

A quarterly publication of the  
St. Stephen Cathedral parish



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# the Parishioner

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## A Tribute to My Mother

By Fr. Jerry Riney

My mother, Sue Thomas Riney, died on August 24, 2014. She was an honest, resourceful woman with a contagious laugh. She managed a household with eight children—no small feat – and “poured herself out” to create a loving, Christian home where those children could grow, prosper, even fly—or refrain from flying when necessary. She was the classic homemaker, a great cook who could not give you an exact recipe, a wonderful seamstress who never followed the precise pattern. She baked the most delicious German Chocolate and Italian Cream Cakes and the best coconut, chocolate, lemon and pecan pies, and we would tease her about eating her homemade ice cream in vegetable bowls! Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter dinners were feasts served with china, crystal and silver on linen tablecloths because she believed that those gathered around the table were worth the trouble and the work!

My mother fervently believed in the power of prayer. Upon visiting my mother and dad I would often find a vigil candle burning. I asked once “Is that candle lit for me?” and she answered, “No, Emily is taking her nursing boards today.” If a candle was burning in the Riney household it meant that one of her fold was taking a test, needing a job, having a crisis, struggling with a relationship, or had a life lesson to be learned. And often, it meant that a prayer had been answered. She was buried on the feast of St. Monica who was also a mother and a champion of persevering prayer. And she had a special devotion to St. Theresa, the Little Flower who

(Continued on next page)



*“She understood that Jesus was the  
Vine and she was the branch (John 15),  
a truth we often get backwards.”*

## *A Tribute to My Mother*

(Continued from page 1)

espoused doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way, doing little things with a big heart. And so my mother did.

She will be remembered by her children, her grandchildren and many of her great grandchildren for the way she lived her faith. She understood that Jesus was the Vine and she was the branch (John 15), a truth we often get backwards. She did occasionally protest that perhaps she was being pruned a little too often—but she knew that as long as she stayed on the Vine the life and grace of Jesus would flow through her and she would bear good fruit. The Eucharist was significant to my mother to strengthen her for all she needed to do—to forgive, to rethink a conversation, to write a note or a letter, to carry a cross more gracefully, to live life more fully.

As we began to leave the family nest, my mother had a bit more time for herself and she pursued hobbies of China painting, quilting, and playing cards with friends. We will treasure the painted tea sets and plates, and the quilts and pillows which she gave her children and grandchildren as loving expressions of her creative self.

We will miss her so much. There is sadness and grieving, but also the memory of her 90th birthday celebration which took place just a few weeks ago in early August. She lived a full life and accomplished so much. Sue Thomas Riney was a devoted wife, a loving mother and grandmother, a loyal friend, and a faithful disciple of Christ. We have been blessed abundantly through her. Amidst the grieving, how can we not have hearts full of gratitude?



## *Remembering a Mother*

By Suzanne Padgett,  
on behalf of the parishioners

On behalf of the St. Stephen Cathedral family, we express our heartfelt condolences to Fr. Jerry at the passing of his mother, Sue Riney. While many of us may have had the privilege of knowing her in this life as the dedicated wife, mother, grandmother and friend that she was, those of us that did not have that honor can take comfort in the fact that we now have a wonderful advocate in the Communion of Saints. I feel certain that she will provide a special intercessory prayer for her son's Cathedral family.

The beauty of having a faith community to call family is so evident when we experience loss and sadness in our lives. The outpouring of love and concern from your friends and family overwhelms you and you realize how very loved you are. As Fr. Jerry expressed his gratitude for the love, food and Masses offered for his mother, I know how very much he meant it, as I experienced the same gratitude when my father passed away.

Fr. Jerry has been with us a little over a year, and has managed to work his way into our hearts with his witty, self-deprecating humor. Humility is a trait I feel certain his mom must have nurtured in him with such a large family. She must have been a wonderful mother to provide this world with such a wonderful priest. Thank you, Sue Riney, and happy birthday as you celebrate your birth into eternal life.



# Singing God's Greatness

By Doreen Harney

Pictured Above from Left to Right:  
Lloyd Nash, Dan Halbig, Fr Titus,  
Angela Clark, Mike Conley, and  
Doreen Harney

I would like to share with you a story of a simple project that was carried out with the help of Choir members and others this summer.

A few years ago the St Stephen's Choir chose to replace their old royal blue robes with the new cream and gold ones you see in use now. The old robes were placed in boxes and put in the back of a closet. During the renovation the boxes were moved around a few times, but always my sense of ecology (reduce, reuse, recycle) said that some other good use could be found for these robes. About a year ago, I offered 10 of the robes to the quilters who make charity quilts to give to hospice patients. They could cut them up and use the fabric for binding or backing. But most of the robes still sat in boxes.

Then it happened on the Feast of Corpus Christi. Fr Titus had returned to our parish for the summer and after the Mass I spoke to him, welcoming him back. Fr Titus gave me one of his wide smiles and said he was happy to be here again and said, "Aren't the Choir's new robes beautiful?" Then the Holy Spirit spoke and said, "Offer him the blue ones!" Which, of course, I did. We walked right over to the closet and I pulled out one wrinkled robe. Fr Titus liked the color and judged that the weight of the fabric would be good for use in the African climate. On the spot we worked out a plan.

Over the next few weeks, I brought the robes home and looked over each one for any repairs that needed to be done.

With the help of Joann Moore, all the robes were laundered. I asked for the help of the Choir members for the other necessary part of the donation. We needed one or two large suitcases to transport the robes back to Uganda and about \$300 to cover the cost of the extra heavy extra bags that Fr Titus would bring back with him on his flight home. Angela Clark called the same day to offer a very large suitcase for the project. And on Sunday, choir members and a few other faithful members of the parish started bringing in donations to cover the costs. We quickly had more than enough!

The robes were ready for packing but how were 37 robes going to fit into one suitcase? An old Girl Scout trick for packing was to roll garments before packing a suitcase. So I set to work. Rolled and fastened with rubber bands, all 37 robes fit into the suitcase with room to spare. Then I remembered the 10 robes given to the quilters. Did they ever use them? A quick call to Dorothy Wathen said that they had not been used yet and if I wanted them back that would be fine. So I had 10 more to fix, launder and pack.

The day before Fr Titus was to leave for his long trip back to Uganda, we had a simple presentation of 47 robes, a suitcase and a check for \$355 to cover expenses. I hope that they will add stoles or sashes in their own style to make them their own. The only thing we asked for in return is for him to send us some photos of his parish choir proudly wearing the blue robes we were proud to wear in years past.





# Generous Hearts, Working Hands

By Marianna Robinson

I Peter, 4-10 tells us, “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful stewards of God’s Grace in its various forms.”

Perhaps it is Scriptures like this one that help motivate people to give generously of their time, talent, and treasure. In this newsletter, we spotlight Dr. Phillip Hurley and his wife Mary Beth for their willingness to get involved with serving others according to their God-given talents. Dr. Hurley practices orthopedic medicine in Owensboro and began medical missionary work in Haiti after the earthquake in January, 2010. He makes return trips several times a year to the impoverished country where he uses his surgical skills to alleviate the suffering of many. Wife Mary Beth has been a school nurse at our local Hager Preschool for over 20 years. She also ministers at St. Stephen in several capacities.

At school, Mary Beth helps provide healthcare and the necessary medical assistance needed by 3- 4 year olds and their families. She has many opportunities to do more than look after the health of students and their families. She remarked that her nurse work at Hager is more of a calling than a job. Also generous with her volunteer efforts at the Cathedral, Mary Beth has served as minister of the Word with young children as well as a Vacation Bible School teacher. She enjoys the children’s enthusiasm and love for the Word of God. In addition, she is part of several other organizations that impact the lives of many children.

Recently, in her ARISE group, she and the group’s members decided that one way they could help those in their own neighborhood was to organize a “backpack project,” providing students with food so they have adequate nourishment on the weekends. To honor Mary Beth’s work at Hager Preschool, Owensboro Public Schools has set up a Foundation\*. The donated funds are used for the medical and dental care for Hager children. Another of the Hurleys’ generous outreach project is the St. Benedict Shelter for Homeless Men. Cathedral parishioners, such as the Hurleys, take turns providing a hot evening meal (on the 3rd Friday of each month) to 50-60 men.

“It’s better to give than to receive” is Dr. Hurley’s motivation for continuing his ministry in Haiti. He added that the smiles of his patients and their families reflect their appreciation and are rewarding, enriching his life. Joining a team of others, Dr. Hurley was instrumental in getting a new hospital built in 2012. One team person was Fr. Richard Frechette\*, a priest and a physician who has spent many years working in Haiti as a Passionist priest. Fr. Frechette begins the doctors’ day with Mass before making rounds at the Haitian hospital. This year the Diocese of Owensboro selected Dr. Phil Hurley to receive the Social Concerns

Outreach Award for his outreach to the hurting people of Haiti and Owensboro, Kentucky. "It's a joy", says Fr. Jerry Riney, "to have people like the Hurleys at St. Stephen Cathedral parish who put their faith into action by serving the poor locally and afar in such concrete ways."

The Hurleys also enjoy spending time with their two grown children, Melissa and Peter, both of whom have jobs as elementary school teachers.



The hearts and hands of Dr. Phil and Mary Beth call to mind the words of Jesus as found in Matthew 25: 40, "Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me."

\*Anyone wishing to donate to either Foundation may be do so by sending checks to the following addresses:  
Hager Backpack Project  
450 Griffith Ave.  
Owensboro, KY 42301

Fr. Frechette has authored a best-selling book entitled *Haiti: The God of Rough Places, the Lord of Burnt Men*, available at Amazon. For more info on Fr. Rick Frechette and his work, readers might want to Google his name where you will learn more about his ministry in both images and words. Those wanting to make a monetary contribution to the work of people like Fr. Frechette and Dr. Hurley can send a check to:

St. Luke Foundation  
c/o Terri Frechette-Brainerd,  
Financial Services Volunteer  
58 Lynn Rd.  
Ivoryton, CT 06442

## Baptisms



Cecily Ann Wiggins, daughter of  
Justin and Nina Wiggins



Abram Eugene Stanishia, son  
of Chris Stanishia and Melanie  
DeGraef



# CAMPING IN GOD'S CREATION

By Donna Murphy

About forty young children and a dozen teens of St. Stephen Cathedral parish spent a week in June *camping out* in the basement of the Catholic Pastoral Center to participate in our annual Catholic Vacation Bible School. Camping brings us closer to nature and an awareness of all that God has created. Laying aside the distractions of our modern technology for an appreciation of the natural world helped the children focus on God's love for us.

The basement was set up as a campground with a real camp entrance. Once inside the campground, the children found the tent pitched in the corner and a roaring campfire, our gathering spot each day, blazing beneath the stars. As we gathered around the campfire we sang camp songs and told the stories of our faith. The children were divided into cabin groups who chanted and marched with their cabin insignia to each activity station.

We talked about the way God *set up camp* for us through the stories of creation. All that God created, He saw as *good*, and all the campers were reminded of their goodness. We lit the campfire and made lanterns to remind the children that Jesus came to bring us the light to shine in our darkness. But sometimes when we are camping or hiking, we lose our way and need help, so the Church so wisely provides us with the commandments and the Sacrament of Reconciliation to guide us back to the right path. No camping trip should be without a time to drop a line in the lake to fish. As we explored the Scripture stories of Jesus' call to become disciples, He challenges us to be *fishers of people*. Our campers were asked to think about how they are called to follow Jesus and bring others to Him. Some may even be called to a vocation as a priest or religious. Finally, as we shared the story of Jesus' Ascension into heaven, it was time to *break camp* and remember that ultimately we too will return to our

heavenly home.

Each year our week concludes with the children, families and helpers sharing together in the Eucharistic celebration at the noon Mass on Friday. They sang the songs they learned during Vacation Bible School and participated in the prayers and action of the liturgy.

We are particularly grateful to all those who contributed their time and shared their faith with our children. Some were actively engaged with leading the children, while others provided snacks and music and games. There were those who provided child care for our volunteers and others who constructed the campground environment. Thanks to each one for your willingness to provide an exciting camping experience for our children!

Save the date now for next summer's Catholic Vacation Bible School – the third week of June, June 15-19, 1015!







# 88th Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Stephen Cathedral



On September 4, Bishop Medley celebrated Mass for the 88th anniversary of the dedication of St. Stephen Cathedral. Mass was followed by a delicious dinner served to 200+ people!





# Ministry in Action



St. Stephen volunteers at the St. Benedict's Shelter



Youth Group Blessing Noelle Curry



Members of the St. Stephen Cathedral Habitat for Humanity committee landscaping the exterior of a Habitat house



Ignatius Payne receiving an honorary award for 25 years involvement with the Vincent DePaul Society



Fr. Jerry and Fr. Suneesh visit with students at the Owensboro Catholic 4-6 campus.

# St. Stephen Cathedral Welcomes New Members

By Marianna Robinson

As part of the ritual of Easter Vigil services, the Cathedral welcomed into the Catholic Church several new members. These included Taylor West, Carrie Warren, Rick Hubbard, Jackie Gentry, and Jefferson Sorley. To use Church terminology, one in the group was a “catechumen,” meaning that he or she had never before been baptized. Four members were referred to as “candidates,” meaning they had been baptized and were ready to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, and Reconciliation. Along with Fr. Jerry, Bishop Medley presided over the Easter Vigil rituals. After Holy Saturday evening, all of these new Church members are referred to as “neophytes,” defined as new members of the Roman Catholic Church. Here are two neophytes’ stories of their Faith journey.

Continued from the last issue, here are two other RCIA testimonials.



From Left to Right:  
Carrie Warren, Taylor West, Jackie  
Gentry, Jefferson Sorley, Rick Hubbard

## *By Jefferson Sorley*

For over 20 years, I had shut God out of my life. I had trouble reconciling what I thought I knew about Jesus Christ with the shortcomings of people who were most vocal in their allegiance to Him. During this time, something always seemed off, missing, or out of place. I wandered through a “spiritual wasteland,” which sounds melodramatic, but I continued to seek a higher purpose with a spiritual foundation.

Just over a year ago, after being married 14 years, my wife told me that she did not want to be married anymore. For so many years I had been independent in my thoughts and actions, not seeking advice or help from others, including family. The thought of losing my wife and the family that we created together nudged me into the realization that I could not continue to go through life “doing it my way.” I began attending church each Sunday. I met Father Suneesh, who became a great mentor (and who I now consider a friend). I prayed more in six months than I had the previous 30 years. I

participated in church gatherings.

Within just a few months, the void that I felt for so long began to decrease. I began to have a level of spiritual clarity, which developed into an awareness that Jesus Christ could change my life for the better—but only if I allowed Him into my life. Soon, I made the decision to pursue RCIA, to see if becoming a fully formed Catholic would enhance my new appreciation for Jesus, Catholicism, and the St. Stephen community.

I am proud to say that RCIA strengthened my resolve, quickly confirming my desire to “join” the Church. The greatest benefit of RCIA, for me, was meeting other “spiritual seekers.” They were people like me, who did not have all the answers, but were open to growing in their faith in Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church. I continue to attend RCIA on Wednesday nights, and I encourage other parishioners to attend and share their insights.



**Standing Left to Right:**

Juanita Garcia, Tami Neel, Valerie Henry, Jane Lovekamp, Karen Katchuk, Fr. Jerry Riney, Pam Weafer, Bonnie Stuart

**Kneeling Left to Right:**

Angela Franey, Emily McNulty, Emily Wyatt, April Patton, Karen Aud



**By Taylor West**

After growing up in a small Baptist church in the small town of Horse Cave, KY (which had only a handful of Catholic churches in an hour radius), I was pretty nervous when I went to Mass for the first time with my girlfriend, Katelyn, almost 4 years ago. Ever since that night I knew this is where I belonged. It just took me a couple of years to get the courage to ask about actually joining! After a search all around Owensboro, attending Mass at many different churches, and talking to numerous RCIA directors, St. Stephen's RCIA program was such an easy choice for me.

One of the things I've come to learn and love about the Catholic Church is the strong sense of community. After growing up believing my connection with Jesus was more of a personal relationship and not public, I've learned through RCIA that our spiritual growth is never-ending and that each encounter with someone else's faith journey adds something to our own. The St. Stephen community has been a critical part in my journey, and I'm both happy and proud that I can finally say I'm officially a part of it.

RCIA was one of the most deeply moving experiences I have ever been through. It helped to not only educate us in the Catholic faith, but helped us develop a true love for the precious gift of the Sacraments. I truly appreciate everyone who prayed for us along our journey into entering the Church. After Easter Vigil someone came up to me and simply said, "Welcome home." I've never heard anything so true!

## Preschool Off to a Great Start!

By Pam Weafer

The staff at Cathedral are so proud of our two new signs! I hope you have noticed them over our entrance and on the front lawn. We owe a BIG THANK YOU to John and Emily McNulty and Gateway Urgent Care on Highway 54 for the donation of the signs and all the time spent on the design.

We are off to a great start this year! We have welcomed many new families to our school at our Parent Orientation and Open Houses. The children are settling in nicely this week, some being away from Mom and Dad for the first time. There is a pleasant hum of children's laughter and little voices busy at play.

We also welcome a few new staff members, Emily Wyatt (lead teacher), Jane Lovekamp (assistant teacher), Sherry Peercy (substitute), and Karen Aud (substitute).

We will soon be starting our Annual Raffle with 28 great prizes including several UK and U of L basketball and football tickets, an American Patriots vacation get-away, Owensboro Symphony and Riverpark Broadway Series tickets, gift cards and much more. Watch the bulletin for information on how to purchase tickets and help support Cathedral Preschool.



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### ***Newsletter Contributors***

#### **Writers**

Doreen Harney    Marianna Robinson  
Donna Murphy    Jefferson Sorley  
Suzanne Padgett    Taylor West  
Fr. Jerry Riney

#### **Editor**

Katie Pagan

#### **Layout Designer**

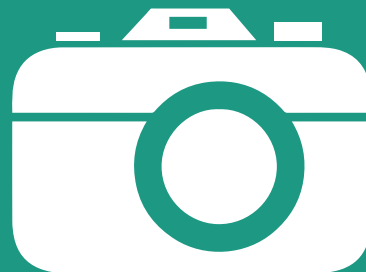
Taylor West

#### **Photographers**

Rob Abney  
James Kincheloe

***Saint Stephen Cathedral Parish  
would like to welcome the  
following new parishioners since  
January 2014***

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**We are always  
looking for pictures of  
parishioners at work.**

Please email them to  
[ststephencathedralnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ststephencathedralnewsletter@gmail.com).  
Include names of people in the pictures  
and a brief description of the event!

Lillian & Norman Gentry	Robert Irizarry
Rob and Kate Abney	Nick & Carrie Warren
Larry & Darylin Bishop	Robin & Joseph Abel
Betty Kelley	Taylor West
Jim and Donna Duffy	Paula Shanks
Chris Stanishia	Katelyn Stallings
Anna Marie Walker	Chad McGarvie
Melanie DeGraef	Jackie Gentry
Patrick & Nicole Calhoun	Kim Jagoe
Brian & Melissa Cambron	Cassie Head