

NEWS FROM

Celebration!

A People Serving the Church

Fall 2011

Another Year of Grace



Bill, Mimi and James at the final services in the original building, Church of the Redeemer, Houston

After last year being our 25th in Aliquippa what can we say? More ups and downs, more moments with friends, visitors old and new – even visitors old and young. Another year of grace and of joy that is deeper for being long-standing. When you're older, and we truly are, you don't look for new things or big things too much, the joints and sinews are less able to take the strain! But we had our annual conference that blessed us all, a wonderful summer wedding for Michelle, then the sadness of May's mother and brother dying. Friends visited; small groups took up temporary residence; we said our daily prayers; we celebrated; and we look forward to continuing the celebration of the whole of life.



Bill and Mimi reconnect with Wiley Beveridge and Carol Kennedy during the Redeemer festivities in Houston, February, 2011



In September, Celebration hosted the 3-day annual meeting of NAECC (National Association of Episcopal Christian Communities)

Left: Representatives from Anamchara Fellowship; Brotherhood of St. Gregory; Community of Celebration; Community of the Gospel; Companions of St. Luke-Benedictine; Little Sisters of St. Clare; Order of Preachers; Rivendell Community; Sisters of St. Gregory; Third Order Society of St. Francis; Order of the Holy Cross (Observer)

2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE: THE LORD'S PRAYER



Plenary Session with Fr. Bernie Tickerhoff, TOR

James giving the finer points of the luncheon buffet



Bill pitches in on a Work Day at the Diocesan Jubilee Officers meeting in Kentucky, focusing on ministry in Appalachia



Robert and Sue King made a special visit to Aliquippa en route to their new home in Australia, coinciding with Super Bowl Sunday



*"The Address to the Haggis"
Robert Burns Celebration, January 2011
Steven McKeown and Robert King*



Worship during the NAECC gathering



Companion and bookkeeper Dennis Wilson enjoying his first-floor digs after several decades on the third floor of the office building



*A joyful celebration at the Farra/Guzie wedding August 13th
Steven, May, Joe, Chris, Michelle, James, Mimi, Bill*

photo: Christine Olson



Icon: Mother of Tenderness

The latest addition to the Chapel of the Holy Spirit for the Christmas/Epiphany season by Pittsburgh iconographer Randi Sider-Rose, with whom James and Companion Nancy O'Leary are studying

Joe has received a clean bill of health and is doing well after completing treatment for bladder cancer.

In March Mimi led a weekend Lenten Retreat for the women of St. Michael's of the Valley Episcopal Church, Ligonier, PA.

In May Bill attended the annual meeting of CAROA (Conference of Anglican Religious Orders in the Americas) as a representative from NAECC.

9/11/11: Steven gave the Invocation at a 10th anniversary Flight #93 memorial service in Shanksville, PA, where he had been involved with rescue workers in 2001. Immediately after the service, Steven and May left for Scotland to complete funeral arrangements for May's mother and brother, who died in August.

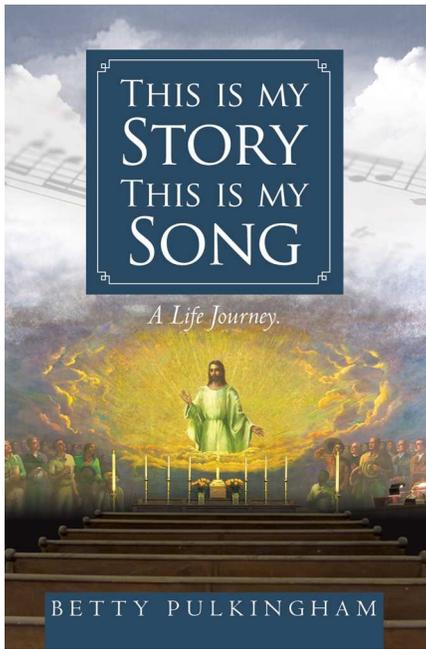
We mark the passing of Jerry Barker, one of the founding elders at the Church of the Redeemer, former member of the Community, and long-time Companion of Celebration. In April Bill joined many family members and friends at Jerry's funeral in Galveston.

Other groups that were hosted this year: Diocese of Pittsburgh Clergy Advent Quiet Day; Diocesan Racism Committee; Creating a Culture of Peace Board meeting and 5-day Training Session; New Hope Anglican Church, Watertown, CT, Mission Week.



*Some activities at the Community's Spring Work Day
James (left), Bill (above), May (below)*





This is My Story, This is My Song: A Life Journey by Betty Pulkingham

Betty Pulkingham's musical contribution to the Christian church and her shared ministry with a visionary, community-building husband give her an exciting life-story. A significant aspect of her ministry has been her ability to blend the discipline of traditional, classical musicianship with folk arts to draw congregations into a lively experience of worship. In 2006 she received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Virginia Theological Seminary, and in 2007 she received the degree of *Doctoris in Sacris Litteris* from Wycliffe College, University of Toronto.



She currently makes her home in Burlington, North Carolina and is a Companion of the Community of Celebration.

Available for \$18 + shipping at www.communityofcelebration.com
Your purchase directly from Celebration includes a free CD of Betty's music.

Annual Conference - June 15-17, 2012 Living the Covenant: Equipping the Saints

In 1979 The Episcopal Church approved a version of the Book of Common Prayer which made it clear that Baptism was to be public, central, and foundational for all Christian ministry. Forty years later we are still living into the implications on leadership and ministry of this renewed baptismal theology.

In this conference, a deacon and a bishop (who happened to be married to each other!) -- long committed to spiritual renewal and baptismal ministry -- will share understandings of Baptism and the Baptizing Community, spiritual practices and discernment, theological reflection, cradle to grave Christian formation, and a few processes and methods that enhance ministry development for individuals and communities

The conference will be interactive and participatory -- come..."wade in the water!"

Speakers: The Rt. Rev. Christopher Epting and The Rev. Susanne Watson Epting

The Rt. Rev. Christopher Epting is a retired Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa. Before his election in 1988, he served for nearly twenty years as a parish priest in congregations large and small, rural and urban in the Diocese of Central Florida. Retiring after nine years as Ecumenical Officer for The Episcopal Church, Bishop Epting served for two years as the interim Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Davenport, Iowa. He currently serves on the House of Bishops' Committee on the Religious Life and as Bishop Visitor for the Community of Celebration in Aliquippa and the Community of the Transfiguration in Cincinnati.

Deacon Susanne Watson Epting currently serves as Director of the Association for Episcopal Deacons. In 1981 she began work as an assistant in campus ministry at the University of Iowa, and as lay coordinator of a small Episcopal congregation in the same city. After completing graduate work, studying the Social Gospel era in America, she was ordained to the diaconate in 1989.

From 2005-2008, she was part of the Anglican Communion delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Recently she has been facilitating online courses with the Church Divinity School of the Pacific and teaching ministry development at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary.

