

A quarterly publication of the  
St. Stephen Cathedral parish



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# *the* Parishioner

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## "Sharing His Gifts"

*By Marianna Robinson*

Some may think that a person with limited eyesight could not meet the challenges of becoming a Catholic priest. This is not the case with Fr. James Dennis, who has led a rich, meaningful life while dealing with the difficulties of blindness. Following his May 2016 ordination, Fr. Jamie, a 30-year-old native of Caneyville, KY, received from Bishop William F. Medley his first priestly assignment: Parochial Vicar of St. Stephen Cathedral. Fr. Jamie brings many gifts to the Cathedral, including a love of celebrating the Eucharist and other Sacraments; directing the Youth Group; presenting a weekly class to parishioners on praying Vespers; and visiting the sick and homebound.

A self-proclaimed "people person," Fr. Jamie enjoys meeting people and has a collection of friends from over the years. Fr. Jamie also enjoys hiking, going to the movies, reading books on audio and in Braille, and trains of all shapes and sizes. One of Fr. Jamie's favorite pastimes is traveling across the United States by himself via Amtrak; and he has found a unique way of evangelizing during these trips. After the passengers have boarded, the conductor allows Fr. Jamie to introduce himself as a Catholic priest and adds that he is available to help anyone en route.

(Continued on next page)



Friends for several years, Fr. Jamie Dennis and Seminarian Corey Bruns check out the tactile globe that sits on Fr. Jamie's desk. This type of globe enables Fr. Jamie to touch different countries and water areas, allowing him to approximate the distance between the many areas of the world.

## *Anointing of the Sick*

Father Jerry anoints those wishing to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick during Masses on the weekend of July 23/24.



### *“Sharing His Gifts”*

(Continued from page 1)

Fr. Jamie’s train hobby was sparked on his 4th Christmas, when his aunt gave him his first train set. This was just prior to the loss of most of his eyesight. Fr. Jamie mentioned several fond, train-related memories, including when his Uncle Joe took him on a train ride from Kentucky to California. He cherishes his memory album of pictures of the natural world, including that of the colorful sunsets as the train choo-chooed through the California desert.

Around age 12, Fr. Jamie began frequenting the KY Railroad Museum in Nelson County where an engineer showed him how to run a train. In middle school, his father told him if he would draw a train and a track, he would build it. In 1998, father and son completed the project. Fr. Jamie took up residence in the caboose thinking this personal living space would encourage self-reliance. His parents live on nearby farm property; and his track is laid out such that he can encircle his parents’ home. One can only imagine that when Mr. and Mrs. Dennis hear a nearby locomotive whistle, one looks out the window, turns to the other and remarks casually, “Jamie just pulled up.”

Following high school, Fr. Jamie enrolled in business classes at Brescia University. While academics have always been something of a challenge, he found support and assistance from staff and priest friends including, Fathers Leonard Alvey, Ray Clark, Andy Garner, Larry Hostetter, Randy Howard, and Joe Merkt. They encouraged him to prayerfully consider a priestly vocation. The next year, he found himself at St. Meinrad studying for the priesthood.

It is with joy that St. Stephen parishioners say, “Thanks!” to Fr. James Dennis for his gifts and priestly presence at our Cathedral.



# St. Stephen Cathedral Celebrates 90th Anniversary of Dedication of 610 Locust Street Location

By Donna Tarantino

On Thursday, September 1, 2016, nearly 300 worshippers gathered to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Dedication of St. Stephen Church at its present 610 Locust Street location. Fr. Jerry Riney, Rector, celebrated the Mass, joined by concelebrants Fr. John Vaughan and Fr. Ed Bradley, former rectors; Fr. Jamie Dennis, current Parochial Vicar; and Fr. Josh McCarty and Fr. Suneesh Mathew, former parochial vicars. Serving as Deacon was Dr. Dirck Curry. The liturgy was enhanced by beautiful sacred music led by the St. Stephen Cathedral Choir, under the direction of James Wells, Music Director.

The first two St. Stephen Church buildings were located at 2nd and Cedar Streets. At the time of the dedication of the present building in 1926, St. Stephen Church was not yet designated as a cathedral; it was elevated to cathedral status in 1937 when Pope Pius XI created the Diocese of Owensboro. St. Stephen Cathedral continues to be an active, vibrant faith community and is proud to serve as the Mother Church for the Diocese, welcoming Catholics and non-Catholics alike for various diocesan and community events throughout the year.

St. Stephen Cathedral celebrates the past and looks toward the future by continuing to carry out its mission statement: *The Catholic Community of St. Stephen Cathedral serves as the Mother Church for the Diocese of Owensboro to welcome, evangelize and worship in the name of Jesus Christ.* Fr. Jerry Riney reflected, “As we celebrate 90 years since the dedication of this church building, what we are really celebrating is not a building, but the living faith of hundreds and hundreds of St. Stephen Cathedral parishioners throughout the years.”

After Mass, attendees enjoyed a dinner served in the Fr. John Vaughan Community Center.





# St. Stephen Cathedral





# Fall Festival 2016



Glenn Thompson, Mark Sims, Benny Blandford, Carroll Howard, John Clayton, Randy Kamuf, Todd Johnson, Tommy Grant, Elmo Thompson, Jim Murphy, Billy Drury, Bill McCarty, Phil Hurley, Tom Neal, thank you for delicious burgoo!





# Youth Group Adventures

*By Fr. Jamie Dennis*

I will admit I was a bit nervous about leading the Youth Group. But I have quickly realized that we have a wonderful group of young people at the Cathedral—they inspire me, give me hope for the future generations, and understand that we are all growing together. I am still learning how to be a priest, among other things! Faith is action, not just study; therefore, I teach faith through prayer, pilgrimage, service, and liturgy. This method is working well for us, because young people learn better, and I prefer to teach, through real experience. Here are a few of the experiences the Youth Group has been having...



For a service project, at the end of the summer, we took the Youth Group to the Convention Center to work on building walls for homes alongside other area youth groups. The Youth Group also spends plenty of time at the youth house. On September 11, Aaron Carrico led a night of prayer and reflection around the recently canonized St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa). In a few weeks, we will study angels and the spiritual realm and then explore the youths' thoughts and questions about our faith.



Another topic the Youth Group has recently focused upon is pilgrimage—for life and faith is a pilgrimage. On August 28, with the help of John Kurtz and Carl Lewis, the Youth Group traveled to St. Meinrad Seminary for what I hope to be the first of many trips there. Then, on September 25, we made a “pilgrimage” to my family farm in Grayson County and had a blast! We enjoyed God’s beauty and spent time in prayer at the religious shrines around the 150 acres. We also took time for fishing, ate good food around a campfire, and rode on the “Dennis Railroad.”



Of course, the Youth Group functions a little differently now than when Fr. Suneesh Mathew was in charge; however, I am comfortable that we are in a good place. I am finding real joy in youth ministry! We can always use help whether that is through chaperoning, cooking, etc. Please let us know if you are able to lend a hand and keep us in your prayers. Know that the Youth Group is praying for you as well!

The regular Youth Parent Committee who volunteer and help in the Catechesis of the Cathedral Youth: Deacon Dirck Curry, Brenda Clark, Meghan Payne, Aaron Carrico, Ross Leigh, John Kurtz, Suzanne Padgett, Robin Booth

Youth Group members: Andrew Ellis, Ana Atkins, Austin Gough, Brooklyn Reynolds, Christian Leigh, Clayton Lewis, Crystal Huang, Drake Steele, Foster Roach, George Kurtz, Hannah Padgett, Hope Johnson, Iona Palmer, Isabelle Wright, Jade Flaherty, John Henry Booth, Justin Millay, Caitlin Sullivan, Kevin Gonzalez, Lily Moore, Logan Davis, Lucy Wright, Madelyn Lyon, Mary Katherine Gough, Molly Payne, Natalie Ellis, Paul Iracane, Payton Sanford, Sarah Murphy, Sarah Englert, Will Clark, Zach Aull, Max Kurtz, Abbey Kyle, Annie Sullivan, Michael Sullivan

# What Time is it in Your Life?

By Fr. Jerry Riney



When I was young – very young– I remember a song called “Turn, Turn, Turn” written by the poet Peter Seeger and sung by The Byrds! This song is based on one of the most puzzling, and yet most interesting, books of the Bible, Qoheleth (in Hebrew) or Ecclesiastes (in Greek and Latin). Ecclesiastes 3:1–11 describes events and experiences in every life: “There is a time to be born and to die, to tear down and to build up, to seek and to surrender, to plant and to reap, to weep and to laugh, to mourn and to dance, to be silent and to speak, to make war and to make peace.” Each of these can be a moment of grace and opportunity. Each one is a moment that can draw us closer to God, shape our purpose in life, and enable us to strengthen ourselves and our Church community.

Time is precious yet fleeting. How often do we hear people say: “I just don’t have enough time.” “Where does time go?” “Time waits for no one.” The truth is we all have the same amount of time – 24 hours a day, 168 hours a week. How we use our time is much more important than how much time we have.

Think about all the time we waste. In our fast-moving, noisy world, most of us need time for peace and quiet, to pray, and to reflect on life and its values. For at least some part of each day, we need to take time to shut off the radio, the television, and all electronic devices and to lay aside our newspapers, magazines, and other distractions. We must make time to be alone with God.

Jesus made time for being with family and friends, praying, preaching, teaching, calling people to conversion, celebrating wedding feasts, healing lepers, and forgiving sins. Jesus, in a relatively short time, founded his Church and gained for us the gift of salvation.

Never lose sight of the big picture. God’s providence is present in all the events of world history and our own personal history. We are called to take each step in our life as faithfully and prayerfully as we know how. We trust that each moment, even the most disastrous, carries within it a grace from God that will lead us closer to the “eternal timelessness.” We are challenged to trust in God’s providence.

Ecclesiastes concludes that “God made everything appropriate to its time.” God has placed the “timeless” into our hearts, so we are called to “walk by faith, not by sight.” Perhaps the challenge for many of us is balance. There must be a time for work and a time for play, a time for prayer and activity, a time for talking and listening, a time for self-renewal and for reaching out to others.

Indeed, a certain happiness can be gained by eating, drinking, and being content with work; but the human being is longing for something more. Indeed, there is an innate longing for meaning in the human heart; and all experience and all time has meaning. Do we grasp it? How do you spend your time?

## Preschool Blessings

Father Jerry visits Cathedral Preschool to offer blessings for the start of the new school year.



Preschool Director Pam Weafer and Assistant Bonnie Stuart receive a blessing from Father Jerry.



Father prays with the preschool staff at the playground.



# St. Stephen Cathedral Docents Enlighten Visitors and Parishioners

*By Donna Tarantino*

“Peace to All Who Enter Here” are the words set in a mosaic located over the entryway of St. Stephen Cathedral. Entrance through those doors provides a stunning view, but the abundance of Christian features inside might go unnoticed by visitors and, quite possibly, Cathedral parishioners. Cathedral tours are a wonderful way to learn about the history and art of the Cathedral, and volunteers in the St. Stephen Docent ministry are pleased to share their knowledge to groups or individuals interested in a tour.

Docent Eddy McFarland often begins with the suggestion to “Look up!” as tour participants gather around the baptismal font. Located above the font is a feature depicting the names of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and the animal symbols often associated with the evangelists. Eddy commented that he often hears exclamations of “Wow!” when visitors enter the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, dedicated to honor Bishop Emeritus John Jeremiah McRaith.

Bridgette Whittinghill’s service in this ministry is important to her on a personal level. William LeRoy Hayden, grandfather of Bridgette’s husband, Rob, owned Hayden Planing Mill, which crafted the window frames for the Cathedral. Rob’s family has belonged to St. Stephen since before construction of the building at its current location began in 1924.

Denise Payne feels honored to serve as a docent. As a lover of history, she says, “It is an opportunity to share my faith and a part of our community’s past. The stained glass windows bring the saints to life as we talk about their love of Jesus. The visitors then see themselves as part of a much larger church family.”

Planning for a tour program began in 2012 with compilation of comprehensive historical and art information and development of a training guide. Although informal tours were conducted in November 2012 to coincide with the Cathedral rededication, the program officially began in September 2013. Since then, the program has increased, including annual tours led during Fall Festivals and throughout this Jubilee Year of Mercy. The growth of the program is a result of the efforts of those who have offered their talent and dedication along the way, including members of the Restoration & Renewal Committee, the Marketing & Communications Committee, and the volunteers who proudly serve as docents. Thanks also to Kathy Wright,



*St. Stephen Cathedral Docents are proud to share their knowledge of the history of the Cathedral*

*Left to right: Denise Payne, Lorraine McFarland, Bridgette Whittinghill, Eddy McFarland, Mary Helen Nash, Kathy Wright, John Wright, Joan Perry.*

*Not pictured: Doreen Harney, Mary Ann Medley.*

Cathedral Docent Ministry Coordinator. More docents are always welcome and needed! Anyone interested is encouraged to contact Kathy at 270-685-2550. Training is provided.

Here are a few interesting Cathedral facts. Schedule a tour to learn more! Tours are available for groups or individuals and may be scheduled by calling the Cathedral Parish Office at 270-683-6525.

- **The painting of Saint Stephen, located near the baptismal font, was given as a gift to the Bishop of Bardstown by a prince of France who later became a king.**
- **The mosaics located over the entryway and confessionals were created during renovation of the Cathedral in the 1970s.**
- **The stained glass windows were installed 15 years after the Cathedral was built.**
- **The church building at the current 610 Locust Street location is 90 years old, but the parish of St. Stephen is older; it was founded in 1839. Some items, such as the Stations of the Cross and sacristy cabinets, were part of the second St. Stephen Church building. The Stations of the Cross were removed some time later, and remained in storage until they were restored in the early 2000s.**
- **During the renovation completed in 2012, improvements were made to help ensure the Cathedral is welcoming and accommodating to all. A ramp to the altar was added, and shorter pews were installed near the front of the sanctuary to provide wheelchair access.**

There’s still time to make a pilgrimage for this Jubilee Year of Mercy. St. Stephen Cathedral is one of six designated pilgrimage sites in our diocese.





# Corey's Path to the Priesthood

By Marianna Robinson and Fr. Jerry Riney

Thoughts from Fr. Riney:

"It has been a delight to welcome Corey Bruns, a bright, gifted, open, and perceptive young man, into our rectory, pastoral team, and parish life. Corey's sense of humor and helping attitude adds a richness to our rectory life and his eagerness to serve is a gift to the people of God at St. Stephen Cathedral."

Now in his 20's, Corey recalls that he first entertained the idea of becoming a priest in the 5th grade at the invitation of his pastor at St. William in Marion, KY, where he has grown up since moving there from his hometown of Quincy, IL, at eight years old. In the seventh grade, Corey began to feel the invitation of the Lord grow stronger and started to discern the call to seminary. Some of his inspiration came from the prayerful manner in which his childhood pastor had celebrated the Mass with grace and beauty. Later during his senior year of high school, Corey was accepted as a seminarian for the Diocese of Owensboro and was sent to Bishop Simon Bruté College Seminary in Indianapolis. He was the first Owensboro Seminarian to graduate from Bruté this May. He has spent three summers working at Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp on summer staff and most recently spent this summer working at Holy Spirit in Bowling Green before coming to us here at the Cathedral. Now a student at Saint Meinrad Seminary, he is doing his Pastoral Internship Year with us, where under the mentorship of Fr. Jerry Riney he will gain experience in the many facets of parish life.

It was with a gentle smile that Corey spoke of his family,

which consists of two wonderful devout Catholic parents who love their faith; his triplet brother and sister, Brody and Emily; and his two older brothers Adam and Nathan. His brother Brody works full-time in Bowling Green while finishing his degree in Software Programming. His sister Emily is a FOCUS Missionary at Winona State University in Minnesota. A member of our Cathedral parish and college classmate and friend of Corey, Sam Rasp, is also a FOCUS Missionary, serving at Wright State in Dayton, OH.

When asked about his hobbies and talents, Corey mentioned several: playing the organ and singing in the seminary schola; photography; cooking because he likes to eat good food and loves how it brings people together; gardening; working on his farm bush-hogging and clearing trails; and woodworking, a love developed by his Agriculture Advisor in high school. A former cabinet maker, his advisor stressed perfection in construction and had Corey co-teach the freshman AG classes as a senior. Corey enjoys sharing his love of his hobbies and interests with others.

Closing thoughts from Fr. Riney:

"During this pastoral year, Cathedral parishioners have a unique opportunity to help with forming and molding a future priest. Invite him to your home, share a cup of coffee (he prefers tea), enjoy a beer. More importantly, share your faith life, your hopes, dreams, and concerns about your spiritual life, the Church, your children, your parents. I assure you, it will make Corey a better candidate for the priesthood!"





Garry Pierce, Larry Lyon, Sue Gough, Mike Weafer, Gene Lyon, & Pam Collignon at Mount St. Joseph's last picnic to benefit retired Ursuline sisters



Bishop Medley after 2 months in San Antonio studying Spanish this summer



Fr. Jamie holds James Arthur Lorenz, son of Jason & Rachel Lorenz



Robert & Joyce Nalley celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary



Joan Perry, St. Stephen Sophia Award recipient



Kate's parents, Glenn & Sheila Calhoun, at the Blood Mobile



Sr. George Mary Hagan speaking about Maryland to Kentucky Catholics, the pioneers that established the dioceses in Kentucky, and more specifically Daviess Co.



The Kate Hayden Memorial Blood Drive is held annually on Kate's birthday. She died in 2006 in an automobile accident. This year marked her 18th birthday.



# Sing a New Song to the Lord

Contributions from Doreen Harney, Cindy Bornander, and Pat Taylor. Compiled by Beni Howell

*“Sing a new song to the Lord [. . .]/ Break into song; sing praise. / Sing praise to the Lord [...]”  
Psalm 98:1, 4-5*

The Diocese of Owensboro was blessed to have Joe Simmons hold a cantor intensive workshop, “Vocal Performance to Vocal Prayer,” on July 30, 2016, at the McRaith Catholic Center. Simmons is a nationally recognized music minister who serves as Principal Cantor at St. John the Baptist in New York City and travels across the United States presenting concerts of inspirational music and clinics for cantors and lectors.

July’s cantor workshop combined key formation topics with skill-building experiences and was followed by coaching sessions. Cantors were engaged individually and given transformational techniques to better serve the assembly gathered during the Liturgy. Nine dedicated St. Stephen’s cantors attended the workshop, and 15 participated in the coaching session. Here is what a few of those cantors had to say.

Doreen Harney stated:

I have served as a cantor in three parishes since the 1980s [...] Over the years, my choir directors have always stressed the importance of learning the music, pronouncing the words distinctly, and have given encouragement to overcome the fright of standing in the front of church and singing! But [...] Joe Simmons [...] presented a new and challenging perspective to the role of cantor. Mr. Simmons focused on the cantor’s role as the proclaimer of the responsorial psalm in dialogue with the assembly. It is a comfort to know that I am not singing *for* the people as much as singing *with* the people. He gave us specific ways to help open this dialogue with the people by using eye contact, facial expressions, inviting gestures, and artistic expression.



(Back Row, left to right): Cindy Bornander, Doreen Harney, John Wells (Middle Row) Matthew Constant, Rachel Lorenz, Sally Halbig, (Front Row) Pat Taylor

Not Pictured: Dan Halbig, Lauren Calhoun, Stephanie Carrico, Katie Ellis, Jennifer Payne, Molly Payne, Sarah Roby, Sr. Suzanne Sims, Adam Hayden, Jerry Kuntz, Alison Kuntz

Pat Taylor shared:

Joe involved us all in participating with our voices and thoughts, inspired by his expertise [...] The follow up, individual session was so valuable for me to glean even more [...] I was able to apply the lessons learned immediately and have seen my confidence grow not simply because I better prepare myself, but I prepare myself with a purpose and a passion.

Cindy Bornander said:

A big thank you to the Diocese for the very special gift I received from Joe. The cantor workshop helped me discover that my offering of music is truly a music ministry and not merely an obligation. There is so much more than just learning words and notes. Proclaiming the Psalm is delivering scripture to the assembly, and that is an awesome responsibility.

Harney agreed with Bornander saying, “What a glorious song to the Lord! I am grateful to Mike Bogdan, Director of the Office of Music, for making this workshop a reality for our Diocese. And thank you to James Wells, Director of Music at St. Stephen, for encouraging me and many of our other cantors to share this learning experience.”





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**St. Stephen Cathedral  
Parish would like to  
welcome the following  
new parishioners since  
June 2016**

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Herman & Joan Dant  
David & Babylyn Peters  
Tim Records  
Pat & Jenny Bosley  
Steven & Haley Roby  
Hillary Wright

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