



THE COMMUNITY OF ST. MARY
SOUTHERN PROVINCE
THE MESSENGER



Volume XXX, Issue 2

Advent 2021

Have you ever thought about how challenging it is to be a human being? To live in your present, remember your past, and project into your future almost simultaneously. Sometimes we criticize ourselves for not living in our "now," but our now embraces all of these expressions of time. And, "now" is always changing. Stability that doesn't embrace constant change is an illusion. We don't ever truly stand still; our bodies keep on functioning and our minds easily cross time zones. We grapple with interior reality while we stand in an external, material environment. We dream and feel gratitude even as we grieve and experience loss. But, every time we try to focus on one aspect of our reality, we lose track of something else. We can't completely be aware at any moment of the fullness of our reality. And frequently, we become confused or overwhelmed by our quickly shifting focus. And still, I think that it is equally amazing that we can consciously make those shifts.



In Advent we focus on endings and beginnings, a new heaven and a new earth, as we await the birth of Jesus. And, in some way, we experience that pregnant moment within us. Even at other times during the year, we engage Advent themes in our temporal reality

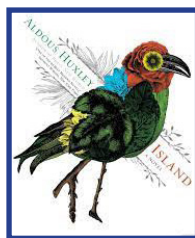


as we deal with the memory of and ending

of the past, go through our physical present, and hope for or fear our

future. It is indeed challenging to be a human being, at once bound up in flesh and in spirit, time and eternity.

Aldous Huxley, who wrote a book entitled *Island* in 1962, had an obnoxiously enlightening character in the book, a mynah bird who incessantly called out: "Attention! Attention!" He never said what the hearers were to attend to; he only chanted his reminder: pay attention! The more I think of the bird's role in the plot, I think that word - "attention" - has multivalent meanings, both in the book and in our lives. Our challenge is not simply to pay attention, but to know how to prioritize our attention and to engage with others' awareness. That struggle to prioritize is one - among many - of the reasons we may find ourselves tired right now.



So much has happened during this year to draw our attention in many conflicting directions. I particularly realized that fact when I reviewed the list of our events since the last newsletter and pondered how much of life lay hidden in between and behind those events. Many people have grown weary struggling against COVID and its complications in an environment of rage, misinformation, and blame. Political conflicts, natural disasters, racism, and economic insecurity, etc. have sapped our energy, and the suffering and grief caused by the death or declining health of friends and family members has exhausted us and sometimes dashed our hopes.

And yet, these difficult times may also be a source of hope for us. Crisis often

opens our eyes to a deeper, fuller sense of reality. We must pay attention to our past, our present, and our future, for all along, God has been journeying with us. We have never been truly isolated or abandoned, but we may have been unaware. "Attention! Attention!" We know the darkness only because we have also known the light. We grieve only because we have loved and known love. Already we are beyond our past and even now, in partnership with God, we are creating our salvation history. Can we recognize the light that has enlightened our darkness?

In pondering our grief can we also be blessed with gratitude for what we have had, for the kindnesses others have shown us? Can we become more aware of the noble efforts, the generous gift of self that so many people have shared in the midst of past and present trials? Already we are stronger than we, perhaps, previously thought; we have lived to see this day. Can we recognize God's abiding grace supporting us now? Already, God is bringing about a new thing in and through us. Can we perceive it? "Attention! Attention!"



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Associate News



Sr. Elizabeth Grace, CSM

Dear CSM Associates,

God's deep peace be with you as we begin a new church year and approach the end of a calendar one.

Since our last newsletter, we have had two official "Associate gatherings." Associates and other interested persons "Zoomed in" June 25-26 for a picnic and a quiet day, given by Sr. Hannah. The reflections were on "The Forgotten Names of God." I was sorry to miss seeing some of you; I unexpectedly contracted Rocky Mountain spotted fever. (My Sisters stepped in to coordinate the picnic, the quiet day, and my care. I am now "back to monastic life" with no residual effects.) The other gathering was a pilgrimage to Memphis September 10-12. Sr. Hannah joined our Memphis Associates to commemorate Constance and Her Companions for Martyrs' Weekend. Next year we hope to have both of these gatherings in-person. - We make our plans counting on God to direct us (Proverbs). - Our silent retreat will be offered at St. Mary's Sewanee, June 9-12, 2022. Please save those dates. Martyrs' weekend in Memphis will be September 9-11. If you are interested in joining Sisters and Associates for the weekend, please mark your calendar.

Also, if you have missed a Zoom program, we have them all recorded for sale online at our website. This past year, the Sisters have reprinted some of our favorite Christmas and Celtic cards, and added new merchandise into our online gift shop. You can find it on our website or come in-person to the convent. Likewise, our guest rooms are open and may be seen on our website, and may be booked by emailing us at sisterhoodofstmary@gmail.com

And, just as a reminder, if you use Amazon, you can donate to us through Amazon Smile.

We have five persons "in the process" of becoming Associates. The Sisters met three of them while they were living in Sewanee; the other two were referred to us by their clergy. They are "trying on their rules, based on love" during these trying times in the world.

The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Michael Curry, came to visit us at our convent on October 7. You can read about his visit in other parts of this newsletter or on social media. His memoir/ reflection was published in 2020; its title is *Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times*. I shared with him that our extended community of Associates bases its rule of life on love.

Several Associates have died during the pandemic and gone on to the "Paradise Chapter" in their lives: Carole Utlaut, Margaret Jane Pierce, Margaret Donohue, Margaret Squire, the Rev. Canon Rudy Van derHiel, the Venerable Diane Marquart Moore, Dr. Gerry Jones, the Rev. Gene Moritz, and the Rt. Rev. Sam Byron Hulsey. I would like to share with you some memories of Gerry Jones (who died on August 6, The Feast of the Transfiguration) and Gene Moritz (who died on November 1, All Saints Day). Both of these men were active Associates, along with their wives. I met Gene and Jeanelle Moritz the summer after I graduated from college (1976). The Moritzes have often spent summers in Sewanee, and came to worship with the Sisters most mornings. We all three became Associates in the late 1970's and have stayed in touch throughout the years. Gene will be remembered by the Sisters for his sense of humor and his love for his grandchildren.

I met Joy and Gerry Jones soon after I came to Sewanee to test my vocation in 1990. They, as a couple, came to many June retreats in Sewanee and CSM quiet days in Chattanooga.

The Joneses also participated in two Celtic pilgrimages led by Sr. Lucy. Gerry will be remembered by the Sisters for his generosity and service to our Community, to his family, to Chattanooga, and to strangers in need. We rejoice in the lives and witness of these Associates.

May we each continue to choose the way of love each day, and be an instrument of hope to others during these troubling times.

- Sr. Elizabeth Grace, CSM

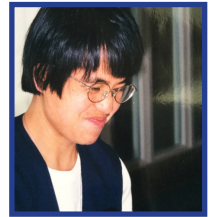
Ever consider a planned giving gift or leaving a bequest to the Sisters?

You can make a tax-deductible gift by check or by an online donation to "The Sisterhood of St. Mary"

Continuing Service

Sr. Ines continues her life of prayer, visiting the sick, and helping out in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin. In mid June, the Associates

resumed their monthly Eucharist after five months of lockdown. Later on in the month, on June 25th, Sr. Ines participated in the Golden Jubilee celebration in the Diocese of the Northern Philippines. Activities included a Bible Quiz Bee for children and adult Bible quizzes.



Sr. Ines, CSM

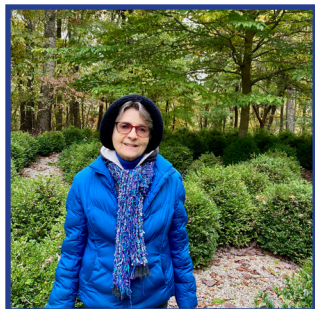


Sr. Ines, CSM with some Associates after the June Eucharist, taken in front of her house

As part of the July monthly Eucharist, Sr. Ines gave a reflection on the life and work of St. Mary Magdalene. During this service, a new Associate was received, Remy Bolinget. Remy is a retired Medical Technologist who used to work at St. Theodores Hospital in Sagada and had been worshipping with Sr. Ines and the other Associates for several months this past year. Sr. Ines continues regularly to provide short reflections at these monthly Eucharists. At the end of July, the Rt. Rev. Brent Alawas was installed as the new Prime Bishop.

We are grateful for the ministry of Sr. Ines!

"The Labryinth - Joy in Unexpected Places" by MaryAnn Gay



MaryAnn Gay

"Though labyrinths can be employed as spiritual tools in countless ways, there is a distinctly

Christian

interpretation, one which monks at the Chartres labyrinth used in their contemplation: the labyrinth as a representation and embodiment of the Christian arc from 'sin to redemption.' Additional interpretations of the labyrinth include walking the path Jesus Christ walked, finding the 'mystery of Christ who is the center of faith' and life for Christian people, a 'discipline of prayer,' and a 'living symbol of the journey of faith in a sinful, broken world.' In Christianity, the labyrinth helps pilgrims connect to Christ's sustaining, redeeming love." - Sarah James, "A Sacred Walk: Receiving the Wisdom of the Labyrinth" from earthandaltarmag.com

It's been a joy for me to spend time

at St. Mary's Convent as a volunteer over the past few months. My first assignment was to weed the labyrinth and with that I have found my calling!! At first I thought, "Oh my! There are a lot of weeds in this labyrinth! What have I gotten myself into?" I knew I could always ask for another job — but by the time I finished weeding the entire labyrinth, I knew I would not give up my weeds for the man in the moon.

When I say "the labyrinth", I should be clear that there are actually two labyrinths in the general area where the convent is located. A larger, more formal labyrinth delineated by inlaid bricks is located on the lawn at the St. Mary's Sewanee Retreat Center just across the way. The convent labyrinth, however, is located on the grounds of the convent to be accessed by the path leading from the convent garden back toward the woods. This labyrinth is smaller, more secluded, and intimate. The pattern of this labyrinth is marked by lovely boxwood shrubs, with a splendid tree growing in the center! This is the labyrinth I am writing about.

Weeding has become a meditative time for me. Moving from one grassy cluster to another, I make my way to the center of the labyrinth over the course of several visits. Once I've reached the center, it's time to move on to the other weedy patches around the convent grounds. Weeding is cyclical of course, so it's back to the labyrinth where new weeds have been waiting for me — laughing with me as I start pulling all over again. We can laugh all we want, but the treasure is making it back to the center of the labyrinth to spend some time with God in that sacred space.

If you want to know the truth, I've actually never had much faith in labyrinths. I learned about labyrinths in a workshop many years ago. People would tell me about various ways the labyrinth inspired them, gave them answers to questions, or gave resolution to perplexing

situations. But that was never true for me. Walking a labyrinth had simply become a nice ritual that allowed me to enjoy the silence and peacefulness of the landscape. Here at St. Mary's, what began as a mundane job of pulling weeds has been transformed into sacred time in this lovely place.



Entrance to
St. Mary's
Convent
Labyrinth

As autumn turns to winter, my chores will change. Some weeding will still be needed in the area around the labyrinth, but the work will mostly be clearing out leaves and twigs, anticipating yet another change when we welcome the first signs of spring.

I encourage you, as well, to enjoy labyrinth time as part of your spiritual practice. For those familiar with the convent labyrinth, you may want to extend your experience even more with a walk through the woods on the "Daniel Down Under" trail. It's a ten minute walk from the back side of the convent labyrinth and comes out at the grape arbor.

Added to the joy of my time at the convent are impromptu visits with the Sisters and Ellie (the convent dog), the loveliness of the grounds, the peal of the bells, and the discovery of the "Daniel Down Under" trail which I often walk when the weeding is done for the day.

I give thanks to the Sisters as they "care for the land, the people, and worship" as mentioned on their website. I am one of the people they have cared for over many years as I have joined them for worship and Benedictine fellowship (hopefully again soon as pandemic time passes). I have now gratefully accepted

their invitation to offer my time in participating in the care of this sacred place. Thanks be to God!

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday December 11th, the Community will have an Advent Quiet Day on Zoom on the spirituality of labyrinth entitled "Guide us to Thy Perfect Light"

**"Reflection on St. Mary's"
by former intern Eva Bogino**



Former Organic Prayer Program Intern, Eva Bogino

When I was a summer intern at St. Mary's in 2018, one of the most important aspects of my daily routine quickly became the Daily Offices. As a lifelong Episcopalian discerning a call to serve God and my community, I wanted to dive deeply into the routines and patterns of our religious tradition and engage with the liturgy we hold so dear. Who better to learn the routine of our shared prayer life than from the Sisters of Saint Mary? In formulating my schedule for the summer, I noted that I wanted to attend all five offices with the Sisters. This was something that other interns had not previously done, as they typically only attend Morning and Evening Prayer and daily Eucharist. I pressed that I wanted to participate fully in the corporate religious life of the Community, and through the summer, I attended Morning Prayer, Eucharist, Noon Office, Evening Prayer, and Compline.

Each Office held a particular meaning for me. Morning and Evening Prayer offered engagement with the Biblical stories, both familiar and lesser

known, and the Canticles I now treasure as a vital part of my practice. The daily morning Eucharist included homilies offered by guest priests, often on the lives and legacies of the Saint(s) each day, which furthered my curiosity and connection to these holy people. Through all of it, I found Noon Office and Compline to be the most centering. In the silence of our time together, and the centrality of our corporate prayer experience, I sensed God's presence. I prayed fervently for God's guidance in my life, and for the first time in my life, heard whispers of reassurance and direction from God. In these moments, I felt the Spirit move and I wanted to follow as God was guiding me.

After my time at the convent, I continued to seek solace and God's presence in the Daily Offices of the Episcopal tradition. I went back to The University of the South (just down the road!) for my Junior year after my summer with the Sisters, and threw myself more intently into Morning and Evening Prayer with the undergraduate All Saints' Chapel community and the seminary community at the Chapel of the Apostles. I also attended Compline services as they were available, but also found myself offering smaller gatherings to utilize the liturgy, or praying it in the solace of my room, particularly when my senior year was cut short by the pandemic's beginning in The United States in March of 2020. Despite the chaos of the world around me, I had the Offices as I learned them with the Sisters.

Then, come the fall of that same year, I moved to New York City to begin my first year at The Episcopal Divinity School



Eva Bogino, showing her badge from New York Presbyterian Hospital, where she did her Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) as part of her seminary training

at Union Theological Seminary.

All my classes were remote and I was living alone, both of which created a feeling of isolation that I'm sure many also felt. During that first year, our seminary community offered Morning Prayer Monday-Thursday, and Evening Prayer on Thursday Evenings, which I also supplemented on other days and services—particularly Noon Office—on my own. As I would pray, especially by myself, I remembered the energy of deep intention and serenity of the Sisters. Over time, I also realized that we were praying these services during the same hour of the day! I felt, despite this isolation, a sense of community in Christ through this shared prayer, despite the roughly 860 mile distance between us.



Sr. Madeleine Mary, CSM; Sr. Elizabeth, CSM; Eva Bogino; Sr. Hannah, CSM

As I have noted, the Noon Office made a profound impact on me. The service's structure, especially as the Sisters pray it, emphasizes our shared prayer life. The Sisters often offer the prayers for their community aloud, both using a kept list and whatever sprung to their minds and hearts. I had never engaged in spoken prayer so freely and profoundly! I found listening to their offerings, especially during this noon hour, so special that I have offered Noon Office in my seminary community, and try to incorporate this verbal offering of prayers to God in other spaces when I am able, as the Sisters taught me. I am so grateful for this experience and for many other opportunities to feel connected to this sacred community

and to our spiritual ancestors throughout all aspects of my spiritual and vocational journey since my time at the Community of Saint Mary.

Sr. Madeleine Mary Shares News from CSM

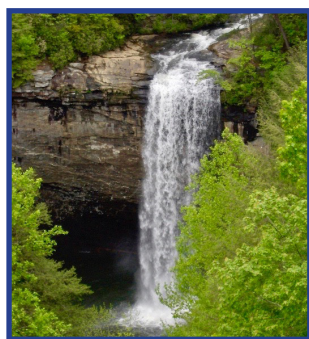
As I mentioned in the reflection, much of the life that has engaged us this season has lain hidden around our scheduled events. Like



Sr. Madeleine Mary, CSM

much of our own personal lives, those experiences would probably not be listed in history books or enumerated in resumes or grant proposals. But together, they make up the fabric of our humanity and are our primary means of growth in our relationship with God and each other. They are where we find grace, know love and community, experience joy and suffering, develop self-confidence and cringe from fear. They are the everyday. The substance of our incarnational experience, for like God, we, too, bear the Spirit in our flesh and are God's agents in the world.

Sometimes, God's grace has been like manna- enough for the day's journey. At other times, it has flowed like an



abundant waterfall encompassing us all around. And, at still other moments, grace has seemed temporarily absent, like

a dried up creek. We cannot honestly deny the suffering and turmoil of this time, neither would we want to, but in the midst of all this, we have also known God's support and your

generosity, even in the dark times, maybe especially then. Together, we have borne Christ's light and love to each other, sometimes even to those who would wish us harm. Yes, human beings are flawed, but they also carry nobility and are capable of great self-offering.

The Rev. Andy Gay and Barbara Carden offering their gifts at the Venerable Diane Marquart Moore's Memorial Eucharist



With God's help and ours, we humans can choose to live by love and kindness, rather than be consumed by fear and hate. The everyday has again taught us that fact and we have experienced that truth.

Challenge and God's grace have been dancing about, taking turns, throughout these last months. In early June we managed a few in-person events. We welcomed Br. Lucas Hall, SSJE (Society of St. John the Evangelist) for a personal retreat, and enjoyed having his added voice during some of our offices. Sr. Hannah was also able to attend the ordination service of David Goodpaster in All Saints' Chapel. But then, COVID variants reassessed themselves and we had to exercise more caution. We couldn't meet in person for the Annual June Retreat, but we still enjoyed our virtual picnic and Compline together via Zoom. And, Sr. Hannah made her debut as a retreat leader, presenting thoughtful addresses on "The Forgotten Names of God." Shortly afterward, Sr. Felicity was able to enjoy almost a month with her family in Missouri, and Jerusalem Greer, an Oblate-in-Formation, stayed with us for a personal retreat and took a lot of information about the Community to spread around the country as she speaks about evangelism for the Episcopal Church. And, around these moments of grace and friendship, we

also experienced a few trials: problems with renovations to our grounds, employee accidents and health issues. Likewise, some of our Associates and friends developed serious health concerns and our intercessions became more personal as our prayers were often populated by old friends, local residents, or friends and family of people known to us. And yet, just when we needed help, new volunteers and friends suddenly appeared like angels sent to our aid. Some of the Sewanee Summer Music Festival students and some SUMMA students helped harvest lavender and pick blueberries.



SUMMA students processing lavender

They also eagerly questioned Sr. Felicity and Sr. Hannah about the Community and its ministries. The Rev. Andy and MaryAnn Gay and Lee Hancock also spent some afternoons harvesting berries or weeding the labyrinth and lavender fields, Steve Hancock created a mesh screen so that greedy squirrels and birds did not get more than their fair share, and Lucy



Sr. Elizabeth, CSM with our Oblate Karen DeBruler at the Saturday Sewanee Farmer's Market

Jarrett planted vegetables in the garden. And on Saturdays, we were able to participate in the Sewanee Farmer's Market, selling jams and jellies, and

Sr. Felicity's new scented candles. When our Dodge needed major repairs an Advisor's unexpected donation paid for the whole repair. The Shields-Ayres grant helped us

pay for a new walkway through the prayer garden and for the contract laborers that we hired to supplement the employees' work. God used us all to continue doing our ministry well.

At Sr. Mary Zita's long-overdue funeral and interment- she died in January of 2020- all sorts of people joined in to make the celebration of her life special. José Molina and Tim Fultz worked hard, cleaning and painting the archway into the graveyard, and Leonard King and Sr. Felicity prepared Sister's actual grave site. St. Mary's Sewanee allowed us the space for the service and reception and loaned us an altar. The Rev. John Runkle, a long-standing friend of the Community who had a special affection for Sr. Mary Zita, officiated at the requiem. The Rev. Larry and Barbara Carden as well as Lillian Fulgham, a recent graduate of the University, provided beautiful music for the occasion. Sr. Elizabeth Grace gave a memorable sermon, revealing Sr. Mary Zita's spunk and flair; and Steve and Lee Hancock, the Sisters, Sr. Mary Zita's family, Leonard King and Carol Collins, as well as Elis Lui and Mary Alice Mouk, two former Organic Prayer Interns, all pitched in to make the set up beautiful and safe for all the attendees. And to top it off, God gave us a gorgeous day! It was truly a celebration of life that gave us all a lift in the midst of COVID struggles.



The Rev. John Runkle, celebrating at Sr. Mary Zita's funeral and burial

Then August came. Leonard King, our grounds person, resigned, and I was propelled into a job search for a

new employee. Soon, fortunately, just the right person applied for the job: Paul Steiner. He has been a "God-send" to us all ever since, especially as we experienced further losses and transitioned into a new academic year with new Bonner and Canale volunteers from the University.



Our new employee, Paul Steiner, with our volunteer Lucy Jarrett

Beginning in August and continuing into September, several close friends and supporters of the convent declined in health or died. Dr. Gerald Jones died on August 6th. Kathy Hamman's cancer metastasized and she died on August 28th. The Venerable Diane Marquart Moore, a former member of our Board of Advisors, an Associate, and regular attendee at the convent, became gravely ill and died on September 2nd. The Rev. Francis Walter and his wife, Faye, had to transition into an assisted-living residence, closer to their son in Birmingham, AL and by September 26th, most of us were again engaged in a memorial service this time in celebration of Diane's life. I myself, however, could not be present; my mother suffered a serious fall which nearly resulted in her death, and I had to make an emergency trip to my family. For the next week, I was dealing with my family crisis, but I did manage to join the Memphis Associates by Zoom for one evening during the Memphis pilgrimage. Sr. Hannah, on the other hand, was able to be in Memphis and visit some Associates, but because of problems with the Delta Variant, all of their activities had to be done by Zoom,

except for her sermon in St. Mary's Cathedral and the procession to the Sisters' graves. Sr. Elizabeth Grace was also able to preach and observe the Martyrs of Memphis with a small group at a Eucharistic celebration, held at the convent.



Left to right: Associates Maureen Woodruff, Dr. Susan Nelson, Carol Iverson, Sr. Hannah, CSM, John Tackett, and Marcia Wunderlich at Elmwood Cemetery

October turned out to be a more festive month until near the end. A women's group from St. David's Episcopal Church in Roswell, GA came for a tour of our grounds and a visit to our gift shop. Sr. Hannah gave a presentation about the Community for the Episcopal Church Women's Group of St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham, AL, and enjoyed touring Birmingham with our Advisor, June Mays. Then Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his executive coordinator, Sharon Jones, came for an afternoon visit. What an honor that was!



Left to right: Sr. Hannah, CSM; Sr. Felicity, CSM; the Most Rev. Michael Curry; Sr. Madeleine Mary, CSM; Sr. Elizabeth Grace, CSM

The bishop and Sharon enjoyed touring the grounds, meeting the Sisters, volunteers, and employees. And in our meeting together, they not only expressed pastoral concern but were already making plans to help promote positive awareness of the Community's life and ministry in the Episcopal Church. Their visit, I think, gave us all a tremendous boost and sense of support!



Sr. Madeleine Mary, CSM showing the Most Rev. Michael Curry our chapel with Sr. Felicity, CSM; Sr. Elizabeth, CSM; and Sr. Hannah, CSM; looking on

The Presiding Bishop discussed his visit with us to Episcopal News Service (ENS) staff writer Egan Millard who published an article about us online. The following excerpts are taken, with permission, from Egan's article:

When Presiding Bishop Michael Curry talks about the Sisters of the Southern Province of the Community of St. Mary, the oldest American Anglican religious order, his voice brightens with enthusiasm. "These women are small in number, but boy, they are awesome," Curry told Episcopal News Service after a recent visit.

And since the order's Eastern Province, based in upstate New York, left The Episcopal Church in April, there's something Curry wants Episcopalians to know about the women of the Sewanee, Tennessee-based Southern Province.

"I really want the church to know that the Southern Province of the Community of St. Mary is a part of The Episcopal Church, committed to it and loyal to it," he said.

Still, the Southern Province received some negative feedback from people in the church who mistakenly thought they also had left. Curry visited the Sewanee convent on Oct. 7, "to affirm them by showing up," he said.

Curry was impressed by the combination of their ancient Benedictine spirituality and their progressive views on topics such as LGBTQ+ acceptance, as well as the fact that two of the Sisters are millennials. Curry even confirmed one of them when he was bishop of North Carolina.

He was especially interested in their Organic Prayer Program, in which young adults stay at the convent for up to 10 months, working in the garden and living in the rhythms of daily prayer. So far, 25 people have participated in the program, Sister Madeleine Mary said.

"We help them learn that care for creation is a religious and spiritual matter," she told ENS, "and we also help them learn how to apply the Benedictine rule to their lives. They often use it for discernment for the next step in their life."

As world leaders (as well as Episcopalian and Anglican representatives) prepare to attend the United Nations COP26 conference to discuss the climate crisis in the coming weeks, Curry said the sisters' example is more relevant than ever.



Sr. Madeleine Mary, CSM introducing our dog Ellie to the Most Rev. Michael Curry

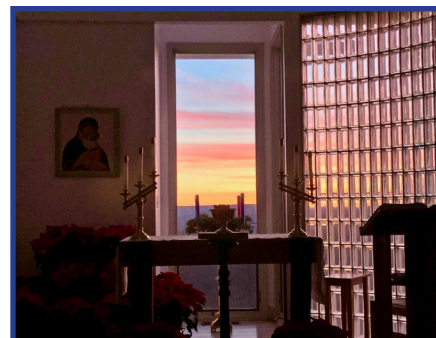
"They really go deep in the soil," Curry said. "They represent an important way

of understanding and engaging with creation. ... These people are praying about it and actually tilling the soil." We are grateful to Egan Millard for this article!

Later that month, we were also able to safely take part in the in the Trail of Tears Commemorative Walk in Winchester, and Sr. Hannah was again invited to preach at St. Andrew's Sewanee School. And to top it off, we received a grant for equipment as a "capacity building award" from the University, thanks to Emma Howell's efforts.

Then, other crises occurred: the Rev. David Kearley, an Associate, fell and broke his hip. Gary Allen, a friend, required major surgery. Woody Deutsch, husband of an Associate, had a major bike accident, and the Rev. Gene Moritz, a long-time Associate and friend, died. Do these experiences resonant with yours? COVID has caused a lot of grief and death. It has also, hopefully, made us more aware of our dependence upon God and our neighbor, as well as more attuned to the many hidden blessings that we have also experienced.

And now, in November, we look forward to Thanksgiving and Advent, as we gather together - with social distancing - and remember the losses and the joys of the past as well as the often unrecognized grace and support that has brought us to a new day. May this Advent indeed be a season of God's coming to us in blessing and may we greet it with hope and thanksgiving.



View of a sunset taken from our chapel at Evensong by Sr. Madeleine Mary, CSM

St. Mary's Chronicle

June 23: Sr. Hannah attended the ordination of David Goodpaster to the priesthood at All Saints' Chapel.

June 25-26: We had our Annual June Retreat online with a virtual picnic on Friday and a Zoom retreat on Saturday. It was led by Sr. Hannah and entitled, "The Forgotten Names of God."

June 29: Some of the Sewanee Summer Music Festival students volunteered in our garden.

July 21: A group of SUMMA students volunteered in our garden and learned about the Community.

July 29: We had Sr. Mary Zita's funeral outside, near the Sisters' cemetery; the committal was in the cemetery. Ten members of her family came from Texas.

September 10-12: The Sisters had a Zoom Evening Prayer Friday night with our Memphis Associates. Sr. Hannah participated in-person with the Annual Martyrs of Memphis weekend and visited with the Associates. She preached at St. Mary's Cathedral on Sunday and participated in the procession to the Sisters' graves in Elmwood cemetery.

September 26: We had a Memorial Eucharist outside in the convent garden for our Associate, the Venerable Diane Marquart Moore.

October 2: A women's group from St. David's Episcopal Church in Roswell, GA came by for a tour of the convent and grounds.

October 5: Sr. Hannah gave a presentation about the Community

to the Episcopal Church Women's Group at St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham, AL.

October 7: The Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and his Executive Coordinator, Sharon Jones, came for an afternoon visit.

October 23: Sr. Madeleine Mary, Sr. Felicity, and our Oblate Karen DeBruler attended the Trail of Tears Commemorative Walk in Winchester, TN.

October 27: Sr. Hannah preached at St. Andrew's Sewanee School at their first ever Bob Dylan Mass.

November 6: We had a Zoom workshop about identifying misinformation entitled, "Wisdom to Know the Difference" led by Amanda Sprott-Goldson and Casey Perkins-Lawrence.



The Community of St. Mary
Southern Province
1100 St. Mary's Lane
Sewanee, TN 37375
Ph. 931-598-0046; Fax. 931-598-9519
Website: communityofstmarysouth.org
Facebook: Community of St. Mary, Southern Province
Instagram: StMarysConvent