

A quarterly publication of the
St. Stephen Cathedral parish



Christmas at
the Cathedral
Page 6



March for Life
in D.C.
Page 12



the Parishioner

What's Inside

Lent is
Pruning Time
Page 3

Preschool News
Page 4

Catholic Schools
Week
Page 5

National Catholic
Youth Conference
Page 8

Meet the
New People
Page 10

Mary Hilda “Miss Mac” McFarland *Embracing the Single Life*

By Leah McCarty

On January 7, 2014, St. Stephen lost a long-time parishioner who graciously gave of her talents for several years as editor of this newsletter. She passed into her new life snug in her warm little home, book on her lap, football playing on her TV.

If you called her “Mary Hilda” you likely knew her from early childhood through her graduation at OCHS and then Brescia. If she taught you at Mount St. Joseph you called her “Miss McFarland.” Then she returned to OCHS as a teacher and, due to the nickname given her by Fr. Henry O’Bryan, several generations of students knew her as “Miss Mac.”

When we offer general intercessions for “those who live the single life” Miss Mac will always come to mind. She lived her single life so beautifully, giving unselfishly of her time, talent, and treasures.

Miss Mac spent her entire adult life giving back to the Catholic schools that she loved so dearly. If you were out with her in public you could be assured that Miss Mac would encounter one of “her kids.” Some of those kids flew in from as far as New York and Texas for her funeral. Many more kids drove in from around Kentucky and neighboring states. One of her students from her first year teaching at the Mount recounted how “Miss McFarland marveled at how much the students at the



*“Act well your part,
there all the honour lies.”*

- Alexander Pope

Photo by Sharon Wathen >>

Reconciliation

Embracing the Single Life

(Continued from page 1)

Mount loved her.” The student then said she told Miss Mac, “it is because of the way you care for us;” she was “easy to love.” Several former students shared stories about how Miss Mac inspired them to become teachers, speaking of how they “channel” Miss Mac and her classical music in their own classrooms now. Another student spoke of how Miss Mac always treated students with respect. Yet another said there has never been a challenge in her life since high school that she hasn’t measured against the challenge Miss Mac presented her: memorizing and delivering more than 250 lines for an Emerald Production spring play. That student said the faith Miss Mac showed in her when she was just 15 years old has stayed with her throughout her life and helped her to overcome many new challenges. It is one of Miss Mac’s kids from her last decade of teaching who is taking over the editing duties of this newsletter. The stories Miss Mac’s kids continue to tell and the actions of the next generation, filling the roles of teachers and volunteers, would have filled Miss Mac’s heart with gratitude.

Beyond Miss Mac’s teaching mission she was a faithful volunteer to many other charities. She volunteered for the Owensboro Symphony Alliance to help ensure that everyone had the opportunity to enjoy the music that she found so inspiring. Miss Mac often spoke of her volunteer time for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. She shared what a blessing that time was to her and she said, even more importantly, what a blessing the St. Vincent de Paul Society is to our community.

Those of us who were fortunate to know Miss Mac as close family, fierce friend or impassioned teacher miss her greatly; but we are inspired and challenged to live our life the way she lived hers. She kept this quote from Alexander Pope in her home, and lived it every day: “Act well your part, there all the honour lies.”



Photo by Ross Leigh

Congratulations to the following children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time last February 2, 2014.

Briley Emma Breeden
John “Jack” Calhoun, III
William Tuttle Carrico
Spencer Price Harris
Lauren Ashton Leigh
Carson Phillip Lewis
Henry Marshall Moore

Alivia-Chantale Marie Norris
Leonard Gregory Padgett
Abigail Rae Payne
John Andrew Steele
Lindsey Kathryn Warren
Tristan Dakota Walker
Claire Elizabeth Wheatley



Photos by
Rob Abney



Lent is Pruning Time

By Fr. Jerry Riney

Recently, I read an article by Robert J. Wicks, who has been helping people to take measure of their lives for years. Having written many books on spirituality and personal growth, Dr. Wicks contends that difficult times can offer graced moments in more striking ways than the good times can. The article was about PRUNING. I would like to summarize that article, which holds deep hope as we enter the season of Lent.

“Pruning” not only speaks of cutting back, but also of the ultimate blossoming that takes place when it is done properly. It is rewarding to prune our inner lives of the causes and tendencies that block discernment of what burdens we should and should not carry.

If we are not centered it is almost impossible to be a good priest, parent, student, teacher, or friend. In order to be centered on what is important--that we might sense the inner peace for which we long--pruning is often necessary. This “cutting back” is not out of selfishness, but out of a need to serve better. Before Christmas several families told me they had decided to simplify, to cut back on the materialism and commercialism of the Christmas season. This decision was made to appreciate better what was truly important about the central mystery of Christmas. In order to be better at what we do, it is often necessary to prune away unrealistic expectations, so that the gifts we truly have can be realized and utilized more effectively. Though most of us do not consider ourselves BIG sinners, we

ARE called to prune our lives of anything that is not of God. It is a great time to examine our attitudes, our desires, our wants, our speech, our conversation, our ability to build up rather than tear down. Lent is the perfect time to take stock of our lives and to be courageous enough to allow God’s grace to prune that which needs trimming and growth--that which makes us spiritually sluggish and holds us back from becoming who we can be rooted in Jesus Christ.

There is a cemetery in the US, famous for its impressive monuments. Probably the most imposing among them is one for a deceased military hero--a general. It lists all the battles he fought and his lifetime accomplishments. Right next to it is a small tombstone erected for his beloved young wife. Unlike the general’s epitaph, only one line was engraved in her remembrance: Everywhere she went, she brought flowers. The ultimate benefit of pruning is the blossoming that takes place when it is done properly. When we do this inner pruning, we are more likely to be aware of the flowers we bring to those we encounter along the way.

Pruning with the ultimate goal in mind helps us step back and re-assess when we feel overwhelmed by sin or unproductive behavior or unrealistic expectations. We must be clear about what we really want out of life. Lent, which in the old English means “springtime,” is the ideal season for pruning.

Preschool News

By Pam Weafer

Many exciting things are going on at Cathedral Preschool. We were very busy during the Christmas season. Every year we support a local charity with generous donations from our preschool families. The past two years we have collected donations for St. Joseph's Peace Mission. This year we collected new clothes and toys for the children there. A few days before Christmas we delivered a carload of wrapped gifts for the children residing at St. Joseph's. We were greeted by many smiling and excited faces.

Another exciting Christmas activity was our Christmas Program. This year our four and five year old classes performed the play "Christmas Show-N-Tell" in the church for a packed house. The play was followed by a cookie and punch reception to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. We owe a big thank you to our many parents, preschool friends and church staff who pitched in to help. Our young performers did an outstanding job as well.

Catholic Schools Week quickly followed with a Blessing Service for our students and families. Registration has already started for next year! **Early registration for St. Stephen Cathedral members and currently enrolled families began February 3rd.** Registration opened to the public February 10th. Call (270) 926-1652 or email Pam.weafer@pastoral.org for registration information. Also check us out at www.cathedralpreschool.com.

Looking forward to a great second semester!



Photos by James Kincheloe



RCIA candidates participated in the Rite of Acceptance/Rite of Welcome on December 8th

Front row, left to right: Jackie Gentry, Rick Hubbard, Gary McCoy

Back row, left to right: Jefferson Sorley, Taylor West, Carrie Warren

Catholic Schools Week

Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service

System Wide Service By Ken Rasp

Last Spring, Suzanne Padgett, mother of Jack (11th grade), Hannah (7th grade), Bailey (4th grade), Leo (2nd grade) and Calvin (1st grade), approached the OCS Leadership Team with an idea to honor her father John Bailey, who passed away March 23, 2013. With her children attending all four schools, her hope was to create an all Owensboro Catholic Schools service project. Based on the fact that during his life, Mr. Bailey dealt with issues stemming from diabetes, she suggested that we consider conducting a shoe drive utilizing Soles4Souls, an organization out of Nashville, TN. We agreed that it was a good idea.



Photo by Suzanne Padgett

In honor of John Bailey, the Owensboro Catholic Schools community conducted a Soles4Souls Shoe Drive during Catholic Schools Week 2014 (Monday, January 27th to Friday, January 31st). Collection boxes were placed at each school site and Central Office for donated new or gently worn shoes. Your gift of footwear is important to children and adults around the world. Footwear helps eliminate the spreading of diseases through the foot as well as by helping children obtain an education - as many schools have footwear requirements. When you take time to RECYCLE your gently worn footwear, you are in fact changing lives. By being redistributed via Soles4Souls international partners, men and women have been given the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty by earning a sustainable income.

Soles4Souls is a global not-for-profit institution dedicated to fighting the devastating impact and perpetuation of poverty. The organization advances its anti-poverty mission by collecting new and gently worn shoes from individuals, schools, faith based institutions, civic organizations, and corporate partners, then distributing those shoes via direct donations to people in need.

On behalf of Suzanne, her family and Team OCS, I thank you for your willingness to participate in this Soles4Souls service project. Soles4Souls reminds us that shoes can enable someone to step out of poverty.

Catholic Schools Week took place January 27-31 with the theme of “Communities of Faith, Knowledge, and Service.” The Owensboro Catholic School System is proud to have **1,342** students enrolled in the four campuses. Of that number **1,272** are Catholic. **170** employees make their home within this family-based system. St. Stephens currently sponsors **105** students. Each campus hosts activities for their students in celebration of their Catholic education.

Photo by Lori Whitehouse



Every year during Catholic Schools Week the 1st grade classes have a spelling bee. Listed below are the winners:

- 1st Place - Evie Hayden**
- 2nd Place - Madeleine Kanipe**
- 3rd Place - Calvin Padgett**

Photo by Julie Renshaw



OCMS collected 267 cans of food for “Souper Bowl Monday” which were donated to the Help Office.



Christmas at the Cathedral

By Marianna Robinson

The spirit of Christmas began to appear on Locust St. in mid-December with parish volunteers joining Patrick Clary with installing the indoor and outdoor Christmas displays. The celebrating continued throughout January 5th when the Cathedral held its first Epiphany Celebration and International Dinner.

The first musical treat of the season was the appearance of Dr. Connie Ford and the OCTC Chorus whose voices filled the air with beautiful, peace-filling songs on a wintry evening. Dr. Ford is music director and director of the OCTC Chorus, a position she has held since 1987.

Another festive occasion was the Epiphany Celebration and International Dinner. It's safe to say this event will find a place on next December's calendar. Under the direction of talented Mike Conley (Director of Liturgy and Music for 36 years), the audience was drawn into some seasonal favorites of hymns and carols. Interspersed with the singing were meditative Biblical readings, a piano solo by Paige Hicks entitled "Winter Dreams," and several duets by Cindy Bornander and Doreen Hardy on the recorder and the psaltery, respectively. Our parish musicians created some pretty and delicate sounds with their favored instruments, adding another dimension to the evening of

prayer and music.

Following the musical presentation, the audience moved to the Rev. John Vaughan Community Center for a candlelight dinner. Art and Environment staff member Patrick Clary, along with Epiphany dinner coordinator Lupe Ellis were joined by Pat Taylor and several other volunteers who created an attractive dining atmosphere in our Community Center. With diverse heritages in mind, guests were encouraged to bring a dish representing their country of origin, creating an elaborate display of dishes that filled several long tables. A buffet lover's delight, there were casseroles, salads, desserts, breads, and a host of other foods reflecting the cuisine of many nations. Several parishioners assisting Lupe Ellis with organizing the dinner were Monika Logan, Rita Mauzy, Pat Taylor, and Dirck and Chona Curry.

Dining entertainment included talented teenagers Travis Welch and Iona Palmer playing solos on the cello. An interesting attraction of the dinner was an art display of Epiphany images painted on canvas by members of the Youth Group. But the highlight of the evening was when the lights suddenly went out, leaving only flickering candlelight. At this time, the Magi appeared wearing lush velvet robes and ornate crowns. The Three Kings

(also known as John Storm, Patrick Curry, and Ron Bornander) carried gifts of gold, frankincense, myrrh, AND a colorful KING cake. Young parishioner Carson Lewis was all smiles when served a small piece of cake with a picture of Baby Jesus on it.

Young and old alike would agree that our first Epiphany Celebration and International Dinner was a faith-enriching, merry occasion closing out the Christmas season. It made the age-old Bible stories of the Birth of Our Savior and The Three Kings come alive in our hearts.

And so, as we move away from celebrating the season of Christ's birth, we might keep in mind the words of the Christian writer, Howard Thurman when he wrote "The Work of Christmas."

*When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes
are home,
When the shepherds are back
with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost.
To heal the broken.
To feed the hungry.
To release the prisoner.
To teach the nations.
To bring Christ to all.
To bring music in the heart.*



Photos courtesy of James Kincheloe
and Kentucky Wesleyan College



NCYC

National Catholic Youth Conference

We are One Body By Ryan Purk

1 Corinthians 12:12

“As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.”

November 20 – 23, I, along with several other members of the St. Stephen Cathedral Youth Group, was blessed to have the opportunity to attend National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis. NCYC is a gathering of around 23,000 youth and 4,000 adults from across the United States, including Hawaii and Alaska. These Catholic followers come with the unified purpose of growing closer and falling deeper in love with Jesus Christ. A pervading sense of unity was present in each activity, motivational speaker, worship service, Mass celebration, etc. The power of the Holy Spirit was at work in the two block long confession lines and the adoration services, in the loving smiles and warm embraces of Catholic brothers and sisters welcoming each other. In each of these moments the Oneness of the Holy Spirit became ever more apparent to me. There is one moment in particular that Jesus especially touched my heart; a moment where I saw the true meaning of the Body of Christ, the Church.

On the final night of NCYC the Mass of Christ the King was celebrated in Lucas Oil Stadium with over 27,000 followers in attendance. Throughout the weekend God had been pouring graces into my heart through prayer, fellowship, and confession, but I didn't feel the full force of these graces until I witnessed a procession of over 200 priests, bishops, and deacons at the opening of mass. This procession lasted around ten minutes as the whole assembly sang songs of God's love, His mercy, and His glory. These religious men were all of one mind, body, and spirit as they prepared to be instruments of God in the consecration of the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. This true and holy food is what makes us into the image of the Body of Christ. It unites us.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the one body of Christ in front of me could be felt in my soul and Jesus lit my heart with a more intense flame of love for him. I see the Church more clearly as the Body of Christ and my resolve to follow God's will has been strengthened from this experience. The Church will help me keep this flame of faith alive and will continue to add to it all the days of my life.

Alive Again By Jack Padgett

Last November, I received the opportunity to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference, or NCYC, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Eight other youth from our parish and I went, and it was one of the best experiences I have ever had.

The call to attend this pilgrimage came from our newly installed Youth Director, Noelle Curry. She has done an amazing job with her position, doubling (if not tripling) the size of the involved youth in our parish, and bringing such a joyful presence to everything we do together. She contacted me and asked if I would be interested, and if I was, if I could help out with some of the fundraisers she was organizing to help pay for the trip. I had heard of NCYC before but had never attended, so I was excited about the chance and quickly agreed.

A few months and fundraisers later, the time had finally come. I was more excited than ever for the trip—in between the fundraising and the moment we left, it had been a bit of a struggle to keep my faith alive in my everyday life. I was feeling alone in the world and felt as though I had no peers to bounce my faith off of. I was hoping and praying that the pilgrimage would bring me peace, comfort, and a zeal for the faith that I was currently lacking.

Unsurprisingly, I did indeed find God in Indianapolis. The moment I entered into Lucas Oil Stadium with 23,000 other Catholic youth, He began to take the troubles and anxiety off of my heart. It was almost as if I could hear Him whispering into my ear. *“You are not alone. This is your family, and I am with you always.”*

However, the real life-changing event occurred on the last day of the conference. At NCYC, during the afternoon, all of the youth are allowed to wander the Convention Center that is adjacent to the stadium. Dozens of “workshops” are put on during this time, where famous speakers or musicians hold sessions where they talk to the youth about various topics, ranging from evangelization to the call to vocations. On the final day of these workshops, the highlight was one by Matt Maher, a very famous Catholic musician who has written songs like “Your Grace is Enough.” Noelle

thought it would be a good idea for our whole youth group to meet up and attend his workshop, which was called XLT.

To ensure that we got good seats, Noelle, Frances Seaton, and I all went to the workshop that was held in the same room an hour and a half prior to XLT. We had no idea what it was going to be—we just wanted to be there for Matt Maher. We got front row seats in time to watch an amazing rendition of the book of Job set into musical form—it was a nice surprise! When that workshop ended, the room (which seated around 5000) was already filling up with people wanting to catch a glimpse of the famous singer.

After a time, it finally began. Matt Maher walked onto the stage and introduced himself, then began to sing a song called “Alive Again.” When the first notes reached my ears, I knew it was going to be an amazing performance. I clapped and sang with my fellow youth, losing myself in the music. After about a half hour, Matt announced that we would be taking part in Adoration. We all got onto our knees and watched reverently as a priest processed up the aisle with a monstrance and set it on the stage. After a brief period of silent Adoration, Matt stood up, walked over to the piano that was on stage, and began to sing his song “Christ is Risen.”

This was what truly touched my heart. Our seats were directly in front of four enormous amps, all of which were set to the highest setting so Matt’s music could reach everybody. From where we were sitting, if we sat still, we could literally feel the music. It shook our bodies every time the bass hit, and it brought me to tears. I could feel the power of Christ coursing through the music, and the youth around me only amplified the feelings of being lost in Jesus. All I could do was stand silently and cry as the bass vibrated my body and my fellow young Church worshipped Him.

Needless to say, I came back from Indianapolis with exactly what I was searching for when I left. Being surrounded by thousands of young Catholics from across the nation was an incredibly fulfilling experience, and I wouldn’t trade it for anything.

Meet the *New People*



Photo by Hopewell Photography

Katie Pagan

Katie Pagan has accepted the position of editor for *The Parishioner* since Miss Mac's passing. Katie graduated in 2002 from Owensboro Catholic High and moved to Lexington where she completed her B.A. in English with a minor in Secondary Education at Transylvania University. Upon graduation, Katie moved to Wales where she completed her MA in English Literature and then moved on to the University of the Cumberland's graduate program where she earned a MA in School Counseling. Katie has followed in Miss Mac's footsteps as an English teacher and sponsor of Emerald Players, Owensboro Catholic High School's theatre program. Katie is married to Jason Pagan who is a KY State Trooper. She and Jason have a 16 month old daughter, Shelby, who tries to escape the pew at 9am Mass! The Sunday after Miss Mac's funeral, Fr. Jerry announced that he needed someone to fill Mac's role as editor of the newsletter. Katie took on the position as her way of honoring Miss Mac and everything that Miss Mac had taught her. This is Katie's first issue with us! If you would be interested in writing on a part-time or full-time basis for *The Parishioner*, please contact her at Katie.pagan@owensborocatholic.org.



Taylor West

Taylor West has accepted the position of layout designer for *The Parishioner*. Originally from Horse Cave, KY, Taylor moved to Owensboro to pursue a B.S. in Visual Communications from Kentucky Wesleyan College. He is the Art Director for Tanner+West Design Agency, who publishes *Owensboro Living* and *Owensboro Parent* magazines. Three years ago, he began attending Mass with girlfriend Katelyn Stallings and felt right at home the minute he entered. He is currently in the RCIA program. He said, "I'm loving every minute of it and can't wait to join the church!" Fr. Jerry introduced him to the idea of designing the newsletter when he was looking for a way to become more involved in the church. In his spare time, Taylor enjoys playing the saxophone and competing in triathlons. This is Taylor's first issue with us!

Two Photographers Offer Skills to *The Parishioner Express Crew*

By Marianna Robinson

We give a welcoming “all aboard” to James Kincheloe and Rob Abney who recently offered their time and talent as photographers for our quarterly parish newsletter. Our pastors, editor, graphic designer, and writers look forward to working with them on future publications of *The Parishioner*. Let’s get acquainted with James and Rob.

James and Lisa Kincheloe have been married about 8 years. Lisa is a longtime parishioner at St. Stephen’s Cathedral. Lisa works at River Valley and James says that her main pastime is creating lovely gifts for family and friends using a crochet hook. James has been an avid photographer for many years. As a young man, he would go to Windy Hollow and other drag racing tracks, slip over the fence, and pull out his Red Pixel to snap photos of race cars. Since then, his camera equipment has graduated to a Canon, which he uses to take shots of people, places, and things at sites where people gather such as church picnics and fall festivals. This past fall, he took his camera to Reid’s and to the air show at Smothers



James Kincheloe

Park. Other crowd-gathering places James has visited with camera in tow include Civil War reenactments and schools and other places where there are pioneer life demonstrations. Another of James’ interests is painting landscapes in oil on canvas.

When asked about his day job, James said he thinks of himself as a home improvement man adding that he has worked for construction companies building houses. His carpentry skills allow him to do woodworking and an assortment of other household construction jobs. More recently, a hobby with James is converting vintage liquor bottles into drinking glasses. It is obvious James is a creative person with many talents, and that it might be said that

photography ranks near the top of his interests.

Rob Abney became interested in photography as a hobby about 20 years ago using a film-based Canon Rebel. His second camera was also a Canon, and it is his third, more sophisticated Canon he uses today. When asked about his favorite subjects to photograph, he responded that he especially enjoys shooting pictures of people of all ages found in any variety of life circumstances, adding that his trusty Canon travels with him almost everywhere he goes.



Rob Abney

By profession, Rob is a Certified Hand Therapist and is the owner of HAND THERAPY PLUS, a clinic here in Owensboro that serves the needs of patients suffering from joint pain. His clinic also offers rehabilitation services. His staff includes Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and an Exercise Specialist. Rob opened HAND THERAPY PLUS when he, his wife Kate, and their children moved to Owensboro about 10 years ago.

Along with his willingness to share his photography skills with the parish, he and his wife Kate signed on to another parish ministry. One evening a month, they will join a team of about 8-10 other parishioners to prepare and serve a hot, nutritious meal to about 40 men at St. Benedict’s Shelter for Homeless Men.

Daughters Jenny and Maggie Abney attend college in Lexington, and son Joe graduated in December from the University of Michigan School of Law.

James and Rob look forward to joining *The Parishioner* team and suggest that they be contacted in advance for scheduling.



610 Locust Street
Owensboro, KY 42301-2130

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
OWENSBORO, KY
42301
PERMIT 900

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Newsletter Contributors

Writers

Mary Nell Ivey	Ken Rasp
Leah McCarty	Fr. Jerry Riney
Jack Padgett	Marianna Robinson
Ryan Purk	Pam Weafer

Editor

Katie Pagan

Layout Designer

Taylor West

Photographers

Rob Abney
James Kincheloe

March for Life By Mary Nell Ivey

Photos by Michele Linn

This year was my second time going to Washington, D.C., for the March for Life. Both times it has made a huge impact on me and I'm sure everyone else who went. It opens your eyes to a lot of things many people don't know about. While on the trip, we went to a youth rally that had guest speakers. There was a woman who sends pregnant women into abortion clinics with a recording device to question the doctors. She compiled the recordings and made it into a video to show us what is really said in places like that. The doctors' answers were absolutely horrible and I couldn't even stand to hear them. We never actually get to know what is said in abortion clinics so that video for me was the highlight of the trip. The March was also unbelievable because I saw so many people defending life. March for Life is definitely an experience of a life time. Whoever has not been yet NEEDS to go. It is an incredible "pilgrimage," as we like to call it. I promise you, you won't regret it. We are the generation that is going to abolish abortion.

