

The Abbey Message

Subiaco Abbey

News of our Apostolates for Friends of Subiaco

Spring 2009

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The aging process

by Fr. Placidus Eckart, OSB

Ed. Note: Fr. Placidus retired to the monastery in the fall of 2007, after about five years as hospital chaplain, and many years before that in the parochial ministry. These assignments kept him away from the monastery for the great majority of his monastic life. He penned these thoughts after eight months "back home."

In February 2009, he was told that his kidneys were failing and that dialysis was his only option for extending his life. He decided against dialysis, and has already lived beyond the doctor's prognosis, with not much apparent decline.

He gave one last homily on Sunday, February 22, in which he said farewell and "made his peace" with his confreres. It seems that he has already defeated that last enemy—death—and that it has no hold on him. His self-assessment here sounds harsh in places, but certainly is in line with St. Benedict's seventh step of humility.

Now that I am the second-oldest monk in the monastery (Fr. Hilary at Altus is older), that should give me the right to say something about aging. One morning when I was in church trying to get focused for Mass, the thought came to me that I might write something of the thoughts, feelings, concerns, worries, temptations, and scruples that come with age.

Coming back to live in the monastery has been a trying experience. Most of the present monks are strangers to me. In a sense it is like going through a novitiate again in my eighties.

We change with age and we change a lot. Physically there are things that we cannot do which we could do easily when we were younger.

When you drop something it is a chore to retrieve it. Getting out of bed—that has become very difficult and takes some time. I have lost more than 27 pounds in the past 15 months. This loss of "padding" makes me feel like I am between a rock and a hard place, making it difficult to find a comfortable position. I have just recently learned that I am short of red blood corpuscles. This makes me feel tired, weak, sluggish, chilly, and like I am going to fall. My legs almost always hurt. I feel like I am carrying 25 pounds and can't find a place to put it down.

In some ways you feel like another person. In the past when someone said something to hurt you, you could shake it off. Now it hangs on. It was easy to be gentle and kind most of the time. When you get older, that becomes more difficult. When I was younger, it was easier to keep rules and regulations. With age those things become burdens. Looking back over my life, I feel that I have had too much religion, and not enough God.

Our eating habits change with age. When I was younger I could eat almost anything. Bread and sugar now make me feel weak. To eat cereal is a penance. What is left for breakfast on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday? Prunes and raisins!!



Fr. Placidus Eckart enjoying a card game with friends

Since living in the Health Center, the things I miss are being the celebrant at Mass, driving a car, being able to play golf and other physical activities, and being able to go where you want and when you want. I especially miss contact with children. Sometimes you see people older than you doing things you can't do, and this makes you feel frustrated and guilty. You worry that other people think you are a sissy and a weakling—can't take it.

It seems to me that when a monk reaches the age of 80 (before 80 for some) he should be free from most monastic practices. He should have a special freedom that comes with age so that he should not feel guilty when he does not keep up with others. We should never feel guilty because we are old. God would rather have our love and trust than our guilt and penance.

It takes special grace, love and patience to care for the elderly. May God bless our health care personnel for their dedication.

Old age makes us think more about death and dying. More and more I begin to see how vain, proud, egotistical, judgmental, and pleasure seeking I have been. I thought that I was working for the honor and glory of God. Now I see that I was working for my own honor and glory. Chapter three of the book of Genesis [the Fall] is my story too. God uses age to make us trust in Him. The prayer of the tax collector becomes ours: "O God, be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13).

May the Lord come soon.

Brother Red

Among the admonitions St. Benedict gives to the abbot of a monastery is the statement in Chapter 2 of the Rule that in serving the monks, he will have to adapt himself to a "variety of temperaments." An older translation, which always prompted wry grins when it was read at the monastic meal, said that the abbot must adapt himself to a "variety of characters."

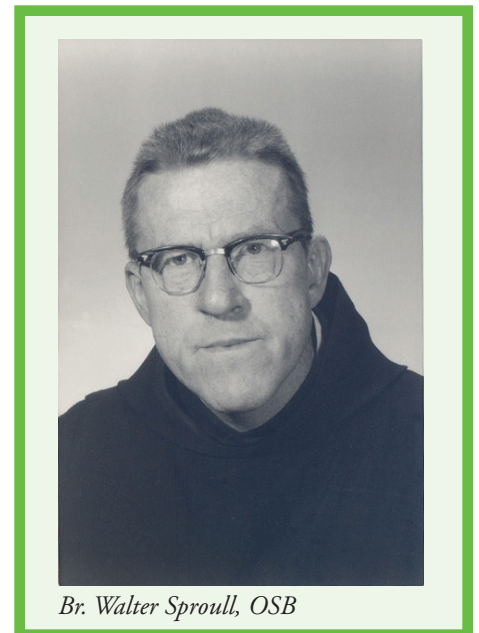
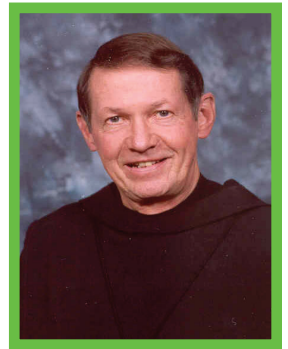
All of us are characters in one way or another, usually in a way obvious to others but not to ourselves. But the distinctiveness of individuals, though it may be challenging at times, is a great gift for life in community. How drab it would be if we were all the same. It is the "variety of temperaments" which makes individuals in a community unique, and in an important way helps guests, who also have a variety of temperaments, feel welcome at a monastery. And of course, the uniqueness stands out when we look back and remember.

One of the monks I remember fondly is Brother Walter Sproull, who had come to the Abbey from Pennsylvania after World War II. When I entered Subiaco Academy in the fall of 1953, Brother Walter was already an established figure on campus. He had been assistant baseball coach for a while, and had a crew of boys working for him in the evening in his Academy janitorial job. He was known affectionately as Brother Red because of his hair (and sometimes because of his temper if you dirtied up a place he had just cleaned). He was very strong and could swing a mean mop.

But he was more famous among us as a baseball player who had had a budding career in the St. Louis Browns' farm system before being called up for military service. He returned from war wounded and gave up his plans as a professional player. But he could still play and was a key figure in the Sunday afternoon baseball games between the seminary students and the monks.

When I was able to get into those games as a sophomore or junior, Brother Walter was in his late 30s. It was almost impossible to get him out, and he could hit even bad pitches when we tried to walk him. I had never seen anyone move so smoothly. His left-handed swing was pure silk, and when he went down to field a ball it was as if he had no joints. He was still playing in his mid-forties but tailing off. His step slowed and he couldn't bend easily any more. I was in the monastery by that time and playing on the same team with him. He could still hit the ball on the money but not with the same authority. The book on him by the opposing pitchers was to pitch him inside until he had launched two monumental fouls to the right side, then pitch him outside and he would fly to center field. In his final year, when he could barely run, he became upset by a bad call and grouched around the plate for awhile. Then he took a deep breath and stood up very straight in the batter's box. On the next pitch he sent a rocket far over the centerfielder's head. The ball bounced twice near Hubers' house, hit the road, and began rolling toward town. Brother Walter chugged and waddled to first base, then saw where the ball was and walked the rest of the way to home plate. It was a fitting conclusion to his baseball career. Soon after that he hung up his bat and glove for good.

But baseball wasn't his career. It could have been, and for a long time he



Br. Walter Sproull, OSB

thought that was the way he was headed. He had been a superstar slugger in high school and had played in a state All Star game in the Pirates' old Forbes Field. But because of the strong faith he had grown up with in his Catholic home in New Kensington, Pennsylvania, he had never thought his life was all about him. When he was detoured by the call to military service, and then by his injury, he saw the hand of God in it. He could have been bitter about the loss of his dream. But no one ever heard him complain about it. It made even more of an impression because his dream wasn't an illusion. He had a rare talent and the skills that really could have made him a major leaguer.

But when that possibility faded, he put his energies in another direction. He kept his heart open to what else God might have in mind for him. He came to Subiaco, lived his new life without whining about the old, and was faithful to the end. You can see his tombstone in the cemetery but he is in heaven.

Abbot Jerom Kodell, OSB

Abbey Journal

by Fr. Mark Stengel, OSB

January

In Deuteronomy chapter 30, Moses explains the covenant and asks the people to choose: "Today I set before you life and prosperity, death and doom. ... Choose life then." January set before us very starkly the opposing forces confronting us. Some are deadly, dangerous, and unavoidable. But even these can be met with the choice of life.

Fr. Leonard continues, as he has for many years, serving as the coordinator for the blood drives held on campus. The donation chairs are kept filled on these days, as students, monks, and staff give away a portion of their lifeblood. Of course, the students register so as to miss their least favorite class, and all volunteers get to eat junk food after their donation. Such motives are very secondary to the choice to promote life, to give of self even to unknown people in need. A student's comment after the interview and its intrusive personal questions made me smile. He said: "Those questions are easy to answer if you are a virgin." Well said!

In mid-January, two of the forest areas harvested in the summer of 2007 were re-planted with pine seedlings. Neat rows of green shoots now march across the devastated landscape. It will take a while, but life is returning. A visit to the planting operation gave some amazing sights and numbers. A line of fourteen workers with large bags of seedlings on their backs and dibble bars in their hands moved forward in unison. Their movements were synchronized: stomp, rock, bend, heel. The dibble was stomped into the soil, then rocked back to open a hole, then the worker bent to insert the seedling, then he heeled soil onto the roots, closing the hole. I asked the foreman how long it would take to finish this 50-acre plot. He said "O, we'll finish it today, planting 30,000 trees." That sounded impossible to me, so I did the math. Fourteen men planting a tree every 14 seconds for eight hours will plant 30,000 trees!

On January 13, the feast of St. Hilary, we enjoyed "*colloquamus*" at breakfast in honor of Fr. Hilary. The Latin word means "let us talk together" and Fr. Abbot uses the word to dispense from the usual breakfast silence. We wanted to celebrate with Fr. Hilary before he returned to his parish, St. Mary's, in Altus. A broken femur in November had kept him at the Abbey as he convalesced, and many thought that this would be the end of his parochial ministry. But no, at the age of 86, he's back on the job. We miss his cheerful presence.

A farewell party was held for Gus Buss on January 15. Mr. Buss, an Oblate, had been living near the Abbey since his retirement, and anyone would have thought that he was one of the monks. He was always present for the Divine Office and Mass, and filled his days with volunteer janitorial work around the Abbey, especially in the Inner Court. He has moved to an assisted living facility near Fort Smith. We are grateful for his many years of gentle presence and humble service.

On Sunday, March 18, a busload of monks, students, and parishioners marched for life in Little Rock. When we returned, we learned that our beloved Brother Tobias had died about four that afternoon. In the Gospel for the day, Jesus had invited Andrew and John to come see where he lived, and the evangelist added that "it was about four in the afternoon." (John 1:39) In one day: defending life/a death/enjoying new life where Jesus lives. The vigil service and the funeral for Brother Tobias were "standing room only." Stories and fond memories abounded: his former nickname "Scooch," his penchant for falling asleep even while teaching a class or reading to the community, his delight in teaching and playing a raucous game he called "Ching-a-ling." He had been a long-term Dean in Heard Hall, noted for his uncanny ability to catch miscreants in the



Br. Tobias De Salvo

act, and for his gentle concern for the boys.

Several days later, Fr. Nicholas was hauling a heavy load of scrap metal to the recyclers, when he had to swerve off the road to avoid another vehicle. The truck overturned, crushing the cab, and pinning him inside. Miraculously, he was unhurt except for a badly bruised shoulder. Viewing the smashed truck, someone commented: "This is Br. Tobias' first miracle."

The final week of January was Catholic Schools Week. The Academy had several events planned that provided a bit of a break from routine, and Mother Nature provided another event. On both Monday and Tuesday evenings, freezing rain began to fall—just enough to trigger the "snow day" protocol for Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, allowing the students to sleep in and classes began at 10:00. This worked well, although a kitchen employee, Kathy Bullock, was seriously hurt on her way in to work.

Subiaco got just the edge of the terrible ice storm of 2009. Five miles north the devastation began. Electrical power was out for most of the northern half of the state, and this lasted for more than two weeks in many cases. Once again, we see how dependent we really are. Sometimes our lives and certainly our comfort hang by a thread (or a wire), and a degree or two of temperature.

February

The cycles of nature—birth and death, renewal and decay—are relentless. This is true in nature, in our persons, as well as on a community, national, and global level. Weatherwise, February began with spring-like weather but ended with cold and snow flurries. Cyclical, but in reverse.

On a community level, the month began with signs of life—the arrival of four candidates. You may recall this journal wondering whether a man who had come early and who had been tested in the fires of the peanut brittle kitchen, would return to the flames. Well, he did; seemingly ready for further testing in the "hard and rugged ways" of community living. Another of the candidates, commenting on these hardships and difficulties, said: "If it doesn't kill me, it makes me stranger." My response was "Clearly, then, you have been through many hard things."

After these signs of life, the community experienced another death with the loss of Brother Thomas Moster on February 7. He had been ailing since last July and had never rallied fully from his serious illness at that time. Brother Thomas had always loved wordplay and so Abbot Jerome included, in his funeral homily, two "groaners" from Thomas' endless supply of puns. "The man at the ball park wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit him." Groan. And this germ ... er ... gem: "Why did the police have to come to the child day care center? A three-year-old was resisting a rest."

At Thomas' funeral, it was noted, with greater urgency, that there are only three slots left in the present configuration of the Abbey cemetery. The Abbey Council and a landscape committee are wrestling with the matter and have a plan for adding space for 80 gravesites. This would give all present members a resting place, and then some. After that, either the Lord will have returned, or the next generation can worry about it. The same landscaping project is to include the empty area between the cemetery and Courty House, where the pines were removed several years ago. This lot has had its Sabbath rest, and now must begin contributing. What we expect from it are aesthetic beauty, and ease of maintenance. Are there any budding—or flowering—landscape engineers around who would like to take on such a project? This is a serious request.

Abbot Jerome got us started on Lent with an Ash Wednesday conference on "*The Gift of Silence*." He referred to our early morning rising time as "a luxury." Some might have trouble with that thought. He put it this way: "The only reason we get up when we do is to pray. What a luxury. We do not get up because of family obligations or a job. The reason we get up so early is simply to meet God and to establish right away our true relationship with him. It starts in silence. When God opens our lips, the first words we speak are his own words inviting us to pray and to praise him as we start the day."

Formation Director Fr. Richard advised the community that he would be doing some group work projects with all four candidates. Later they



Candidates Jay Magin, Josh Rojas, John Hagge & Ed Stocks



Candidates Jay, John and Ed removing the bakery oven

would receive individual areas of responsibility. With five men working together on a site, a lot can happen quickly. I've been surprised several times in coming upon a worksite: "Wow! Who did all this?" Brush has been cleared under a power line, the crape myrtle pruned in one afternoon, graves leveled up, a pond bank cleared, the old bakery oven removed, etc. But the crowning achievement of the candidates is their thorough cleaning, painting, and waxing of the monastery recreation area. We've been talking about an extreme make-over of the area, and even have some plans on hand. With those plans shelved for now (the economy), Fr. Richard directed his crew in sprucing up the area. It looks S-O-O much better! We hadn't noticed how dingy the walls were getting. Thanks, guys. We appreciate you.

On the Friday following Ash Wednesday, a large group of women from the Diocese of Tulsa arrived for retreat. They filled and over-filled the choir stalls, adding feminine voices to the chant. One of the candidates had jokingly asked when the Rockettes were going to arrive for our Mardi Gras party. I hope he noted that his prayer was answered, in God's good time, and in God's good method.

March

Life and death marches on, as this Journal has been noting. By March 4, the Japanese magnolia tree in East Park was in full bloom, with its large pastel purple and white flowers. That night, the temperature dropped to 20°, and the flowers turned into drooping brown wads on the bare branches. The frozen flowers had their own beauty, and these clumps stayed in place until sprouting leaves finally hid them.

Having lost two grape crops in a row due to late frosts, we've watched and prayed over the vineyard this year. By mid-March, the vines were beginning to bud, making them vulnerable to the cold. Several times the thermometer hovered around the freezing mark, but it now seems that we have dodged the bullet this year. Brother Joseph K. continues as vineyard keeper. He is assisted by his sidekick, Brother Andrew, who somehow has been tagged with the nickname "Hop." Nicknames are not very common in our monastery, and how they arise is somewhat of a mystery. Monks, and some readers, will recognize these nicknames of fairly recent years: "The Rod," "Scooch," "Pokey," "Ace," and "Happy Harry."

Brother Anselm has been appointed cellarmaster. Brother Tobias made excellent wine and will be a tough act to follow. However, Br. Anselm has been supplying some tasty wines. A humble and honest man, he has the jugs labeled "Post White Zinfandel," "Post Red Table Wine," etc. The Post Familie winery in Altus has provided a goodly supply of table wine, which we savor, along with a prayer for such a generous benefactor, and a prayer that the grapes will produce this year.

Speaking of table fare, the economy has taken away some of the "extras" from the monastery table. Real butter has disappeared, hot chocolate and herbal teas are gone, ice cream is a rare treat, pasta and baked potatoes come more frequently, the coffee blend is cheaper, and leftovers appear in innovative combinations. There was very little murmuring (that most detestable vice, according to St. Benedict), until the peanut butter was taken away. Fr. Abbot's note said that the supplier won't handle peanut butter in the midst of the current salmonella scare. But it's un-American and likely un-monastic not to have peanut butter! After two days of deprivation, Fr. Richard came to the rescue. He spent an afternoon frying and blending some peanuts that were not suitable for peanut brittle, and produced a very tasty homemade version. We always made our own peanut butter in Belize, never expecting that this second-world skill would be useful again.

Four other new appointments are those of Brother Mel to the Abbey Health Center, Brother Francis to Courty House, Brother José to Assistant to the Formation Director (Socius), and Brother Michael to the Abbey Farm. Three of these moves required a change in living quarters, so these brethren have been engaged in moving, arranging, decorating, and getting used to a new bed. Such moves are good occasions for monks to note how much "baggage" (*impedimenta*) has accumulated, and to let go of some of it—another suggestion of Fr. Abbot in his Lenten conference.

The Feast of St. Benedict (March 21) came and went very quietly this year. We used to make a big deal of the feast, with invited guests and a big dinner and usually a Bishop as celebrant and homilist. A student asked me how we were celebrating the feast this year, and I told him we would have incense at Mass and ice cream at supper. Last year the feast fell on Good Friday, and was not observed at all. Maybe the peace and quiet of the day is preferred to all the hoopla. We'll see what next year brings, and then can begin speaking about "how we observe the feast."

On March 26, Brother Anselm received the Thomas Jefferson Award. This is the highest award given to volunteer weather observers by the National Weather Ser-



Br. Anselm measuring the daily rainfall

vice. It recalls President Thomas Jefferson, who kept weather records for several decades at his Monticello home. Br. Anselm has been keeping the weather records at the Abbey for 44 years, and he says that he does not recall ever missing a day of calling in the temperature and rainfall report. Brother posts for the community the monthly and yearly records, going back to the 1950s. The record shows 64.38 inches of rainfall in 2008, which is 17.35 inches above normal, and the highest annual rainfall since 1957, which had about four inches more. We knew it was wet, but didn't realize just how wet. We never had to water the lawns, and the pasture grass never dried up.

For a few days, we had horses on the farm again. Brother John Schad surely must have been turning over in his grave. He absolutely would not permit a horse on the farm, and it was easy to provoke him with a stray comment about "how nice it would be to have some horses." The Humane Society and law enforcement had removed hundreds of pets—mostly dogs—and 28 miniature horses from a Logan County farm where an elderly couple had allowed their menagerie to get out of hand. The Abbey farm boarded the horses for a few days until they were hauled, we heard, all the way to North Dakota. These animals looked pretty dispirited and unkempt. We hope they will have a better life in their new home.



A few of the miniature horses boarding on our farm



The doom of night

Winter: cold, dark, night, death.

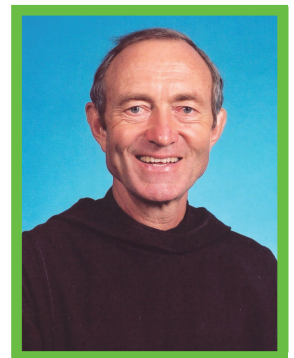
Spring: warm, light, day, life.

As we move out of winter and into spring, two monks have passed into the darkness of death. Fr. Placidus expresses his feelings as his vigor fades and night approaches. These deaths and diminishments have occurred during Lent, a season named after the lengthening of the days, as spring advances.

The Lenten hymns of Morning Prayer evoke the cyclical context: "As in spring days a fairer birth / heralds each morn the doom of night." "Easter blooms from Lent's restraints." As we see the rebirth of nature, we hear the readings: "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it bears much fruit." (John 12:24) And this: "He entered, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, and achieved eternal redemption." (Hebrews 9:12)

We can react to the inevitability of the cyclical patterns of each day, of the seasons, of our life, and of the world with resignation and pessimism. Or we can see the return of warmth, life, and light at this time of the year as a reaffirmation of hope. Jesus said "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full." (John 10:10) This does not mean that we will be exempt from suffering and physical death. It does mean that night is doomed, that death has no hold on us, that life and light are germinating, even in the tomb of our earthly death.

"And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,
bear you on the breath of dawn,
make you to shine like the sun,
and hold you in the palm of his hand."



Fr. Mark Stengel



Frank Stanford '66 honored at symposium



*Frank Stanford photo
by Ginny Stanford*

The seventh annual Subiaco Literary Symposium held March 19 honored the late Frank Stanford, a Subiaco graduate of 1966 and a published poet.

Stanford published at least seven volumes of poetry, including *The Light the Dead See*, a volume studied in several of the English classes prior to the symposium.

The two presenters were Mr. Irv Broughton and Mr. Matthew Henriksen. Mr. Broughton, who published most of Stanford's poetry, filmed a 25-minute documentary of Stanford's life titled, *It Wasn't a Dream, It Was a Flood*. The film won a Judge's Award at the 1975 Northwest Film and Video Festival. He is the author of more than a dozen books, includ-

ing works of poetry, non-fiction, screenplays and fiction.

Mr. Henriksen organized the Frank Stanford Literary Festival in 2008 and will host the Southern Alternative Literature Festival in 2009. He teaches Stanford's poetry in his college-level classes.

A writing contest for students was held in conjunction with the symposium. Students were encouraged to write a critical analysis of Stanford's poem "The Picture Show Next Door to The Stamp Store in Downtown Memphis." The winners were first place Andres Martin-de-Nicolas of Austin, Texas; second place Chris Trachier of Frisco, Texas; and third Will Kluempers of Wappapello, Missouri.



The presenters at the 7th Annual Literary Symposium held March 19th, (left) Mr. Irv Broughton and Mr. Matthew Henriksen

Poetry topic of two-day workshop

Four graduate students from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, who are part of the Writers in the School (WITS) program, presented a two-day poetry workshop to all English classes. The WITS program has been active for more than 30 years.

On Tuesday, March 17, the presenters asked students to write a poem using concrete terms and imagery. The best of these will be selected for publication in a magazine of poems collected from the various workshops held across the state.

Wednesday's presentation allowed students more opportunities to practice their new skills in use of specifics, the five senses, and similes and metaphors.

The workshop was held in conjunction with the seventh annual literary symposium, which honored the late Frank Stanford, a '66 graduate.

Quiz Bowl team competes on state-level, filmed for TV

Last year the quiz bowl team, under the guidance of Ms. Alane Freerksen, competed in the 4A state finals televised on Arkansas Educational Television Network, losing to Huntsville.

This year the team returned to the state playoffs, held April 4 at Maumelle, AR, where they beat Hamburg, Nashville and Pea Ridge to earn a spot in the tournament championship game against Malvern which will be televised on Saturday, April 18, at 11:00 a.m.

AETN crews were on campus Wednesday, March 18, to interview and film members of the team. These spots will be used as fillers during the live telecast of the state finals.

Members of the 2009 Quiz Bowl team are Josh Stewart of Los Angeles, CA; Tyler Carr of Louisville, KY; and from Arkansas, Chance Kidd of Little Rock; Mason Branch, Sam Brooks and Kenneth Knight, all of Fayetteville; and

James Kyle of Conway. They are pictured below with the regional trophy.

Stewart was named to the tournament all-star team. He qualified by answering an average of five questions per game.



Exhibit, presentations expand cultures Art students earn high praise

A program by the Cultural Awareness at Subiaco Academy (CASA) Club was held March 13 in the Performing Arts Center.

Each CASA student prepared a presentation and exhibit for their native country. These presentations were given to area schools including Paris High School foreign language classes, County Line foreign language classes, Paris Elementary gifted and talented classes and classes from St. Joseph Catholic School in Paris.

Jace Kim, a senior and two-year presenter for CASA, said the three hours he spent creating a PowerPoint presentation was well worth the time. The South Korean exhibit in the Gallery featured a traditional card game and a game with a folded paper object. Many people got involved in these.

The visitors sampled cultural food prepared by students and staff members. They tried shrimp quesadillas, fried rice and *Día de los Muertos* bread.

Exhibits and presentations have been a project of the CASA Club since Spring 1999.



The Arkansas River Valley Arts Center in Russellville announced March 2 the winners of the CenturyTel High School Art Competition. Subiaco students won all four awards even though five schools participated.

Hobin Lee (11) won Best of Show award for his "Horse" in charcoal on brown paper. He also won first for his "Cat" in colored pencil.

Two seniors won awards: Emils Rigano won second place for a charcoal drawing and Clay Hoyt received third place for an abstract painting.

Hoyt used acrylic paint and masking tape to make his painting. "I put a lot of time and effort into my work and I was pleased with the award I received," said Hoyt.

Hoyt and Rigano are in advanced art; Lee is in his second year of art classes. Copies of their paintings were sold at the school's spring carnival.

Eleven receive confirmation

When the prophet Isaiah described the qualities that the coming messiah would possess he wrote, "But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD." (Isaiah 11:1-3)

On March 15, eleven young men from Subiaco Academy completed their preparation for Confirmation, approached Bishop Taylor and asked for these same gifts. There is often confusion about the Sacrament of Confirmation, but like all the Sacraments, it is an opportunity for us to open ourselves up to receive God's grace.

Each candidate was anointed with oil as Bishop Anthony spoke the words, "Be sealed with the Holy Spirit." The young men who took this important step in their spiritual growth are pictured below.



Eleven students received Confirmation. Pictured are (front row) Jacob Haddock, Grant Piechocki, Taylor Johns, Bishop Anthony Taylor, Joe Chanoine, Beau Lacerte, (back row) Deacon Roy Goetz, Agustin Lobo, Jacob Ahearn, Andres Martin-de-Nicolas, Patrick Weigant, Michael Berry, and Jody Chauvin.

Two students win top singing awards

Five Subiaco Academy students participated in the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition held at Arkansas Tech University Feb. 27-28: Johnathan Rhodes, Gregory Frederick, Josh Gage, Hobin Lee, and Chris Rudolph. The two-day event included vocal competition, an artist recital by Gerald Thompson (a professional countertenor) and a Master Class offered by Mr. Thompson.

There were 322 young singers competing in various classes. Subiaco students competed in the high school division against 20 other high school students from Arkansas.

The requirements were that each singer prepare three songs for the judges: one selection could be in Italian or in 17th or 18th century Old English; the other two songs were at the discretion of the private voice teacher. There were three rounds of competition: preliminary, semifinals, and finals. The first two rounds were judged by three NATS members. In prelims the student chose the first song to sing and the judges selected the second. At the end of the preliminary round each student received written comments about their performance and was given a grade.

Johnathan, Josh, and Chris moved into semifinals. Only six students made semifinals out of 20 and three of the six were Subi singers! Again, the boys sang for three judges but were only required to sing one song.

Only two students out of 20 made the finals and they were Subi singers: Chris and Johnathan! For the finals, the boys were required to sing on stage in front of all competing singers, and instead of three judges they sang for 15 judges! Johnathan finished first and Chris finished second in the high school division. Chris received \$30 and Johnathan \$35.

Dr. Sharon Kenney was a judge for the competition but was not permitted to judge her students.

Dr. Kenney said, "The purpose of the competition is to develop great solo singers. I was very proud of the way our boys competed. It was a valuable experience that they will remember for a lifetime."



March 14th was carnival at Subiaco Academy





Where are they now?

Ed Spivey '83 recently relocated from Washington, D.C., to Northwest Arkansas, where he is a consultant.

Jack Willems '05, son of Mike Willems '75 has been accepted for admission to Harvard Law School.

David Rust '72 has resumed voice lessons and has joined a semi-professional choir. After selling the School Specialty Media division, he has been working independently.

While he is seeking another senior executive position with a NYC-area company that serves education, he has joined with former colleagues to launch Sandhill Consulting Group to assist companies in their industries who are dealing with the new tough economic times.

Shwan Danny Cheon '01 recently completed his B.A. in English and French for the University of South Wales in Sydney, Australia. He has accepted an offer from Sydney University to study law over the next three years.

Rodolfo Cantu (a former 9th grader during the 2007-08 academic year) died January 25, 2009.

Andy Winchell '85 and his family moved back to Covington, LA, in 2006 after 6 years in the Boston area where he worked with a company making concrete hardscape products. He has joined the family construction business. With the follow up to Katrina they have had plenty of work.

Stephen (Fink) Finos '88 completed his degree at the University of Texas in 1995 with a major in Spanish and a minor in Portuguese. He then joined IBM as their Latin American Representative. He now works for UT, helping Mexican tech companies enter the U.S. market.

Wallie and DeeDee Sprick '77 accompanied 20 Mount Saint Mary girls to the February 14th dance at the Academy.

Dr. Sumant Ramachandra '86 is the Chief Scientific Officer and Senior Vice President of R&D and Medical & Regulatory Affairs at Hospira, a publicly traded global healthcare company based in Lake Forest, IL.

Terry Essler '80 and his wife Deanna are living in Pflugerville, Texas (near Austin). Terry works as a system engineer at Convio, which is a software company that assists with fundraising for non-profits.

Paul Valbuena '88 is leaving his position at Michigan State University Hospital and will be opening up his own practice in the Phoenix area. He will live in Scottsdale and consult with hospitals in the area.

Dr. E. J. Chauvin '77 reported doing his first Subiaco Alumnus surgery; his patient, John Zeiler '58, is doing fine. E. J. furnished an opportunity to watch open heart surgery as an auction item at the Spring Carnival.

Richard Metzelaars '61 was presented a Community Service Award for his volunteer work with Abilities Unlimited, his involvement in a major recycling program, and his work for the Columbia County Fair, for the Magnolia Blossom Festival and as chairman of the Columbia County Courthouse Restoration Committee.

Bill Torp '81 and **Bill Kosub '75** met recently at a restaurant and although they had never met before, they were able to recognize each other from their friendship that developed on Facebook.

Don't Trust the Abbot: Musing from the Monastery by **Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB '57**, is a collection of essays – from “Coldhearted Orthodoxy” to “God’s DVD Library” – and will be available in March 2009.

Kevin Rieder '88 has moved to Bangkok, Thailand, where his wife is working at the U. S. Embassy.

Sir Arthur Dickerson KCGHS, Laneri Graduate, received the Cold Cross of Honor from Fr. Peter Vasko, OFM President of Franciscan Foundation for the Holy Land.

Several alumni, including **John M. Macdonald '81** and **Tom Baird '81**, have sent reflections on the impact that **Br. Thomas Moster, OSB '54** had on their lives. It seems that his drama classes taught a lot more than drama.



Br. Thomas Moster (died Feb. 7) - a favorite drama teacher for many students

General Bill Wofford '67 was featured in an extensive article in the January 25, 2009, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. General Wofford, who commands more than 8,000 members of the Army National Guard and 2,000 members of the Air National Guard, is now involved in the re-integration into life at home for the 3,200 Arkansas soldiers who deployed last year.

Jay Bradford '58 a former state legislator and former Director of the Behavioral Sciences Division at the Arkansas Department of Human Services, was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe to be State Insurance Commissioner, effective January 15, 2009. Jay has worked in the insurance industry for more than four decades, including 30 years as founder and chairman of First Arkansas Insurance Group in Pine Bluff.

Urban Terbieten '43 has been bouncing around Europe and reflecting on Subiaco as he visits bakeries in Finland and the Abbey of Monbenoit in France.

Brad Oglevie '07 and **Henry Sayre '07** visited and lunched with several monks and teachers on January 8th. Henry spent a semester in Rome as part of his University of Dallas studies.

Stephen Goebel '78 now works for Getinge, a Swedish company, which manufactures sterilizing equipment for hospitals.

Ryan Cravens '06 is a junior at the U of A, but is taking this semester off to do a 12 week internship with an Advertising Agency in Springfield, MO.

Lorenzo Barrera '76 and his wife Gabriela hosted Headmaster Mike Burke and Fr. Aaron during their recruiting trip to Monterrey, Mexico. Lorenzo's brother **Alfonso '71** is a plastic surgeon in Houston. Brother **Alvaro '79** is Lorenzo's partner in their financial business with offices in Monterrey and Houston.

Obituaries

William K. Meyers '42 died on September 19, 2008, in New Braunfels, TX. He is survived by his wife Ann and daughter Susann Graves. In a letter opened at his death he praised the monks of Subiaco, "For the great education you gave me from 1938 to 1942! Oh, the great teachers; Fathers Louis, Raymond, Clement, Norbert, Alcuin and many others time has removed from my memory! I do know they were far superior to anything public schools had then or now! Thanks Again!"

Eastman Fuller '55 died December 7, 2007, in Liberty, MO.

David Sons '59 died in Tulsa, OK.

Marty Rust '76 lives in Midlothian (suburban Richmond), VA, where he continues working in corporate banking as the Richmond Marketing Executive for Royal Bank of Canada.

John Reinhart '82, after having lived all over the world during his career in the USAF, has now retired and once again calls Wheatley, Arkansas, home.

Jim McHardy '68 of Rosedale, MS, visited with **Benny Sandmon '68** and **Richard Simpson '68** before traveling to Subiaco with Benny to visit people at the Abbey.

John Brooks '81 ran the Little Rock Marathon in 4:40:01. Although he said that it was the hardest thing he has ever done, it was a source of great satisfaction as he crossed the finish line.

Charles Poche '48 is retired and living in New Orleans.

Frank Millette '85, a Level One Trauma Specialist in Houston, is working on his Masters of Nursing and hopes to be a Nurse Practitioner in the Trauma Center in Houston, TX.

Grier D. "Butch" Warren, Jr. '69 died in Pea Ridge, AR, on March 5, 2009. He attended Loyola University, University of Arkansas and graduated from University of Dallas. He was co-owner of Georges Refrigeration, served on the Board of Directors at Community First Bank, was a member of the Arkansas Cattlemen's Association and the AQHA. He attended St. Vincent DePaul Church in Rogers. He is survived by his mother Katherine Warren; three daughters, Sheryl Wages, Valerie Flaa and Melissa Clary; two brothers, Pete and Tony.

C. Daniel Harden II '82 died December 20, 2008, in Miami, FL. He is survived by his parents Dr. C. Daniel and Lee Harden; a sister Alslee Harden and a nephew Nicholas Harden.

Bernard Millette '85 spent 8 years in the Army and also was in Desert Shield and Desert Storm as a Nuclear Weapons Specialist. After the stint in the U.S. Army, Bernard became the Allstate Insurance Agent in Tyler, TX.

Gary Miles '79 visited on campus with two of his sons. This was his first trip to campus since graduating.

Les Harter '55 and his wife Lucille operated a booth selling Academy logo clothing during the Spring Carnival.

John Tobin '71 is working in El Paso, TX, but hopes to return to Boston for work. John and his wife volunteered as medical missionaries in Peru in July, 2008.

Dennis Hartnett '60 retired four years ago and he and his wife are living on Lake Conroe, just north of Houston.

Jack Borengasser '42 and his veteran players gave a clinic to the Academy tennis team on "How to play doubles," on March 30th.



Jack Borengasser

John Marsh '64 died February 2007 after a long illness. He is survived by a son and granddaughter.

Thomas Gleason '56 died in Yukon, OK, March 14, 2009. A long time employee of Hunzicker Bros. Supply, he was a member of the Knights of Columbus, and St. John Nepomuk Catholic Church. He served on his parish council, trust board of St. Francis of Assisi Church, Bishop McGuinness High School, and Rosary School Board. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Karen: four daughters, Tamara Clegghorn, Tori LaPorte, Tonja Arnold, Teri Carroll; a brother James; Three sisters, Mary LaReese Atchley, Dolores Orr, Joan Cowden; eleven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Literary festival

by Cheryl Goetz

Frank Stanford, a 1966 graduate of Subiaco Academy, was posthumously awarded the Subiaco Award for Literary Merit for his body of poetry. Stanford, who died in 1978, is coming to be recognized as one of the most important poets of the last 50 years.

Speaking at the event were Irv Broughton and Matthew Henriksen. Broughton was introduced by Greg Rust '62. Rust and his wife Judy have been part of the Subiaco Literary Symposium since its inception. Broughton, who published the first six volumes of Stanford poetry, is credited with discovering Stanford. A life-long friend of Stanford's, Broughton directed and produced an award winning documentary film with Stanford in 1975 about Stanford's life. Broughton shared some of his special memories of Stanford and treated the symposium guests to a viewing of the Stanford film *It Wasn't a Dream, It Was a Flood*.

Matthew Henriksen is a published poet who is currently working on a writing project about the work of Frank Stanford. According to Henriksen, "Twelve to fifteen years ago, almost no one was teaching Stanford poetry in college course work. Today, almost everyone is."

Fr. Nicholas Fuhrmann '47, who taught Stanford and remained a mentor to him until the time of his death, closed the symposium with some remarks about his memories of Stanford.

Reunion plans being made

by Don Berend

Plans are well underway for the 97th annual Alumni Reunion on the weekend of May 29th. This year will be an anniversary for class years ending in 4 and 9.

Events will begin Friday morning with The Father Harold Memorial Golf Tournament at Lion's Den Golf Club at Dardanelle. Reservations need to be in at the office by May 15th. The cost is \$45.00, which includes greens fees, cart and lunch.

Registration for the reunion starts at 3:00 p.m. on Friday. That evening we will have a reception and the usual bountiful buffet supper in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center [PAC].

Saturday will begin with breakfast in the dining room and will be followed by a business meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the PAC. Lunch will be served by the class of '78. Reunion Mass will be at 4:00 p.m. with the announcement of Distinguished Alumni after Mass. Class pictures will be taken immediately after Mass. Supper that evening will be at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Casino Night provided by the Ft. Smith Knights of Columbus.

Closing breakfast will be at 9:00 on Sunday morning with the announcement of new directors and officers and the drawing for 200 Club winners.

The Women's Auxiliary will conduct a silent auction to raise money for their scholarship fund during the reunion. If you have items to be auctioned, please bring them. The Alumni Beer Garden will open Friday evening and from noon on Saturday.

Some pictures from last year's Alumni Reunion



25th anniversary class picture



Visiting with friends



Plenty of food



Casino night is always a hit

Camp Subiaco

June 14-27, 2009

For information contact:
Camp Director
405 North Subiaco Avenue
Subiaco, Arkansas 72865



Development Director's Message

Several years ago Carl and Betty Hampel of Benton, AR, proposed to make an annual gift to help some students benefit from the education offered here at Subiaco Academy. A couple of us went to visit with them to find out what they had in mind and to let them know that we would gladly accept their offer.

Carl explained that some years before they began helping students at St. Mary Academy, a girls' high school in Little Rock. They recognized the importance of a Catholic education and wanted to help the young people of today to benefit from this opportunity. They especially wanted to support young people who demonstrate the kind of values that the Hampels hold dear: hard work, responsibility, service, compassion and excellence.

Each year now five students at Subiaco Academy benefit from the Hampel's annual gift. Carl has since died, but Betty has agreed to continue the gift as long as she is able.

You can imagine how important this gift is to our scholarship program. In years past many young men were given an education here at little or no cost to their parents. This was possible due to the large number of monks who were teachers in the Academy and who did not receive a salary. As the number of monks teaching continues to diminish, we find it harder and harder to provide "unfunded" scholarships to young men who would otherwise be deserving of help.

So it has been a great blessing that others have begun to provide help in what we call "current student aid." Another couple who regularly support this student aid are Ralph and Carla Bock. Ralph is a 1956 graduate of the Academy and is very active in the Alumni Association and has recently agreed to serve on the Subiaco Academy Foundation Board. The Bocks also recognize the importance of a good Catholic education to prepare the young people of today for a world that often does not respect our values or even holds them up for ridicule. There is a great need to encourage and support these youth who show a commitment to these values.

There are others who from time to time support our current student aid program and we want to thank them all. Without this aid we simply could not do what we are doing. If you would like to be a part of this effort we would greatly appreciate it, as would the young men who will be helped by your generosity.

God Bless all of you.

Fr. Richard Walz '078

Subiaco Academy Foundation formalizes plans

The newly created independent Foundation has been at work in recent months to formalize plans and objectives as a supporting organization. The purpose of the Foundation is to work collaboratively with the Academy, providing financial vitality by supporting the work of the Academy Board of Trustees and the headmaster. This will be accomplished by providing resources necessary to carry out the work of a Benedictine educational institution by funding project requests, supplemental operational income, and long term endowments and at the request of the Academy to undertake the process of capital campaigns. The appointed trustees and officers are Leo Anhalt '58, President, Daniel C. Saleh '73, Vice President, Fr. Richard Walz, OSB '59, Secretary/Treasurer, Ralph H. Bock '56, Gene G. Schwartz '56, and Perry E. Trachier '87. During the Academy Alumni Reunion, Foundation President Leo Anhalt will make a brief presentation concerning the Foundation. Currently the trustees are conducting an extensive search for an Executive Director to lead the daily work of the Foundation.



The 2008-09 recipients of the Carl & Betty Hampel scholarships (l-r) Peter Hays, Cathal Gilmore, Jeremiah Gieselmann, Stephen Liuzzza, and Joshua Burt

PRAYER HOTLINE

Let us join you in praying for your needs.

The number to call is:

1-800-350-5889



Some of our Recent Memorials

There are times when everyone wants to do something with lasting spiritual meaning for his or her loved ones. Subiaco Abbey provides such a way. Loved ones can be remembered daily in the monks' Divine Office and their Masses through the Memorial Enrollment Program. To make this possible the abbey offers two types of memorial cards that will be sent to the family or friend that you specify. One would be sent to the family of a deceased person, and a second would be sent to a living person being remembered. Living memorials include anniversaries, birthdays, or other occasions.

Honor/memorial	Donor	Honor/memorial	Donor	Honor/memorial	Donor
David Abrusley	M/M George Mansour, Jr.	Corey Jeanfreau	Mrs. Jean Kilgarlin	Mr. Richard V. Perry	Mrs. Anna Frietsche
Leota Adams	M/M Ralph Talik	Will Jones	M/M George Mansour, Jr.		M/M Pat Nolte
Chris Baer	M/M Ronnie Daigle	Helen Kaftanowicz	M/M Art Heaphy		Dr. & Mrs. James F. Walter
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Dr. & Mrs. Eddy J. Chauvin	Conway Regional Med. Center	Mr. Roddy A. Martin, Sr.	Mr. Tim Oldfield	Mrs. Benita Siebenmorgen	M/M Kenneth Siebenmorgen
David Cox	M/M Henry B. Vogler, Jr.	Rev. Msgr. Rudolph Maus	M/M Richard Ardemagni	Tony Siebenmorgen	M/M Kenneth Siebenmorgen
Andrew Cozens	M/M Harold Baumgartner	Rev. Brendan McGuire, OSB	Ms. Caroline Gill	Evelyn Siggins	M/M Richard C. Bothwell
John Cychol	M/M Henry B. Vogler, Jr.		Mr. Gerald Hailey	B. Cameron Smith	M/M Don A. Smith
Rev. Raphael De Salvo, OSB	M/M Buddy Hoelzeman	M/M David McMahon	M/M W. W. Oatman	Jim Sontag	M/M Stephen Kisee
Br. Tobias De Salvo, OSB	113 family & friends	Darlene McNabb	Mr. Mike McNabb	Mr. & Mrs. John Spellins	M/M Kenneth Siebenmorgen
Dale Eans	M/M Michael Willems	Walter B. Meinzer	Ms. Caroline Gill	Robert J. Stadler	M/M Michael Ayoob
Mrs. Freda Eckelhoff	M/M Joseph Eckart	Joey Metzelaars	M/M Richard Metzelaars	Mrs. Phillis B. Stratton	M/M Craig Hertel
Abbot Edward	Mrs. Mary Weiden	Br. Thomas Moster, OSB	Mrs. Lambert Johann Bezner	Rev. Herbert Vogelpohl, OSB	Mrs. Carol Smelley
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Shirley Hoffman	Mrs. Anne Phillips		M/M Donald Collins	Catherine Winburne	M/M Greg Wolfe
Adrian Irwin	Ms. A. Kathryn Tolbert		M/M Columbus Dalmut	James Yeary	

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Enclosed is my memorial gift to continue the works of Subiaco Abbey \$ _____

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In Memory of: _____ (Name) (or) In Honor Of: _____ (Name)

Commemorating: (Anniversary, Birthday, Special Occasion) _____

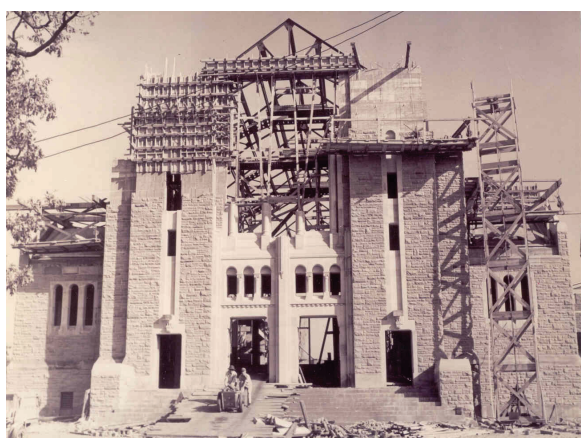
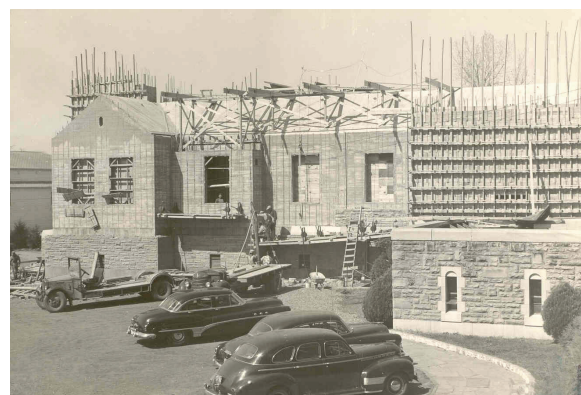
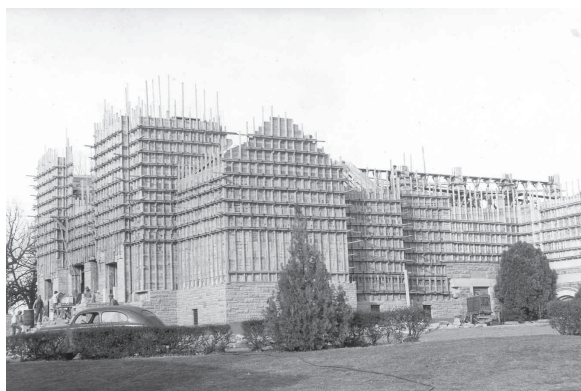
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Abbey Church celebrates 50 years



Some photos
of the
construction
phase of the
Abbey Church
during the
1950s and a
current photo



Abbot Jerome Kodell
and the monks of
SUBIACO ABBEY
invite you to join them in
celebrating the 50th Anniversary
of the
Consecration of the Abbey Church

Saturday, June 13, 2009

10:30 a.m. Mass

11:30 a.m. Luncheon

Please RSVP by June 5, 2009
[479] 934-1001

Upcoming Retreats and Events at Coury House

May

- 1-3 Benedictine Oblate Retreat
- 2-4 San Mateo Youth Retreat
- 4-7 Disciples of Christ, Companions of St. Andrew
- 5-7 Stephens Ministry Retreat, Bella Vista
- 16 Subiaco Academy Graduation
- 22-23 Haven Heights Baptist Church Retreat
- 29-31 Subiaco Academy Alumni Reunion

June

- 1-5 Subiaco Abbey Monastic Retreat
- 7-11 Priests Retreat, Diocese of Little Rock
- 12-14 Arkansas Knights of Columbus Retreat
- 14-17 Just Communities Workshop
- 26-28 Arkansas United Methodist Conf. Retreat

July

- 3-5 Ladd Family Reunion
- 9-13 Vocation Discernment Retreat
- 10-12 Diaconate Formation Retreat, Tulsa, OK
- 16-19 St. Joseph Church, Fayetteville, AR
- 20-24 Connected in Christ Methodist Ministers
- 24-26 St. Edward, Texarkana, AR, Youth Retreat
- 27-29 Catholic School Principals Retreat, Diocese of Little Rock
- 31-Aug 2 Summer Serenity, Dc. John Burns

Coury House Weekend Retreat rates include two nights and six meals.

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