great publication, *Life Together*. You may see some of their stories reprinted here from time to time.

Many of your favorite articles from *The Current* will now be uploaded to cechome.com. According to the good Bishop Kessler, "we won't upload someone's dog having puppies, but we'll have things of a regional, national, or general interest." Geez. I thought the Bishop was nice. I guess he's anti-dog. ☺

We are breaking new ground—*The Current* has an op-ed (opinion/editorial) piece

from Fr. Victor Conkle, on our own Star Parker and her television appearance on *The View*.

Canon Kevin Barry wrote a great article about his trip with the Patriarch to Africa. We've got pictures and the story of the new church at Holy Trinity in Idaho. Congratulations to Fr. Mark and Stacy Finley and their church, who have built a really wonderful house of God.

Fr. Aaron Appleby at St. John's will tell us about an amazing carpet deal. Carrie Younce introduces us to Sally John, a wonderful member of Advent who is a well published author. There are a number of other interesting articles in the newsletter, I hope you enjoy it.

I do want to encourage everyone to write for *The Current*. We want to hear what you have to say! Please send in

your thoughts through your Diocesan Communications Officer or priest, or directly to me at dnews@iccec.org. We would love to hear and share your stories, thoughts, and happenings.

We invite all to share funny things from their church, so we can start a "Laughter is the Best Medicine" type of feature.

Do you disagree with Fr. Victor on his editorial? Send me a rebuttal. Do you have an editorial piece of your own? Bring it on.

Last but not least, I want to introduce our Copy Editor, Sandra Ball of St. Paul's. She's been helping me proofread and edit, and is a great and faithful member of *The Current* team! Thanks for your continued help Sandy!

Blessings to all,
Joann ■

Church in Africa • continued



(Continued from page 1)

your key?" These two men were like angels sent to provide us with traveling mercies. Bp. Njorge's countenance quickly brightened knowing that a miracle had indeed occurred.

Two days later the meetings for the House of Bishops for Africa began. At the end of one of the sessions, I was able to address the bishops and give them a mandate: Raise up the next generation. I told them that they need to assume and internalize the heart of our Patriarch, which has been to raise up younger men and women to carry the vision of the CEC. I went on to say, "You need to find your 'Elijah,' raise them up, and train them to take your place. One day, you and your fellow bishops and clergy will be gone. You must develop the mindset that the Church isn't just for now—it is eternal."



The real answer to the various problems facing Africa is that God wants our African bishops to raise up the next generation and to lay a foundation that will bring continuity for decades and centuries to come. Over time, such continuity will truly change the culture so that Africa will be on top spiritually, politically, and economically, rather than on the bottom.

I further explained to our bishops in Africa that they need to develop a 500-year plan, one that raises Africa from the bottom up through the establishment of an indigenous infrastructure. This takes much time, money, and hard work; yet, it is crucial for the healthy growth of the Kingdom of God.

One exciting event that occurred at the House of Bishops was the elevation of Bp. Njorge to the Patriarch's Council. This important change will give Africa a voice at the

highest levels within the CEC.

Our African bishops are poised, contrite, and sincere. They are on the verge of seeing a real move of God throughout their continent. Once the bishops began to grasp the concept of raising up the next generation and moving in unity to establish the vision of the CEC, their meetings really began to flow in consensus through the Holy Spirit. In fact, they received it so willingly that they were flowing as good as or better than I have ever seen it occur.

After the House of Bishops, our small group traveled to the northwest part of Kenya to lay the cornerstones for three different church buildings. Miles before we arrived at each one of these churches, word spread throughout the countryside about the approach of the Patriarch. Men, women, and

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Promise of New Carpet • Fr. Aaron Appleby • St. John's, Yucca Valley, CA

The remodeling at St. John's continues. Shortly we should be finished with the new library and office space behind the current sanctuary. Right now this room has no carpeting – just a bare, concrete, pot-marked floor. For those of you who have been to St. John's this may be preferable to the 60's orange psychedelic carpet in the sanctuary. But we have good news. We have been in communication with Greg Wilkinson at Miracle Carpet & Mattress (Manufacturing & Distribution) in Woodinville, Washington and he is working with us to help us fund new carpeting throughout the church.

Currently, the CEC has a policy that the bishops and archbishops don't endorse any company or program that is not CEC. However, I have Archbishop Adler's permission to run this ad here. Furthermore I have heard from Archbishop Adler via Canon Heniser that he will be watching how St. Johns benefits from Miracle Carpet in the local diocesan newsletter, and what happens may determine greater or wider distribution in other newsletters outside our diocese.

St. Johns came in contact with Miracle Carpet about 6 months ago when we received samples of their product in the mail. After contacting them and receiving even more beautiful

samples we've discovered that their product has a number of positive things going for it. According to their literature, their carpeting:

1. Is the most durable residential cut pile carpets in the world
2. Is the best commercial carpet for the price (made by Kraus Carpet Mills) that won't unravel or zipper.
3. Is stain proof (I poured straight bleach on a maroon and gold sample I was sent, and nothing changed.) or the carpet is replaced.
4. Won't fuzz or shed
5. Is the most durable on the market
6. The average mark-up in the carpet industry is 100%. Miracle Carpet's mark-up is 5% to 15% on costs that are 20-30% less than what most stores pay. Bottom line is that you will pay for this carpet less than half of what most stores charge, which I proved myself. I found that I could buy what I needed from Miracle Carpet (including shipping costs anywhere in the United States) at a price half that of what my local carpet companies were willing to sell me for carpeting that was inferior in quality.

Now for the good part. Greg Wilkinson himself hails back to being a Jesus freak on the

streets of Seattle back in the 70's. His company, Miracle Carpet was founded to raise money for charity, act as a consumer advocate, and provide the best products at the best prices. Miracle Carpet has made donations to children around the world, shelters for the abused and homeless, a daycare for homeless children, schools for the handicapped, hospitals and individual in need. During the last twenty years Miracle Carpet has given millions of dollars back to the community and their customers with their donations to charity, discounts and everyday low prices. And now they want to help St. John's – both with the carpeting needs for our current building as well as the carpeting needs for the envisioned retreat center (whenever that comes about).

Here is what they are willing to do. Anyone who purchases carpeting from them (remember - half of what other carpeting would cost) and who tells them they were referred by St. John's will help fund St. John's new carpeting. Right now the estimated cost for the new carpet here at St. John's is approximately \$1,400 (which includes shipping). I have from Greg Wilkinson the promise that whatever you pay for your new carpet, short of \$50.00 will go toward paying for St. John's new carpet. That is, 100% of the profit from your new carpet



Miracle Carpet of Woodinville, Washington
1-800-654-1326

(minus \$50.00 for postage and samples) will go toward the purchase of new carpeting for St. John's. When the carpet is paid for Miracle Carpet will continue the relationship with St. John's to help pay other projects. This is really a win/win situation.

So if you are considering new carpet, styles, colors, and specification can be seen by going to: krauscarpet.com. Then please contact Greg Wilkinson at Miracle Carpet and Mattress at 13311 NE 175th St. in Woodinville, Washington 98072. Call his toll free telephone number 1-800-654-1326 and tell him you need carpet and you want to help St. John's. He will send you out a box of great carpet samples to choose from, and when you purchase their great carpet, you'll love the money you save and St. Johns will benefit.

Then we won't be 60's orange psychedelic anymore. ■

Ministries from San Clemente, Southwest, Northwest, Hawaii, and American Pacific

Church/Ministry	Location	Rector	Website
Cathedral Church of Saint Michael	San Clemente, CA	Abp. Adler	stmichaels.livejournal.com cechome.com allsaints-cec.org
All Saints	Santa Clarita, CA	Fr. Rich Maciejewski	
Christ Church	Palm Springs, CA	Fr. Vincent McMorrow-Purcell	
Christ the Victor	Puyallup, WA	Fr. Joe Ramos	ctvcec.org
Church of the Advent	Oceanside, CA	Canon Gary Heniser	adventcec.com
Church of the Resurrection	Hemet, CA	Fr. Mark Miller	http://mysite.verizon.net/res7fgz9/resurrectioncec/
Church of the Risen Lord	Honolulu, HI	Fr. Bill Xenos	cechawaii.org
Fr. David Conroy	Pendleton, OR	Fr. David Conroy	
Holy Cross Community Church	Cornelius, OR	Fr. Jim Wright	holycrosscommunitychurch.com
Holy Trinity Church	Meridian, ID	Fr. Mark Finley	holyltrinitycec.com
St. Aidan's Mission	Antioch, CA	Fr. Aidan Jerry Hix	
St. David's	San Raphael, CA	Canon Craig Isaacs	None currently
St. Francis	Victorville, CA	Fr. Robert Reed	Stfrancis-cec.org
St. John's	Yucca Valley, CA	Fr. Aaron Appleby	None currently
St. Martin of Tours	Las Vegas, NV	Fr. Charles Coleman	
St. Paul's	Henderson, NV	Fr. David Hoff	stpaulcec.org
St. Peter's	Palos Verdes, CA	Fr. Wayne Coombs	stpeters9@aol.com

Article from the *Idaho Statesman* on Holy Trinity

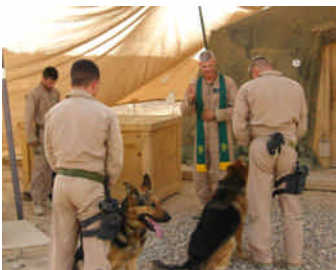
The following article was in the June 30, 2007 edition of the *Idaho Statesman*, and can be found at idahostatesman.com.

Holy Trinity offers worshippers a melting pot of denominations
Church incorporates Evangelical, Charismatic and Liturgical tenets with focus on Holy Spirit
 By Monique Johns

A Catholic, a Baptist, and a Nazarene walk into Holy Trinity Charismatic Episcopal Church in downtown Meridian. But there's no punch line.
 Holy Trinity, which opened June 17 at a new location at 237 E. State St. in downtown

Meridian, is a part of the International Communion of the Charismatic Episcopal Church. The ICCEC was founded in 1992 and represents a melting pot of Christian denominations. It incorporates Evangelical,
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Update from Iraq • Fr. Greg Schluter • LCDR, CHC, USN Task Force Chaplain



Fr. Greg Schluter and the Military Working Dogs

All, Task Force Highlander, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion (Reinforced), has just completed eighteen weeks of constant, 24 hour combat operations in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq. We are still experiencing a steady flow of enemy attacks on our various battle positions throughout our Area of Responsibility (AOR). To date, we have had no US Forces personnel either wounded or killed in action in our AOR since our Task Force took over. We owe this to God's faithfulness to answer the prayers of His saints.

Contrary to what you hear in the news, we are seeing very positive developments in recruiting and training both Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police

personnel in our AOR. We are conducting regular combined operations with our Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police partner battalions. They are becoming more and more tactically proficient every day. For security reasons, I can't delineate all the positive developments in detail, but Task Force Highlander has accomplished more than we ever thought possible in such a relatively short period of time. I think that it is safe to say that we are a few months ahead of schedule on the tasks that we wanted to accomplish here in our part of Iraq.

I have been busy ministering God's Word and Sacraments to the Marines, Sailors, and soldiers in all of our Task Force's battle positions.

This week, I celebrated Mass for the 145th time during this deployment. In eighteen weeks, I have made 110 site visits to our subordinate units outside the perimeter wire of our main Combat Outpost. I am averaging roughly ten services a week throughout our AOR.

Mass attendance at the smaller outlying battle positions still averages about 30-40% of

the assigned personnel, which is significant considering that a large number of Marines are on watch at all times and can't attend services each time. At our larger expeditionary patrol bases, Mass attendance averages about 10-25% of the assigned personnel. On 8 June 2007, I blessed the four Military Working Dog teams that are assigned to us for combat operations. The Military Working Dogs detect explosives and provide security for our troops. The dogs really seemed to enjoy the Holy Water.

The 4th of July was the first day off of sorts at Combat Outpost Rawah that we have had since our arrival in mid-March. We had what we call the Highlander Games for our Task Force. Since our Battalion is nick-named the Highlanders, after the Scottish warriors, we began the day at 6:00 A.M. with bag pipe music. That was followed by an invocation delivered by me as their priest. The Task Force Commander then came out in his kilt with his sword over head to officially open the games. We had all sorts of military skills and sports competition during the

day. At night, we had a massive night live-fire for the 4th of July. Instead of the standard civilian-style fireworks (read: BLANK ROUNDS) fired throughout the United States, we fired REAL 155 mm howitzer, 120 mm tank, 25 mm chain gun, and 50 caliber machine gun rounds at targets on our multipurpose range. It was both great training and a great show. It will be one of the better memories that I will have the rest of my life.

Unfortunately, not every Marine, Sailor, and soldier was able to take part in Highlander Games. We still had to provide full security for our Combat Outpost and for all of our other battle positions. That is just a fact of life in a combat zone. For those who were able to take part in the Highlander Games, it was a very welcome change of pace in a world of 24 hour operations.

We really sense God's hand working to protect us and to keep us safe.

Thank you for all of your prayers and support.

Pax Christi,
 Father Greg Schluter+ ■
 Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

News from St. Paul's • Dcn. Clayton Copsey • St. Paul's, Henderson, NV

On Sunday, April 15th, we welcomed Fr. Jerry and Clara Meixner into our congregation.

Bishop Mahon was assisted by Fr. Bruce LaPierre of Williams, AZ in the installation of Fr. Jerry as Associate Rector at Saint Paul's. Fr. Jerry serves with Fr. David Hoff.

A reception luncheon followed the service.

The Meixners came to us from Holy Trinity in Madison, Wisconsin and we are so blessed to have them with us. Their ministry at St. Paul's has been greatly felt and appreciated.

A new member was added to our congregation when Euphemia Cox was baptized on Sunday, April 22nd. She is the new daughter of Deacon Gary and Rachel Cox, their first. Godparents are Fr. Jim and Nickie Write of Holy Cross Community Church, Cornelius,

OR, Fr. James and Carrie Younce of Church of the Advent, Oceanside, CA, and Fr. Jerry and Clara Meixner of Saint Paul's in Henderson, NV.

How can a child with those Godparents get away with anything? A reception followed the service. ■

Building Holy Trinity • continued

(Continued from page 1)

as his family. Fr. Mark, his wife Stacy and their daughter Katie were received into the CEC in November of 1997.

Under the directive of Archbishop Adler, Fr. Mark took a year off. Upon his return in November 1998, Bishop Kessler gave the directive to begin a CEC church in the Boise area and they had their first church service, in their home, in January 1999. Thus, Holy Trinity Church was officially born.

There came a point where they become too comfortable where they're at and the challenge came to move on so there can be more room for church growth. At this point, Fr. Mark's father-in-law was building a warehouse in an industrial area. Being used by the Lord, he offered them a 900 sq. foot space to hold their church services, at no charge for the five years they were there. Bishop Kessler confirmed that this was from the Lord and so the place was consecrated in December 2001. However, the bishop told them that they still needed to look for a permanent home for their church. As they

continued to be faithful and listen to their bishop, the Lord gave them a new place in February 2004. After the long and arduous process of acquiring the property, the building of the church began in late February 2006.

With much dedication and commitment from parish members and from friends most of the work was done. In addition, after the youth retreat there last year, Michael Barry, one of the young men from Saint Michael's Laudate, was led by God to return and help Holy Trinity with their building too. Michael traveled there and stayed for about 6 months to be a part of the building process.

The total cost for this new CEC church building was over \$300,000.00. This amount does not include the of the land or a majority of the labor cost. It does, however, include material costs and some sub-contractors. "Through the help of parishioners a parcel of land had been purchased by Holy Trinity and later sold. In March of 2004, the present land was purchased. We started building with a little over \$100,000.00 in

2005. Through God's providence money came in whenever we needed it. We also received help from the Foundation Day funds as we were trying to finish things off. As a community via Bishop Kessler's directive, had we not stepped out in faith, the building most likely would have never been built. We never initiated any organized fund-raising events. God, in His boundless mercy, just continued to bless us," said Fr. Mark. This was truly a work of God, 17 months in the making, with just a handful of workers. As long as God is involved in the whole process then nothing is impossible.

So, on the occasion of "Father's Day", 17th June 2007, the CEC Holy Trinity Church was consecrated and dedicated to the Lord by Bishop Douglas Kessler. The prophetic words of the bishop encouraged and challenged them to move on to greater heights for the advancement of His kingdom. ■



The start of the procession, across the street from the church. L-R Fr. Joe Ramos, Bp. Kessler, Michael Berry (San Clemente) as Crucifer, Ed Houston (Holy Trinity) as Thurifer.



Fr. Mark Finley, Fr. Joe Ramos (Christ the Victor, Puyallup, Washington) and Bishop Kessler. They had just processed from across the street and are knocking three times to have the doors opened to begin the building's consecration. [Note: The scriptural reference comes from the book of Revelation where Jesus is standing and knocking at the door seeking to be invited in, thus where He enters becomes a holy temple.]

Article from the Idaho Statesman

(Continued from page 4)

Charismatic and Liturgical tenets of the church in what has been dubbed a convergence movement by ICCEC. Holy Trinity was started locally in 1997 by Father Mark Finley.

"I was raised Baptist and then I became a Roman Catholic," said Finley, who was ordained a Catholic priest in 1985. "I guess I had a richness of both of those (denominations). My ideal church was one where people believed in the sacraments and

brought their Bible to church."

When people ask Finley, who later became an ordained ICCEC priest in 1997, whether the church will be right for them, he begins what he calls, "the infomercial," which explains the history and reason for Holy Trinity. But his bottom line advice to everyone is to "check us out."

"We're not saying that (our church) is better. It's not a break-off from some other church. It is a beginning in and of itself," said Finley. "But it has seemingly attracted people that were hungry for something

else."

Many of the people that are flocking to Holy Trinity admit that they are looking for something which will bring them closer to the Holy Spirit, but that will honor the traditions in their former church, said Finley.

"We started attending a year and a half ago," said Nampa resident Ava Acosta, who attends Holy Trinity with her family. "We were looking for a church that would really make us feel like we came home. (Holy Trinity) filled everything we needed."

Finley described another young couple in the church that

came to Holy Trinity from different backgrounds.

"She was raised Episcopalian, and he was raised Assembly of God," he said. "He had a hard time relating to her church experience, and she liked the praise and worship but didn't feel she had gone to church because she did not receive communion. What they found was that it was the best of both worlds for them (at Holy Trinity)."

Services are 10 a.m. on Sunday with early morning services throughout the week. For more information, call 288-2146. ■

Church in Africa • continued



(Continued from page 2)

children would run alongside our vehicles to greet us and sing songs of praise to God. I was amazed to see the love and humility of these people.

At the laying of the cornerstone of the first church, Abp. Adler preached from Psalm 1 on how we should become “like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season...” To take dominion, whether it be in Africa, the Americas, Europe, or Asia, we must grow our roots deep into the soil of the Kingdom of God. Bp. Adler also reminded us that when we plant and train the next generation of young “trees,” we are preparing future bishops and other church leaders that will change their part of the world. As I looked at the faces of the children in the crowd, I wondered if Bp. Njorge was once one of those young faces witnessing the work of the Lord in his own village.

In fact, Abp. Adler told me that it is a tradition for the African people to plant trees every time he visits them. Planting trees represents raising up the next generation of those who will inherit the Kingdom of God. People who plant trees have a long term vision since it takes years and decades to see the fruit of their



labor.

When we started to leave the next day, a thick tropical rain began to pour down which left the ground very muddy. Yet the people came out in their best clothing to send us off. It was at this time that I had an experience I will never forget. One little girl in a silk dress was standing in the mud, watching our every move. At one point, she and I made eye contact and I could tell she wanted to come talk with me. I didn't have anything to give her except a cough drop; yet, when I handed it to her, her eyes lit up. To think that such a tiny memento could lift the countenance of anyone was beyond me—it was a very humbling experience.

The next church we visited was especially well built. The clergy and parishioners had raised \$5000 for a contractor to put up beams, trusses, and a sheet metal roof. The people then made bricks out of mud for the walls. To those of us who live in the West, this may sound less than desirable. Yet, it was quite cool and comfortable on the inside and serves very well for a church.

The rector of the third church had an especially important story to tell. Ten years ago, Abp. Adler went to Kenya to consecrate the first CEC bishop for the diocese in that particular area. The consecration took place at a soccer field with approximately 3000-4000 people in attendance. Abp. Adler then heard the Holy Spirit speak to him that there was a man present who had a severe heart condition and for him to come forward to receive healing. About two hundred people came to the altar, but Abp. Adler said, “No, there is only one man that I am looking for.” After a few minutes, Abp. Adler spotted the man about whom God had spoken, and he sent the others to be prayed for by other bishops in



attendance. The man then told Abp. Adler that he had been diagnosed with an enlarged heart and that he had only a couple of months to live. Abp. Adler then laid his hands on him, and the man was instantly healed. The man was overwhelmed with joy and, in thankfulness to our Lord, he said that he was going to donate land and money for the establishment of a church.

That man did provide land and money for the construction of a church, and now we were present to lay the cornerstone for his building. He is also the rector of the same church, named St. Michael's in honor of the Patriarch's home church in San Clemente, California.

Before Abp. Adler left, the rector told him, “Don't worry, Bishop. I'll take good care of your church.” Moreover, the parishioners were so honored to have us with them. To show their kindness, they adorned us with handmade wreaths. There was such a tremendous presence of the Lord in this place.

Our final destination before returning to Nairobi was St. John's Cathedral. This church has an especially poignant story behind it. The Anglican church in the area had been trying to take over and steal the church from Bp. Peter Change. The

situation escalated to the point that one parishioner attempted to stand against several men who tried to come into the church building and claim it as their own. In his stand against these gangsters, he was killed inside the church. The fact that the blood of one of our courageous brothers was spilled right where I was standing really shook me. Bp. Njorge told me that, according to his tribal customs, wherever innocent blood is shed, the land must remain with the family of the one who has been killed. The courts are now deciding who should be the rightful owners of the church.

This same church fashioned for Bp. Njorge an “elder's” stool, which is a very high honor in his tribe. It represents the fact that “whenever you see me [Bp. Njorge] sitting on this stool, you see the Patriarch.” Word of this event has spread like wildfire throughout the bush country, attracting many more locals to Bp. Change's cathedral.

On our way back to Nairobi, I was able to encourage Bp. Njorge by reminding him of Psalm 125: “The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land allotted to the just...” This really caused him to have courage and faith, as he must face life and death situations on a regular basis in

his home country.

Right before we arrived in Nairobi, we had the opportunity to visit the church compound of Bp. Joshua Koyo. Bp. Koyo, by the way, is Bp. O’Otieno’s (the founding bishop of the CEC in Africa) son in the Lord and has really begun to develop an infrastructure to sustain the church for decades to come. The most impressive part of his compound is the orphanage, which houses, feeds, clothes, and educates 200-300 children from kindergarten to high school and trade school. Many of the students even continue on to college. Bp. Koyo started the orphanage because many orphaned children were coming to his church for assistance and he just could not turn them away. As a result of his success, Compassion International, a Christian ministry that provides relief to children who live in poverty, now underwrites his staff. Besides many other personnel, the orphanage has a head teacher, an art teacher, and a full-time nurse.

This was especially amazing to me because it is a perfect picture of raising up the next generation. Imagine that these kids have no other parents but the church. They are trained from the youngest age to hear God and follow His voice. While they started life destitute, they are now full of passion and hope.

My trip home to southern California allowed me some time to consider what I had experienced. More than ever I realized that God is not confined to geographical, political, or cultural boundaries. He is not an American, nor does He wish to become one. He has created each and every human being in the Image of Jesus Christ regardless of his or her circumstances. Oftentimes a much greater measure of God’s

grace can be found in the lives of those who reside in the tropical rainforests and desert sands of third-world countries.

Furthermore, the conveniences of the Western world have dulled the senses of those who live in the United States and Europe. Losing a car key in California would mean the minor inconvenience of having to order a new one from the dealership. However, for Bp. Njorge, it could be quite an ordeal, if not impossible, to replace a key to his only vehicle. We in the U.S. would not have seen such a mundane situation as an opportunity for God to show His glory. Yet, in Kenya, having two men deliver your lost key is nothing short of a miracle.

Moreover, many in the Western world have a romanticized view of the plight of Africa, and believe that giving out “band-aids” through various relief efforts such as music concerts will permanently relieve the suffering of destitute Africans. Perhaps it is a reflection of our own culture that quick-fix solutions are the answer to our own problems. Or it could be a symptom of our guilt-ridden culture to give a token amount to a cause to make us feel better about ourselves (which is truly condescending toward those on the receiving end). Whatever the reason, such efforts are, in the end, fruitless, as they do not address the real issues facing Africa.

Many Protestant storefront ministries can be seen in Nairobi, yet they seem to affect little or no impact on the culture of Kenya and the surrounding area. While they may provide some initial relief, they do little to change the culture. I believe that is because they do not offer the Sacraments and the liturgy, both of which bring continuity to life. The presence of Christ in the Sacraments revitalizes the people and



brings life, which over time changes the character of the culture. The Charismatic Episcopal Church in Africa offers the fullness of Christ’s church by providing a place for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Sacraments to act as one in ministering to the lives of the people. By raising up the next generation of the Charismatic Episcopal Church, our African bishops will be able to lay down a foundation so that the church in Africa will continue for centuries to come. They must become like trees planted by the living water.

To do that, our bishops in Africa now realize that they must build an indigenous infrastructure that can sustain the church. However, that requires money of which they have little. The CEC in the United States must grasp that we are not an American church. This is crucial for us to remain healthy worldwide and within our own borders. We must see that our church is just not another American version of the Gospel, but that the Gospel grows wherever it is planted in the hearts and minds of any culture.

Furthermore, we must truly consider how wealthy we really are here in the United States, even those among us who seem to be in financial difficulties. It is when we give out of our poverty (or seeming poverty) that God manifests His glory and blesses our giving. We must remember that it was the widow that gave only two mites, yet she gave all she had. That is the heart that God

is looking for in His Church.

To help our African bishops build a framework similar to the one we enjoy in the United States, we must remember the parable of Christ when He tells His disciples that “I was hungry, and you fed Me. I was naked and you clothed Me.” Many of our bishops and other clergy are without certain basic necessities, such as vehicles and computers, which allow them to transmit the Gospel and communicate with each other. In some dioceses, food and water are valuable commodities, ones that we take for granted in the United States.

To some Christ has given ten talents, to others five, and to some only one. Yet, even that one talent is worth much more than you can imagine to the people in Africa that struggle daily just to survive. Consider giving to build the Charismatic Episcopal Church in Africa for the knowledge of the glory of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. ■

For more pictures from the Canon and Patriarch’s trip to Africa, please see www.stmichaelslivejournal.com.



Hungry for the Lord • Fr. Bill Xenos • Church of the Risen Lord, Honolulu, HI

Two Sundays ago as folks where lining up to receive Holy Communion I noticed some commotion out of the corner of my eye.

My granddaughter Lily Pax who is eleven months old and has just learned to walk, was crowding in front of everyone with her mouth wide open.

She wanted Communion and wasn't going to wait for everyone else.

Everyone was chuckling, and I remember thinking "Lord, may

she always hunger for you like this." Maybe I am just a proud grandpa carrying on, please forgive me. ■

It's a Boy! • Briana Desmond • St. Michael's, San Clemente, CA

Congratulations to Matt and Kari Cuthbertson of St. Michael's, on the birth of their son Philip David, born on

Wednesday, June 27th, weighing 7lbs. 13 oz. and measuring 19 inches long! Philip is Matt and Kari's third child, joining his

sister Lauren, the eldest, and Andrew, his big brother. ■

The VIEW, The Cat Fight, The Truth • Editorial • Fr. Victor Conkle • St. Michael's, San Clemente, CA



Star Parker

Star Parker, a member of Saint Michael's Church, appeared as a guest host on The View with Barbara Walters, Joy Behar and Elizabeth Hasselbeck. Michael Moore made a cameo to promote his film "Sicko" which advocates socialized health care. In a dinner conversation with Star a few nights before the June 19th show, Star said she believed they had invited her expecting fireworks between Mr. Moore and herself. That may have been the case when the invitation was extended, but in this writer's "view", a few minutes into the show revealed a different agenda.

The VIEW

At dinner Star described to me the extensive written rules she received from The View with which she had to abide. The purpose was to provide for tolerance of diverse views on

the show. I couldn't help but comment on the paradox of a show called The View being so intolerant in the name of tolerance. We had a good laugh, but when the show aired, the truth of my comedic comment became evident. In spite of the name it was obvious to me that Barbara Walters did not want Star's view.

The Cat Fight

It began with Barbara's introduction of Star. As she recounted Star's past she looked down her nose and in a sarcastic and condescending tone said, "How did you change your life around? That's quite a record." Barbara didn't seem very tolerant as Star responded with the Christian View of what God had done in her life. Instead, it was as though the straw man question was the sounding of the bell to indicate the cat fight had begun. Before Star could complete her answer, jabs came in from the other hosts. The rapid-fire questions that required lengthy responses, for which this show did not provide a format, were exposed as the hissing, clawing and huffing of a cat fight. Once again a Christian was in the arena being pawed, scratched and sneered at because of their testimony.

The Truth

Not having seen this show before, I was reminded of the Jack Nicholson line, "You want

the truth? You can't handle the truth!" Perhaps it may be more accurate to say The View is just a cat fight where truth takes a back seat to ratings. But then came Star Parker.

By the time Michael Moore made his appearance, Barbara realized she had met her match and was now less than charitable, openly ordering Star Parker, on camera, to be quiet and thus allowing Michael Moore the remaining time to push his biased view regarding national health care. While Star had prepared to ask compelling, hard hitting and challenging questions, she was never allowed the opportunity. ■

Star Parker is the founder and president of CURE, the Coalition on Urban Renewal & Education, a 501c3 non-profit think tank that provides a national voice of reason on issues of race and poverty in the media, inner city neighborhoods, and public policy.

Prior to her involvement in social activism, Star Parker was a single welfare mother in Los Angeles, California. After receiving Christ, Star returned to college, received a BS degree in marketing and launched an urban Christian magazine. The 1992 Los Angeles riots destroyed her business, yet served as a springboard for her focus on faith and market-

based alternatives to empower the lives of the poor.

As a social policy consultant, Star Parker gives regular testimony before the United States Congress, and is a national expert on major television and radio shows across the country. Currently, Star is a regular commentator on CNN, MSNBC, and FOX News. She has debated Jesse Jackson on BET; fought for school choice on Larry King Live; and defended welfare reform on the Oprah Winfrey Show.

Star Parker's personal transformation from welfare fraud to conservative crusader has been chronicled by ABC's 20/20; Rush Limbaugh; Readers Digest; Dr. James Dobson; The 700 Club; Dr. George Grant; the Washington Times; Christianity Today; Charisma, and World Magazine. Articles and quotes by Star have appeared in major publications including the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, and the New York Times.

Star has written three books, "Pimps, Whores, and Welfare Brats" (1996), "Uncle Sam's Plantation" (2003), and "White Ghetto" (2006), resides in Southern California.

Today, in addition to heading CURE, Star is a syndicated columnist for Scripps Howard News Service, offering weekly op-eds to more than 400 newspapers worldwide.

Meet the Author • Carrie Younce • Advent, Oceanside, CA

We have an amazing tide pool of talent within the CEC at large, with some of the finest in our own diocese. We have actors, singers, musicians, artisans, and writers of all things imaginable. I would like to introduce you to one of my favorite sister-writers in the Lord, Sally John.

Sally grew up in Moline, Illinois and graduated from Illinois State University with a B.S. in Education. She is a mother of two: a son Christopher, who lives with his family – wife Tracy and daughters Kaiya and Aliah - in Oregon, and a daughter Elizabeth, a teacher who lives in Chicago. She and her husband, Tim, returned to San Diego in 2006 to become a very important part of our community.

Sally always wanted to write books, but didn't really see how that could happen. (After all, writing isn't real work, right?) She wrote a software manual for the Amiga computer in 1986 and fell in love all over again with the process of writing. After much hard work, Crossway Books bought her first novel, *In The Shadow Of Love*, published in 1998. Two more books

followed: *Surrender Of The Heart* (1999) and *To Dream Again* (2000). (All three books are now out of print, but you can find used copies online.)

Harvest House Publishers picked Sally up for her next three series of Christian Fiction novels. *The Other Way Home* series contains four books. *The In A Heartbeat* series contains three books. *The Beach House* series contains two books at the present time, with hope for more.

Sally is now working on a three book series – *Safe Harbors* – with Gary Smalley and *Westbow* (an arm of Thomas Nelson Publishers). When she finishes this contract, she will have published 15 novels in the Christian marketplace.

When asked why she writes, she replied, "I think it's what God has given me to do. It's my gift. Robert Frost said that every poem begins with a lump in the throat. Well, for me, every story begins with a lump in my throat. What keeps me going to the computer day after day is the desire to show through my stories the fact that God actually likes us. He adores us and He sent Jesus to let us

know that He so wants to heal us in every possible way. When people write me and they tell me that something I have written has changed them or helped them, then I know that's why I write."

Sally claims that you can trace her faith walk by the progression of her books. "Jesus overwhelmed me by His love in 1974. Thirty-three years later, I'm still on that journey. I'm wounded, just like everyone else, but God is my Healer. I'm still a work in progress and God is still faithful. All my writing is a reflection of my faith. As I have grown, so have my characters. In my writing there is a moment of grace, a place where I just know that the Holy Spirit is working through the story, revealing Himself to me and then – hopefully – to my readers."

I asked Sally what brought her to the CEC and Church of the advent.

"God. God took us to Advent. We were looking for a church and found it in the Yellow Pages. Tim called Cn. Gary and got directions. The first time we came – that first Sunday – we knew we were home. I still remember the overwhelming



Carrie Younce and Sally John

love of God, His Spirit, and the worship... the people were so welcoming, so loving."

Just to be cute, I asked her the last question they usually ask on the TV program, *Inside The Actor's Studio*.

"Sally, when you get to heaven, what would you like to hear God say to you?"

"Is it cliché to say, Well done my good and faithful servant?" Then she smiled. "Actually, I want to have Him tell me that I was His Sally. Too often, we wish we were like this person or that Saint when all God wants is for us to be who He created us to be. So, I want to be His Sally."

(For more information, go to www.sally-john.com) ■

Ladies and Gentlemen, Miss Hawaii



21-year-old Ashley Layfield beats out 13 other contestants to claim the crown of Miss Hawaii. We caught up her as she begins her reign, and she talks story about the pageant and her future. For this aspiring graphic designer, her crowning

achievement came on a night to remember. One filled with a roller-coaster of emotions, and even a few fumbles.

"In the back, everyone's nervous and excited to go on and everyone's saying oh I hope I don't trip and fall and I was thinking the same thing and the opening number started and my first two steps I fell to the ground," said Layfield.

But that's the real Ashley Layfield, says this former University of Hawaii Rainbow dancer, who has the poise and polish and hasn't let a little clumsiness keep her from her dreams.

"I'm somebody who is fun and

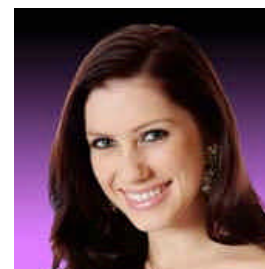
spontaneous and will fall on stage because that is so who I am. I'm the biggest klutz. I love it...that's just me. I can get right back up and put a smile on and realize that that's part of life."

Next up for Layfield is the Miss America pageant in January, where she takes her love for the performing arts to the national stage.

"My platform is promoting the performing arts and what's great is I can really mesh those two together now. I can go out and meet these children and visit them in the Kapiolani Hospital and work with them and hopefully incorporate some of my performing arts

background with them and work with the kids one on one."

The talented and determined Miss Hawaii is surrounded by supporting family and friends but not that special someone, just yet. Ashley's father, Mike Layfield and his wife Misty attend Saint Michael's. ■



Ashley Layfield, Miss Hawaii



charismatic **e**vangelical **s**acramental
together

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www.iccec.org/dnews

The Charismatic Episcopal Church exists to make visible the Kingdom of God to the nations of the world; to bring the rich sacramental and liturgical life of the early church to searching evangelicals and charismatics; to carry the power of Pentecost to our brothers and sisters in the historic churches; and finally, to provide a home for all Christians seeking a liturgical-sacramental, evangelical, charismatic church and a foundation for their lives and gifts of ministry.

For more information on the Charismatic Episcopal Church, please see our website, www.iccec.org.

A Little Something Funny Happened at Church...

"Liturgical Injuries" -

Joann Maciejewski

Apparently, you have to be tough and take one for the team sometimes when you serve in church.

Jessica Maciejewski was the Thurifer in service one Sunday. Before the church service started, she was swinging the censer to get the thing going. She was "stoking" the incense. Her dad, Fr. Rich Maciejewski, came up behind her to put the incense in there. She didn't see him, and she swang the censer right into his leg. Ouch. There's nothing like a big sharp metal object hitting you with great momentum right in the leg.

Then, when all the team lined up to leave the church after the service, during the recessional hymn, she was swinging the censer again. This time, she hit Stevie Burkman in the shin, who was unfortunately standing right behind her..

Apparently, the censers

really hurt. Both men were complaining about their legs and how much the injury made them see white for a minute.

After the service, Fr. Rich went to hug Stevie Burkman. Unfortunately Stevie was carrying one of the candle torches, and the candle was still hot. Rich hugged him just the right way so that Stevie's head was burned by the candle. Not too badly, I don't think there was any blistering, but it came probably less than 10 minutes after the leg attack.

Yup. Church is not for the faint of heart.

From Deacon Michael Seiler:

Then there was the time Naomi Maciejewski dumped a hot coal right on the carpet during the processional, creating an impromptu fire rescue team.

Or the time I was censering the altar during the Kyrie, and smacked the altar and almost lost the hot coals right onto it.

Hot coals, a swinging censer, and (mostly) immovable objects don't go so well together.

At least Naomi and I didn't hurt

anybody.

From Steve Arrington:

There was the memorable Sunday morning when Fr. Jim almost knocked himself out when he hit his head while genuflecting during Communion.

Or the memorable Sunday when the bee got a buzz from being censered and provided entertainment for everyone in the front in its little stoned stupor.

Or the Sunday that it was decided to use a blow torch to light the charcoal for the incense and one of the acolytes almost set the place on fire.

Or the Sunday during the Gospel that good Fr. Mski almost had his hair set on fire from an acolyte holding the candle too close.

Or the Sunday that the organist received a "hot wax" treatment on his hands when someone decided that the top of the organ was a good place for the Advent Wreath.

The list goes on...

From Fr. Rich Maciejewski:

I was censering the altar and accidentally hit the chalice, which was covered by the chalice veil. The chalice went forward but the weight of the chalice veil rocked it back. Luckily it stayed in place instead of falling over. I acted like it was supposed to have happened, and played it off as if nothing unusual went on.

Fr. Jim later said "wow, something happened there, it looked like the chalice lifted up off the altar a little bit and it came back down." He viewed it in a very spiritual way.

I nodded and smiled.

Perhaps one of the funniest was when Fr. Rich was worshiping, very intensely, arms lifted - a little too close to the Paschal Candle - and caught on fire.

He is a priest aflame! ■
*Did a little something funny happen at **your** church? Tell us the story—send it to Joann at dnews@iccec.org.*