



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

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St. John's Episcopal Church

August Epistle

From the Rector

“Thank you” are the words that come to mind when I think of my time with you as your Rector. I wrote to you a few weeks ago about my decision to retire at the end of this month. It’s still weeks away, but gratitude is on my mind.

I am grateful for the chance to share in your lives. I’ve been able to see many of your children grow up. I was there at their baptisms, or confirmations, and even at their weddings. And, I’ve been able to be there with you as you had to say farewell to those you loved but see no longer. Finally, each week I have been privileged to be the one who would offer up our thanksgivings to God for the works and gifts given us and then share with you in the bread and the cup.

I am grateful how, since 1993, you have been there for us. You welcomed our three youngest children and watched with us as they finished high school and went off to college. You were there for us when we lost those dear to us, Sally’s mother, Yvonne, my mother, Helen, my brother, Jim, and my father, Fred. You celebrated with us in weddings and in the births of our grandchildren, Abby, Sarah, Adam, Brayden, Lily, Thomas, and Caitlyn.

Some things have changed at St. Johns, and some things have not.

I came as priest-in-charge in 1993 following a hectic time in the life of the parish to serve for a three-year period. It was a time to let “the dust settle,” to get back on track with the future of St. John’s. I found no computers, no database, no records, but just a hard-to-work

typewriter, mimeograph machine, and an overdrawn Rector’s Discretionary Fund. Our first concern was whether we could even afford a full-time priest. But, behind it all lay the history of a parish made up of people who had always stepped up to carry on the work of the church. By the end of those three years we were on the way. With a hand-me-down computer and some money reserves in the bank, we were ready to look at your choice of me to stay as Rector. And, in September 1996, we were ready for Hurricane Fran!

In 1996 Fran filled half the nave with up to 4” of standing water, damaged half the pews and floated the parquet floor in the narthex. We were the lucky ones. We had gas and electricity. And you used it to cook and share your thawing food with the whole community. With pews moved to the parish hall for worship and work going on to replace ceilings, floors, and walls, we said our prayers and did our work. I became Rector in 1997. By 1999 we had laid down plans for the Columbarium and education building.

From 2000 to 2003, we saw the education building go up and the beginnings of the Preschool and the Columbarium. We continued to be a site for aspiring candidates to the diaconate or priesthood who came to work with us and better understand the call to ordained ministry. We continued to reach out to the wider community, locally through the ECW-especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas-and the then Newton Grove Center. Later, when it was not possible to work there, we buddied up with Laura Santos and her work with migrant worker families in nearby counties.

From 2003 to 2006, we saw the Columbarium take the basic shape it now has, the last four unfinished rooms in the Preschool finished, and the plans

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Senior Warden's Corner



Greetings St John's!
Busy Busy Busy times! For several months now I have been telling you that our mortgage refinance was imminent. Well it actually was signed on July 15. So we are locked into a loan with a great rate with a bank that can offer us electronic services that heretofore we have never had. More to come on that. I wonder how many of us actually knew that mortgage loans for churches are treated as commercial loans that have a 5-year balloon, so in essence if you can't pay off your loan in 5 years we go through another refinance. I did not know that!!!

Each month we all live depending on our paychecks to meet our financial obligations. We normally know what to expect and when the money is coming. St John's is no different ...the Vestry makes a budget and we try to estimate the giving each month because the air conditioning/power bill must still be paid monthly... not yearly. Please consider that as you support the church each week. Summertime is historically a low point of giving and many of our normal operating expenses are at their highest. Most years giving reaches a high in November /December but I ask you to consider spreading out your giving equally over the year.

Lastly I'm sure by now we all know that our Priest of almost 16 years, Jerry, will be retiring August 31. This announcement may have

come as a shock to most of us and there will be many emotions and fears of the unknown. I want to tell you that your Vestry has been discussing this for several months now and plans have been made to begin the process of defining who St John's is, where we want to go in the future, and what do we need in a Priest to help us go there. Our hope is to involve as many parishioners and groups of people in the process as is realistic and permitted by Church Canons. Several of the current Vestry Members have experienced this process in the past and I have to tell you ... I have a great confidence level in this group during the transitional time. We have proven in the past that each of us will speak up during discussions and anything that needs to be said ... usually is said. If you have questions please do not hesitate to reach out to anyone on the Vestry. We will find an answer to your questions. St John's is a strong group of individuals with many talents, yet at the same time we are one in the Body of Christ. We will try to keep you well informed of how our search is progressing.

I'd like to close my August *Sr. Warden's Corner* by saying thank you to Jerry Fisher. I remember 16

years ago when Jerry was appointed our Priest. We had just gone through a less than positive transition period with a new Priest that did not work out. Jerry brought a calm and a stability that we badly needed. We had no Church School building; we had no Columbarium; we had no pre-school and, on a personal note, my daughter Sarah was not married. Jerry leaves us and me with those wonderful additions to our lives. I will certainly look back and remember fondly if not laughingly at Jerry, myself, and a wood carver lifting a 500-lb cedar cross into its final resting place in our Columbarium while Frank Sullivan issued orders on the leveling and pitch of the cross. I personally cannot walk into a room and address 5 people and walk out with all 5 people happy about what I said or a decision I made ... let alone do the same with 200 people. There have, of course, been differences of opinions over the last 16 years, but I for one am quite sure that St John's is better off having had Jerry Fisher as our Priest during that time. Thank you Sally, Jerry, and family for being with us .

Yours in Christ,
Tom



*Congratulations Tom and Darden
on the birth of granddaughter,
Emma Darden Briley!*

Preschool News

The very first Summer Camp at St John's Preschool concluded in July. Little campers explored summertime themes with creative hands-on experiences where the name of the game was FUN! I would like to thank families who participated for their support, feedback, and enthusiasm for Summer Camp to be held annually-which it will be! The camp counselors/teachers also deserve thanks for helping to launch the program so successfully.

Coolibar flap hats for children made from the special sun safe material are still for sale at the low cost of \$7.47. See Catherine Massey in the church office if you would like to purchase one. There is a sample hanging on the bulletin board in the parish hall.

Fall is approaching quickly and we are looking forward to a new



school year. The Parents Open House for currently enrolled students will be held the evening of August 26th. Exact times will be mailed out to parents. The Meet the Teacher/Walk Thru for parents and children is the morning of August 27th. Teachers will contact families with exact times. The first day of preschool is Monday, August 31st. There is 1 open spot in the Monday/Wednesday 1-year-old class. Children must be 15 months old by August 31st. If we have four or more children interested in a Tuesday/Thursday 1-year-old class, we will add that class as needed. Please contact Kristen Baron at 562-8619 or kbaron@stjohnswf.com if you are interested in the One's program or would like to be on the waiting list for any other preschool classes. See our website for more information: www.stjohnswf.com.



The Holiday Harvest event on October 23rd and 25th is going to be spectacular! The wonderful committee would welcome your help prior to the event and the evening and day of the actual activities. Church members, preschool parents, youth, etc., please contact Brooke Dickhart at brookedickhart@yahoo.com or Kristen Baron if you would enjoy volunteering. For more details, go to www.stjohnsholidayharvest.com.

- Kristen Baron

From the Rector - continued from page 1

laid down to finish the ground level of the Education Building. We also saw the National Church, and all of us, begin to wrestle with issues of being the household of God and what it means to say *The Episcopal Church Welcomes You*. Focused on issues of ordination and the "proper" interpretation of scripture, headlines too often dominated the attention of all, but St. John's continued to be a place of prayer, nurture, and fellowship for many of

the faces you see around you today.

From 2006 to 2009, we finished off what you see now; and the Vestry at its annual retreats with Bill Wrenn of the Diocese took to heart his words, "You're not going to agree on a single thing. But you can prosper if you hold in front of you your core values, and remember Jesus' words, 'Go, baptize, teach, and remember I am with you always.'" We've seen the start-up of our Jr. and Sr. EYC efforts. We've seen the continued

flourishing of our Church School.

In all, we've seen many staff members come and go; we've seen many friends and parishioners come and go; we've shared many laughs and many tears; and, we've shared them as a parish family. There is much that I would do differently, if I had the chance. And, there is much that I would not do differently, if I had a chance. But, for it all, I will always be most grateful.

- Jerry Fisher

Mid and JoAnn Wootten

Mid and JoAnn Wootten will be our supply clergy for September. The Woottens moved to Wake Forest in July 2008 after Mid's retirement as rector at St. Paul's in Batesville, AR. When they retired, they chose to relocate to Wake Forest and live on Rock Spring Road. They enjoy looking at the woods that surround their house and the assorted wild life that wanders into their yard. They both enjoy walking, hiking, and reading. In addition, Mid loves tennis and JoAnn likes gardening and trying new recipes.

JoAnn was born in Wilmington, NC and lived near Wilmington until she went to college. Since graduating from college (Duke undergrad and UNC and ECU for graduate degrees), she has lived in several locations including Boston, MA, Albany, CA (across the bay from San Francisco), and Chapel Hill. She lived over 30 years in Greenville, NC, where she was on the faculty at East Carolina University. She retired as Professor and Director Emeritus of the Health Sciences Library in 1997.

JoAnn was ordained a deacon in the Diocese of East Carolina in 1991 and served at Emanuel, Farmville and at St. Paul's, Greenville. After Mid and she were married in 1997, she served as deacon at St. Joseph of Arimathea in Hendersonville, TN, and then at St. Paul's in Batesville, AR. Her ministries have included coordinating a volunteer prison ministry at Eastern Correctional Institution in Maury, NC; working as a nursing home ombudsman in Hendersonville, TN; and in a food bank in Nashville, TN. In

Batesville, she coordinated a nursing home ministry, organized a food collection ministry, and a Christmas gift ministry, as well as coordinated a number of liturgical activities.

Since moving to Wake Forest, she has volunteered with the Church Women at Good Shepherd and with the Food Shuttle based at the Baptist Church in Wake Forest.

Mid was born in Hot Springs, AR, and graduated from the University of Mississippi. He went directly to Virginia Theological Seminary, graduating in 1969. His first marriage was blessed by three daughters, Jill, Elaine, and Mindy, and now, they have added three wonderful grandchildren to our lives. Jill, Phil, and Ava live in Atlanta but will soon move to Washington, DC. Elaine, James, and their two children, Felix and Nelson, live in Key West, FL. Mindy, who will be married this fall to Brian, lives in Wilmington, NC.

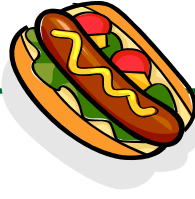
Mid's ordained ministry started in Crystal Springs and Hazlehurst, Mississippi. He served for over twenty years in the Diocese of East Carolina, including Associate Rector of St. Paul's, Greenville, where he met Jo Ann, and they did prison ministry together. His journey west involved parish ministry at St. Joseph of Arimathea, Hendersonville, TN, and St. Paul's, Batesville, AR.

Mid notes that, "In 40 years of ordained ministry, I have appreciated the freedom offered by the Episcopal Church, pulling together a wide range of people with diverse opinions. The challenges involved in such parish settings have always been balanced and outweighed by the blessings and gifts mutually conveyed."

Mid and JoAnn have most frequently attended the 8 am service at St. John's. They both look forward to getting to know all the members of St. John's and ask that you introduce yourself to them so that they can learn your names.



Hot Dog Sundays



Come join us after church on selected Sundays for a quick bite to eat and some fellowship. Then you won't have to make lunch when you get home! We'll provide the hot dogs, buns, and fixins' and lemonade or coffee. If you're able

and interested, please sign up for a side or a dessert. And, if you are moved to do so, we'd love to have some help with the cooking and clean-up, so please sign up for that, too! A sign-up sheet will be located in

the Parish Hall or you can contact Catherine Massey in the church office. Dates are:

Sunday August 9

Sunday August 23

Sunday, September 6

Mission Quake '09 - Sat & Sun, Sept 26-27

Mark your calendars now for Mission Quake '09!!! Mission Quake '09 will provide tremendous opportunities for families and individuals to become involved in meaningful local projects that have a far reach in alleviating human suffering both here and abroad. Let's break down the walls and join with many other churches and organizations in the area for a wonderful weekend Mission focus.

Planning is currently underway for the weekend mission's blitz. There are several opportunities for you to become involved *NOW*.

1) Plan to help with prep work for the Pint-Sized Paint Project

The PSPP is an effort to help a homeowner in the Wake Forest area who is in desperate need of some paint and caulking to provide protection against the elements. This project will allow the

participant to join with a couple hundred other area residents to paint an entire house. Each person will paint a small 3x3 section of a small home. By the end of the day, the homeowner has a new coat of paint. Prior to Mission Quake weekend, volunteers are needed for prep work at the house (scraping, replacing boards, caulking etc.). The first work day is scheduled for Saturday, August 29th. Both skilled and unskilled workers are needed.

2) Raise funds for Stop Hunger Now

The SHN program allows for individuals and families to gather and pack dehydrated food products that will provide direct relief to people who are hungry TODAY! The bag you fill will be held by a hungry person in another country who will be able to live another day because of your kindness. This is a GREAT hands-on mission opportunity for

everyone! This year's cost per meal is \$0.25. We are currently looking for pledges to help us meet our goal of 100,000 packaged meals this year. That means we need your help to raise \$25,000 to cover the costs. Consider challenging your Sunday School Class, Youth Group, Civic Organization, etc. to raise funds. Pledges are due by Sept. 1st, but donations are not required to be turned in until September 21st. Remember, all donations are tax deductible.

3) Become a member of the planning team

There are many opportunities to be involved in planning and logistics prior to the weekend. Please give prayerful consideration to becoming involved in the planning team!

If you are interested in helping out in any of these areas, please contact Tom Hunt 453-2077



Our Parishioners and Their Families:

Alfie Adams / Amy Bailey / Tiffany Bell
Mimi, Tori Bennett's mother
Nancy Blackman, Jean McCamy's cousin
Nancy, Karen Bell's mother
Bob and Kathy Binns
Christie Bull, niece of Jack & Dagmar Derrick
R.V. Cate, Jackie & Amy Bailey's brother-in-law
Jay Chapman, Carol Smith's father
Wayne & Nancy Clausen
Patrick Cubberly, Patty & Rob Reichmeider's nephew
Virginia Currie
Ruth Dancy, Mollie River's daughter
Frankie Epps / Sarah Fort
Magen Ferland, Emily Duplessis' friend
Andrew Dutch Fisher, infant son of Matt & Amanda Fisher at Duke
Brenda Gainey, Milly Nelligar's sister
Bernadette Girard, Glenn Archer's grandmother
Alton Hare / Dot Hinton
Shera Hinton, Al Hinton's daughter-in-law
Tom Holt, Lee's father
Lucilee Ledford, Juanita Styles' mother
The Rev. Burton Linscott, John's father
Jay Martin, Adam & Kathryn Martin-Meurer,
Mary Martin's son, daughter & son-in-law
Shirley McHose
Tom Miller, Elena Harp's father
Barbara & Gene Montague
Dick Monteith
Regina Morris, friend of The Hall Family
Susan Neely
Liz Newberry, Sallie's daughter-in-law
Hudson Nowell, Shawn & Craig's nephew
Joe Powell
Robert Hart Raynor, Milly Nelligar's cousin
Lisa M. Robertson, Gene & Barbara's daughter
Janie Rodgers, Cindy Hall's cousin
Silvia Travaglione, Laura Santos's sister-in-law
Nellie Trawick, Cindy Hall's grandmother
Linda Wolfgang, Dave McPherson's cousin
Emily Wootten, Mid's mother

Our Friends:

Caeden
Greg Antos
Katie Bell
Lille Boyte
Lyman Brewer
Claudia Brugaletta
Tommy Byrne, Jr.
Eden Carroll
Pat Cawley
Nancy Coats
Diane Davis
Jackie Diaz-Cid
Jim Duke
Katrina Deans
Laura Faulkner
Lynn Furtell & family
Dee Gillespie
Laura Glendy
Eric Hansen
Don Jones
Barbara Kearns
Conner Landis
Anna Lee Long
The McDonald Family
Phyllis & Pete Mickschutz
Laura McMillen
Maria Milam
Eva Martinez Paharik
Kendel Panciera
Gary Pike
Lena Reilly
Mary Robinson
Marisa Rosa
Tom Schwab
Clark Shelton
Felicia Stephens
Lois Shirley
Vann Taylor
Faye Tessiner
Amanda V
Rosie Weiss
Rosie Wiliss and family
Louise Young

Our Men and Women in the Armed Services:

Thomas, son of Tom & Darden Baker
John, son of Pinky & David Cooke
Eric Fancher, brother of Jessica Graber
Steven, son of Carolyn Filo
Drew Holt and Ben Miller, nephews of Lee & Perri Holt
Matt Jeanerett, nephew of Greg & Sonia Ingram
Frank Kelly, grandson of Frank & Carol Smith
Michael Klump, brother of Kathy Binns
Megan Leone
Sean Lynch, friend of Pinky & David Cooke
Kevin and Chad Marshall, friends of Virginia Olsen
Zachary McBee
Ryan McDavitt
Thomas McDonald, friend of Kristen Davis
Kyle Weinel

Those Who Have Died:

Shirley Reese, Dave McPherson's cousin
Esperanza Aguilar, Dennis Ludlow's grandmother

Stewardship Report from the Finance Committee

We wanted to provide you with an update on the financial position and the refinancing of debt for St. John's mortgage and line of credit. We happily signed the mortgage papers on July 15 that combined the outstanding mortgage and line of credit that was taken to finance the 2008 downstairs building updates. The new rate of 5.375% is lower than we had been paying previously. We saved over \$6,000 in closing costs by choosing the most competitive banking arrangement. It is great news, but it was quite a struggle which we will expand upon later. The mortgage was coming due in January 2010 and we are glad that we moved when rates seem to be the lowest.

In reviewing banks that were willing to refinance a church we discovered many details that you might find interesting. The feedback we have received says we have a solid financial foundation. Second, the term for churches is a 20-year loan but requires a review of the rate ever 5 years, unlike a home mortgage that can be fixed for 30 years. In examining the amortization schedule over the next 5 years, we will be able to pay down a good portion of the \$550,000 debt. When we started this process we did want to see that our debt load was going to decrease and so we are very happy with this outcome. We continue to have a line of credit available for the building maintenance "rainy day" needs.

In addition, there are many banking features that are now open to the employees, congregation, and

preschool. This should serve to lighten the workload for all involved and provide benefits as we continue to grow. In subsequent reports, we will provide more detail about First Citizens Bank & Trust services, such as payroll direct deposit, secure on-line services, automated deduction for giving and other donations, and more.

In reviewing the documents needed for the mortgage closing, the group uncovered that some paperwork that needed to be update with the Diocese. It dates back to 1985 when St. John's went from a Mission church to a Parish at which time the authority for handling the property and mortgage should have been transferred to the vestry. The Diocese, in accordance with the canons, signs over the title or deed to the property allowing the vestry to act as trustees for the property. It took quite some-time, but everything has been researched and straightened out through legal expertise by the closing attorney, Kathryn Drake, work by the finance committee, and the Diocese Chancellor, Ed Embree. We are very happy that in 5 years when the mortgage will require the next refinancing that vestry won't have to go through

the same effort.

Our current financial position is okay. We are staying on budget for expenses for the year but as you know giving in the summer tends to be light. Spending has been kept under control to keep us balanced until things pick up in the fall. Capital Campaign donations are in-line with projections as well. Your planned contributions for 2009 will be needed in order to meet the financial obligations of this program. If you are a newcomer and are in a position to provide funds this year, please see one of the vestry members listed in the bulletin. We are identifying areas of the building and grounds to keep everything looking fresh. Recently, we elected to replace a failing air conditioning unit and bring another into proper balance for improved efficiency and comfort.

We hope this information is useful in understanding financial soundness of St. John's and how operating and capital funds allow programs and ministries to function. Thank you again for your generosity and volunteerism in helping the church do God's work.

From the Parish Register

Baptized - *Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.*

July 19th **Colin Patrick Finucan**, son of Patrick & Erin Styles Finucan

July 26th **Henry Christopher Roberts**, son of David & Heather Roberts

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

Letter received July 28th for **Carole Friedman** from St. John's Episcopal Church, Montclair, New Jersey



St. John's Episcopal Church

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Communications Team:

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

Building the Body of Christ

August Birthdays



01 Alfie Adams	12 Max Manley	22 Ann Holmes
02 Mike Warriner	13 Frankie Eppes	23 Matthew Daw
Caddy Landis	Brayden West	25 Gerald Pottern
04 Daniel Brittingham	14 Carolyn Stoklas	Denes Kovacs
05 Christopher Hicks	Elizabeth Kessler	26 Kate Scott
06 Rebecca Houston	15 Kitty Kovacs	Connor Hicks
Crystal Nelligar	Ashley Bailey	Kody Hicks
Mary Harper Allen	18 Charles Barham IV	27 Courtney Hall
08 Charles Brown	20 Louis Mullinger	28 Megan Holst
Megan McCullough	Kristen Kramer	29 Carol Smith
09 Michael Warriner	Jase Brown	Jackie Williams
11 Drew Hoover	21 Cathy Barham	29 Janet Monteith

Emma Darden Briley, born to John and Sarah Baker Briley on July 27th, Grandparents Tom and Darden