



BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Volume 20, Issue 2

April 2008

St. John's Episcopal Church

April Epistle

From the Rector

“Alleluia. Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.” These are the Prayer-Book words of our Easter acclamation. They, or words similar to them, were some of the earliest used by Jesus’ followers as they greeted one and the other. They grew out of the Resurrection. They gave witness to things unexpected, unknown, and for which no one was ready. The words also called his followers into new ways of thinking, being, and doing. So, I have a hunch that the next words that might have been voiced were:

“What do we do next?” The Sabbath was over, remember? The Day of Resurrection was the first day of the week. Like our Monday, people were back at work, doing what had to be done, being about the ordinary, and while their lives were immeasurably harder than ours are, God had broken into that very spot. So, *what do we do next* might not have been an altogether inappropriate question to ask.

And, it is a good question for us, too! The parking lot is done and the finishing out of the building is almost done; only some details and an occupancy permit remain. What will fill the space? What kinds of uses and programs will go on within it? How shall we use what has been done?

With respect to the ground floor of the education building, a start-up Youth

Ministry Team has already met and will continue to do so, drawing in more to articulate a vision for our mission to and with the older youth of our parish. The Vestry, drawing upon the experience of other Episcopal parishes, is pursuing staff to work with us and the young people, not only on Sunday, but other times, too. Not too long ago, Kristen Baron spoke to me about having a need for preschool parents to conveniently attend one of their Free Family Forums. Right away came to mind the comfortable classroom downstairs!

“What do we do next?” is a question answered in part by John Hilpert, who is a past minister at Pullen Park Baptist Church. Looking at the familiar ways in which we do things, John’s experience led him to a new way of doing things. They are based on an approach of lay-empowerment that does not rely on the ordinary way of doing business. On page 7 in this Epistle, you will find my brief checklist of his points. I commend them to you for your thought and consideration. We’ve used them with some of the recently started groups.

His approach seems to come close to answering the Easter acclamation, “What do we do next?” It also suggests the experience of earlier followers of Jesus. There is felt energy. There are the shared aspects of community building, action, and worship. It is not about top-down actions that “should” be taken but an internal “bottom-up” sense of call that will not go away.

Christ is risen and ahead of us lies the call of God.

- Jerry Fisher

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Senior Warden's Corner



By now, I hope you have heard about our supplemental Every Member Canvass and the reasons it is necessary. You may have heard me quote the Bishop: “The business of the church is to bring people into the fellowship of Christ.” It is not to raise and spend money.

Nevertheless, to function as a church, there are certain givens. We MUST meet certain expenses. We must operate the church...pay for utilities, salaries, insurance, cleaning, maintenance, mortgage payments, etc.

In addition, in order to thrive and grow as a church, we NEED to do some more things...support our ministries, strengthen and support the youth program, promote outreach, and promote worship and other church activities. These are activities that promote the business

of the church and those that need most of our time and attention. This is our main commitment, from worship services to community services, from supporting ministries of individuals to supporting those of groups, from outreach to internal support. We NEED to do these for our church to succeed at its business.

A Note about Pledging: The vestry is urging that every member of our parish fill out and return a pledge card. We need this to know where we stand in terms of expected income and how much we can pay for. We do not want to initiate a program and have it fail for lack of funding. We know some members, for various reasons, are reluctant to pledge. The vestry does not consider a pledge to be a contract written in stone. It is a conditional promise that a certain amount of money will be delivered to the church. The condition is that the member is able to fulfill this pledge, Lord willing and the creek don't rise,

as we southerner's like to say. In the event of job loss, illness, other vicissitudes, Lord ain't willing and the creek does rise, etc., the pledge may not be met. This has happened before, and it will happen again. If it does, members will NOT be taken out and flogged, their children will NOT be sold into slavery, they will NOT have to enter into a lifetime of poverty to support the church! These are merely nasty rumors spread by some who oppose pledging.

We need the pledge cards so we know where you, and we as a church, stand financially. Otherwise, we are just speculating, guessing, and hoping for the best. That is not a good way for the vestry or the church to function. So we need the pledge cards. We are trying making it as easy as possible. Please help us with this. Thank you.

*Bill Goldston
Senior Warden*

Preschool Family Forum

The preschool spring fundraiser, Antiquities Portraits generated over \$2,000 that will be used for playground improvements. Thank you to families who made the effort to bring their families to the photo sittings. We hope you enjoy the portraits!

The preschool will celebrate The National Association of Young Children's Week of the Young Child from April 14th through the 18th. It's a time to recognize the

needs of young children and thank the adults involved in their education and care. During the week we will have visits from a storyteller, a certified therapy dog, and a movement specialist. Four-year-old classes will celebrate the importance of nature in the lives of young children with a field trip to Durant Nature Park.

As part of the Week of the Young Child, please join us as we

collect new or gently used quality books for children in Grades K-3. Books will be donated to the Y-Learning Program at Heritage Elementary. The program serves children functioning below grade level and children who perform poorly on EOG testing. Please look for a donation box in the Parish Hall throughout the month of April.

- Kristen Baron

From The Vestry

St. John's Parishioners and Families:

As your vestry, we work diligently to create, implement and maintain programs. Our job is to provide St. John's congregation with a fulfilling place to worship and have fellowship. A key component of that process includes putting together an operating budget.

In an effort to gain a hold of the budget of our church, annually St. John's performs an Every Member Canvass Pledge drive. As most of you are aware, the pledges made by parishioners allow us to create that annual operating budget. As it stands at the beginning of this year's campaign, we have received 65 pledge cards out of a possible 150 families. Due to the lack of communication on our part, we feel the need to have a supplementary canvass of the church. Our goal is to attempt to gain 100% participation from our members and make certain that we receive a pledge card from every household.

By making a pledge, you are making a financial and spiritual commitment to help fund the church and its activities for the betterment of all people who attend. Even if you do not wish to pledge, for whatever reason, you are helping the financial team by simply letting us know you choose not to pledge. Trust us, we are very aware of the challenging economic times, the rising prices in fuel and energy, and the overall unsteadiness of our financial futures.

The current shortfall in our budget totals approximately \$45,000. This shortfall is without any increase to the 2007 budget. If every family that has not pledged, did pledge, we could eliminate this deficit. Roughly, it would take an average pledge of \$530/year or \$10/week, per family. Again, if achieved, this amount would only allow us to maintain the current 2008 budget. Our goal is to reach our stretch target of an additional \$35,000.

The hope for the future is to grow our membership, expand our various ministries and make St. John's a way of life for all who grace its doors. We can certainly achieve this goal with your help and commitment. Each family will be receiving a pledge card in the mail. We ask that every family mark the appropriate box and return it to us no later than April 27th. There will be stamped, pre-addressed envelopes included to make this process easier.

Thank you for your support. We know that together we can make St. John's a place of sanctuary, growth and spiritual wellness for years to come.

*Yours in Christ,
St. John's Vestry*

In Our Prayers for Lent 2008



Our Parishioners and Their Families:

Heather, Tara Henderson's cousin
Marty, Alfie Adams' uncle
Irene Baker, Tom Baker's mother
Robert Barcelona, Shirley McHose's nephew
Nancy, Karen Bell's mother
Bob, Kathy Binns' husband
Maria Contreras, Laura Santos's sister-in-law
R.V. Cate, Jackie & Amy Bailey's brother-in-law
Mary Alyce Calhoun, Maggie Goldston's sister
Ruth Dancy, Mollie River's daughter
Genevieve Dunn, Julie Arthur's mother
Virginia Currie / Frankie Epps / Sarah Fort
Brenda Gainey, Milly Nelligar's sister
B.C. Garris, Mildred Wilkinson's cousin
Kody and Kelli Hicks
Arlene Homan, Joyce McPherson's mother
Lisa Hunt / Katheryn Klump
Cheryl Lasek, Cindy Nanni's sister-in-law
Evelyn Iris Massey, Rob's mother
Anna Melvin, Roger's sister,
Barbara and Gene Montague
Lisa M. Robertson, Gene and Barbara's daughter
Regina Morris, friend of The Hall Family
Susan Neely / Bill Nelson
Liz Newberry, Sallie Newberry's daughter-in-law
Hudson Nowell, Shawn and Craig's nephew,
Robert Hart Raynor, Milly Nelligar's cousin
Spencer Renfrow
Annie Wike, Kitty Kovak's sister
Linda Wolfgang, Dave McPherson's cousin

For those who have died

... that they may go from strength to strength . . .
Margaret Pruett, Kelly Osborne's grandmother
Helen Dover Spangler, Sharon's stepmother
Lewis Thomas, Jan Williams' father
Pat Lemley, Mike Barger's sister
Denise Westmoreland, Vivian Jones' friend
Ruth Kathleen Lanham, Bob Lanham's mother and
Mary Ellen Archer's grandmother
Katherine Rose Davenport, Jim's mother

Our Friends:

Jacob	Maria Luddy
Mary Barham	Paul Mosier
Lille Boyte	Laura Murray
Darlene Bolan	Betty Padgett
Claudia Brugaletta	Eva Martinez Paharik
Nancy Coats	Gary Pike
Barbara Crockett	Tim Reynolds
Diane Davis	Marisa Rosa
Jackie Diaz-Cid	Clark Shelton
Laura Lynne Drover	Scott Strong
Dee Gillespie	Vann Taylor
Marie Hines	Elaine Timbers
Barbara Kearns	Amber Violette
Anna Lee Long	

Our Men and Women in the Armed Services:

Thomas, son of Tom and Darden Baker
John, son of Pinky & David Cooke
Eric Fancher, brother of Jessica Graber
Kenneth Farrar III
Steven, son of Carolyn Filo
Matt Jeanerett, nephew of Greg & Sonia Ingram
Michael, son of Kathryn Klump
Megan, daughter of Gene & Shelley Leone
Sean Lynch, Frederick Newton,
friends of Pinky & David Cooke
Kevin and Chad Marshall, friends of Virginia Olsen
Zachary McBee
Ryan McDavitt
Thomas McDonald, friend of Kristen Davis
Ben Miller, nephew of Lee and Perri Holt
Josh Norton, friend of Mike Barger
Luke Sabre, Ralph Severns, friends of Todd & Cindy Hall
Kyle Weinel

Miscellaneous News

Nursery Family Dinner: The next nursery families dinner will be **Sunday, April 13, from 4 to 6 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. We are planning on grilling out. All families in the church are welcome! Contact Brooke Dickhart at brookedickhart@yahoo.com if you're interested in joining us.

Joyful Soles of St. John's - Relay for Life: The Relay for Life will be held this year at the Wakefield High School on **Friday, May 16th and Saturday, May 17th**. The Joyful Soles of St. John's will again be a presence at this event. This is the one concentrated effort to remember the victims of cancer, to encourage the survivors, and to raise money for research so that maybe next year there can be more survivors than there are victims.

It will start at approximately 7 pm with recognition of survivors, followed by placing and lighting the Luminaries. There will be also be a march of the survivors and the "Kids" walk will be at 9:00 am on May 17th. There will be movies and entertainment ALL night long. If you'd like to become part of the Joyful Soles of St. John's, see the sign-up in the Fellowship Hall or email Al Hinton at ahinton2@nc.rr.com.

Education: December brought a contemplative Advent and joyous Christmas Pageant; February and

March flew by with an early Lent and Easter Celebration complete with a traditional egg hunt. Now we look forward to our third "great time," Pentecost on May 11.

On **May 25**, we'll conclude the regular church school year with a **parish picnic** after the 10 'o clock service. Please plan to bring a dish to share, and join with friends for lunch to mark the end of another great year.

It's not too early to start thinking about **Summer Sundays!** This age-integrated program will run June 8 through August 24 with the help of volunteers. This is a great chance for adults to get to know the children of St. John's. Two meetings will be offered for those who are interested in being involved in Summer Sunday. Join us in the education building after church on Sunday, **May 18** or at 7 pm on Wednesday, **May 21** to learn more. - *Ann Holmes*

Migrant Ministry: It's spring and that means planting time for many here, from the amateur gardener to the seasoned plant tender. It means patio tomatoes for some, new herbs in the window garden for others or fresh, new annuals ready to add a burst of color to flower beds. For many local farmers, however, springtime may include a trip to Vass, NC. This tiny hamlet in Moore County is the hub of the NC Growers' Associa-

tion H2-A program. It's where buses of farmworkers arrive from now through June to assist in the arduous work of planting, tending and harvesting crops. These farmworkers are from Mexico, and have contracts with the federal government to work during the peak season months.

These workers leave behind families and the comforts of their homes for a chance to earn a decent wage, even if only for a few months. They bring a duffel bag with clothing and a jacket. That's all they have room for.

That's where St. John's comes in. From April to October, we'll collect items to distribute to these workers in Franklin and Granville counties. This ministry has been a godsend to those men who still need to make their beds, clean their kitchens and keep themselves protected from the elements. Add an item or two to your shopping list and help these hard-working breadwinners support their families, while they support our economy.

The contribution for APRIL is kitchen supplies, along with new or gently used bed linens for single beds. Thanks for supporting this worthwhile ministry.

Please contact Patti Davis or Laura Santos for more information.

April Birthdays

1	<i>DOT HINTON</i>	12	<i>ROSEMARY ROLLMANN</i>	23	<i>PATTI DAVIS</i>
2	<i>NATHAN BARHAM</i>	14	<i>JACOB HOLT</i>		<i>VIVIAN JONES</i>
3	<i>ASHLEY REYNOLDS</i>		<i>PATTY REICHMEIDER</i>	25	<i>CONNER WILLIAMS</i>
4	<i>KEVIN JAMES</i>	16	<i>TONY GRABER</i>	28	<i>CAROLYN BLAKE</i>
5	<i>JACK MANLEY</i>	17	<i>MIKE ALLEN</i>		<i>ROBERT BRAME</i>
9	<i>JOHN MCDUFFIE</i>	20	<i>PERRI HOLT</i>		<i>JEAN ROOT</i>
11	<i>DURWARD MATHENY</i>	21	<i>LISA HUNT</i>	30	<i>BILL GOLDSTON</i>
	<i>DENISE MUNZ</i>		<i>MORGAN NANNI</i>		<i>EMMA RENFROW</i>



April 2008

St. John's Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:30 PM -7:00 PM Girl Scout Troup 890	2 12:15 PM Midweek Communion 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM AA	3 7:30 AM Vestry Officers' Meeting 6:30 PM Relay for Life Mtg. 7:30 PM WF Singers	4 5:00 PM Headrick Wedding 8:00 PM AA 8:00 PM Alanon	5
6 10:00 AM Church School 8 and 10 Holy Eucharist	7 9:30 AM TOPS 7:00 PM WBS 8:00 PM AA	8	9 12:15 PM Midweek Communion 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM AA	10 7:30 AM Vestry Officers' Meeting 6:30 PM Relay for Life Mtg. 7:30 PM WF Singers	11 8:00 PM AA 8:00 PM Alanon	12
13 9:15 AM Eat This Book 10:00 AM Church School 4:00 PM Nursery Family Supper 8 and 10 Holy Eucharist	14 9:30 AM TOPS 7:00 PM WBS 8:00 PM AA	15 5:30 PM -7:00 PM Girl Scout Troup 890 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting	16 12:15 PM Midweek Communion 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM AA	17 7:30 AM Vestry Officers' Meeting 8:00 AM Vestry Officers & Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 PM Relay for Life Mtg.	18 8:00 PM AA 8:00 PM Alanon	19
20 9:15 AM Eat This Book 10:00 AM Church School 8 and 10 Holy Eucharist	21 9:30 AM TOPS 7:00 PM WBS 8:00 PM AA	22 5:30 PM -7:00 PM Girl Scout Troup 890	23 12:15 PM Midweek Communion 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM AA	24 7:30 AM Vestry Officers' Meeting	25 8:00 PM AA 8:00 PM Alanon	26
27 9:15 AM Eat This Book 10:00 AM Church School 8 and 10 Holy Eucharist	28 9:30 AM TOPS 7:00 PM WBS 8:00 PM AA	29 5:30 PM -7:00 PM Girl Scout Troup 890	30 12:15 PM Midweek Communion 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM AA			

Mar 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

May 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Send Calendar Events to: stjohns@stjohnswf.com

Shifting to Mission Groups - John Hilpert

Do you leave a meeting energized or de-energized?

Is there time and space for prayer and worship, care and fellowship, and getting things done?

Is there a Clear Call that has risen with waiting and listening or from the desire to “do something now”?

Has the Call been sounded publicly and, more importantly, with specific invitations to exploratory meetings?

Does it have the support of elected leaders and is there a statement of mission, a named convener and key members, some description of how the group will manage its internal life, and an estimate of money needed?

In start-up meetings, is the vision held too tightly excluding ownership or too loosely such that the vision is a conglomerate of diverse directions? And, are meetings frequent enough to build community and accomplish tasks or too infrequent and easily forgotten?

Are functions well-defined and filled? Not the old functions like chair, secretary, and treasurer, but new ones, such as:

- Convener - Frequently one who sounds a Call. It is necessary there be someone who can guide a discussion, speak for the group, do advance planning, and act as a point of contact. This might be the convener or not. It is best that the group confirm the person. A convener is not someone who can convene, host, lead worship, and coordinate actions. This leads to confusion and passivity by members.
- Activist - Someone needs to focus on the task, have a grasp for the short- and long-term things, and send out members two by two.
- Community Builder - Someone needs to pay attention to how we work, make decisions, and care for each other.
- Worship or Spiritual Leader - Why not start with a devotional? Why not talk about our faith? Why not pray for those we are trying to serve?
- Visionary - Someone has to look ahead, see the big picture, and share the vision without holding on to achieving only certain results.
- Host - Someone has to set the tone and atmosphere, whether by seeing to refreshments or welcoming new members into the group.
- Scribe - Someone has to clearly and concisely capture the spirit of the group to share around the group, with the whole church, or beyond. It's not minutes of who said what but rather highlights of decisions, actions and next meetings.
- Play Leader - Haven't you wished that someone would have suggested a time to be together not for work but for enjoyment?
- Staff - Some groups need little or no staff support. Some groups cannot function even with staff support. But most groups need some staff support—not to be the de facto convener but to handle some things that no one else can or wants to.

Hypothetically, are there some who use a group for their issues, some who are compulsive talkers, some who know it all, some who need to have everything decided quickly, some who process everything to death, some for whom the issue is their whole life, some for whom the church will never meet their standard, or some whose lives are rather messed up and try to fix someone else's or the group's? In truth, the gradual healing of wounded lives is always our mission. And, like any family, it is best to discourage focusing on a problem person, remain focused on the family's goals, stay connected with each, and maintain a non-anxious presence.

Is the story being told? Not just the story of things done but those of humor and personal insight. Are there ways for the stories to become part of worship and the thanksgivings of all?



St. John's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 608
Wake Forest, NC 27588
Just east of US1 and Hwy 98 West
at 830 Durham Road

Phone: 919-556-3656

Fax: 919-554-9581

Website: www.stjohnswf.net

Office Hours:

Laura Doster, Financial Secretary
M-Th 9 am-2:30 pm

Carol Neely, Parish Secretary
Tues-Fri 8:30 am-2:30 pm

Communications Team:

Mary Ellen Archer
Tara and Brian Henderson
Perri Holt
Laura Santos
Chris Walkup

Building the Body of Christ

From the Parish Register

Baptized - *sealed by the Holy Spirit in baptism and marked as Christ's forever*

Ballard and Eleanor Earley

Married - *that their life together may be a sign of Christ's love*

Chris Walkup and Sloan Flowers

Letter of Transfer - *Give them courage, patience, vision and strength in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others*

Tim and Eve Ganley and children, Jake, Andrew, and David to Boone United Methodist Church, Boone, NC

Alton and Millette Hare from Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, NC

David Hare from Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Fayetteville, NC

