



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

Volume 20, Issue 9
December 2007

St. John's Episcopal Church

December Epistle

From the Rector

It's Advent and the question is often asked "Why can't we sing Christmas hymns before Christmas?" Time goes by so quickly! It will be Christmas soon and then that will be over with, too. Can't we slow things down, just have a bit more time to sing what we like and hear all around us?

Yep, during the four weeks of Advent before Christmas, the good old familiar Christmas hymns are not sung. Instead, we go along, week-by-week, lighting the Advent Candles or slowly adding more and more greens to the church. Hardly compares to the pleasure of singing Christmas hymns does it?

And, sure enough, I'm going to offer an explanation for why it's that way, but bear with me. I think it is one worth bearing with.

"What do you want for Christmas?" It's a question we all ask over and over again. But, what do we want? Even more importantly, what kind of savior do we want? And, after all is said and done, what do we need one for?

The four weeks of Advent are peculiar. All of the other seasons of the church year are about 'incarnation' things, you know, Jesus with us. Advent is about a time before that, you know, a time without Jesus.

Inside this issue:

Senior Warden's Corner / Annual Meeting	2
EMC/ Parenting Course / Church School	3
Prayer List / Birthdays	4
Joy of Christmas / Care Group	5
Calendar / Ministry Schedule / 08 Events	6-7
Preschool / From the Register / Retreat	7-8

Advent hymns still speak about that time. It is a time in which we find:

- A world waiting, waiting to be brought together in God's call to justice and peace;
- Lives waiting, waiting to be ransomed from captivity to degradation either self-created or otherwise imposed;
- People waiting, waiting to see again hopes and dreams as others saw before them; and,
- Each one not just waiting passively for some outside magic but waiting with the real excitement and energy that sends us to the tip-toe of expectation to "Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day".

Advent is a still season. It is one that sends us back to our roots, and from there we are called to consider what it is that we really want in our heart of hearts. It also calls us to consider what God wants in his heart of hearts.

After all is said and done there really isn't much time to sing Christmas hymns. Twelve days is all -- the 12 days of Christmas from December 25th to Epiphany, January 6th. Sometimes we get two Sundays in the Season of Christmas. This year we only get one. But, then, there are 51 other weeks to discover *Immanuel*. - Jerry Fisher

Senior Warden's Corner



Here it is the Christmas Season, and I am not ready. What can I say about Christmas that has not been said about a thousand times, and

said much more eloquently than I can say it. Not much. So I'll remind you of some things that you know already.

We must be the most materialistic society that has ever existed on the face of the earth. And the most selfish and self-centered. Most of what we all hear about Christmas is about what we can/will/should GET. Not about what we can/will/should GIVE. But the essence of Christmas is that it is about GIVING. We were

GIVEN Jesus to show us the way. Jesus GAVE his life for our benefit.

We benefit from a multitude of gifts of all sorts from people we never even heard of. And some that we have heard of. But the point is that we are all given so much. It would behoove us to appreciate and to try to think of how we can give back.

I recently discovered "Heifer International". It is an organization that distributes animals ranging from heifers to water buffaloes to llamas to goats or sheep to chickens. Poor folks all over the world receive these animals (or even insects, they also do honeybees) and receive the benefits from these animals, fowl, or insects. But they

are asked to give back. The first offspring of their gifts go to some others in need. Thus the program is to some extent self propagating. Not a bad idea. Those who receive give back and this continues the cycle.

Which brings us back to us. We have received so much from so many. Should we not also give back to others from our first fruits??? Especially during this Christmas Season, we should be thinking about what we can, will, and should GIVE and we should give generously, gladly, and joyfully. The joy of the season mostly comes not from what we get, but from what we give.

- Bill Goldston

Notice of Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections



The Vestry has set Sunday, January 6th as the date for our Annual Meeting, and it will be held as part of our 10 o'clock worship service. An important part of the Annual Meeting is the election of four new Vestry members. They will be chosen to serve a three-year term through 2010.

Here are some of the things listed by a neighboring Diocese that Vestry members do:

- Cooperate with the Rector in promoting the spiritual welfare of the congregation and assist the Rector in discharge of his/her duties,

- Support the programs of the church and encourage others to do so, and to give generously to those programs. Each vestry member shall give a hearty welcome to the newly baptized, confirmed, received, or transferred member. Note that this goes far beyond being the business committee of the church, and
- As constituted agents of the church, transact its temporal business such as contracts for erecting, furnishing, and preserving church property, regulate the use of any cemetery or columbarium, and

observe Canon 13, "Business Methods in Church Affairs"

Vestry members are expected to attend an early-in-the-year planning retreat, shepherd one of the SWEEPS areas, and be a bridge to all in "How can we help you".

If you would like to serve or you know of someone that you would like to have serve, please give their name to our Nominating Committee composed of Joe Powell, Patti Davis, and Mike Morse. You can speak to them directly or via the parish office at 556-3656 or stjohns@stjohnswf.com.

Update on the 2008 Every Member Canvass

Thank you to all who have offered their Pledge forms with an estimate of giving to St. John's in 2008. So far we have received 39 Pledges that total approximately \$104,000.

When you have had a chance to consider your pledge for 2008,

please place it in the offering plate (or they can be mailed, too). With your help we are on our way to exceeding 2007 with 108 pledges totaling \$192,786.

Thank you also for fulfilling your 2007 pledges. The office will soon be sending out a quarterly

report of your giving to date. If you should have any questions, feel free to call our Financial Secretary, Laura Doster at 556-3656.



Positive Parenting Course

*No parent wants to nag or yell.
No child wants to whine.
More fun for everyone in 6 weeks!*

Whether you're at your wit's end or want to make sure you never will be, you don't want to miss the **Positive Parenting Solutions Breakthrough Course** offered at St. John's Preschool in the chapel.

Our first **Family Forum** in October featured a two-hour Positive Discipline workshop from **Positive Parenting Solutions**. Parents and teachers gave the training session rave reviews and asked that we bring

the 6-week course to St. John's.

We are pleased to announce that **St. John's Preschool** is partnering with **Positive Parenting Solutions** to offer **The Breakthrough Course**.

- Discipline Lovingly & Effectively
- Reduce Misbehaviors
- Teach Responsibility & Independence
- Build Self-Esteem
- Strengthen Family Closeness
- "Put the *FUN* Back into Parenting!"

Dates: Tuesday evenings, beginning January 15th
Jan. 15, 22, 29, and
Feb. 5, 19, 26 (skip Feb. 12,)

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Course Fees: \$190/individual or \$255 per couple (includes text and all course materials)

Vacation/Track-out Conflicts:

You are welcome to make up missed sessions at any of the Positive Parenting Solutions course locations.

To Enroll: www.positiveparentingsolutions.com

Church School

From time to time, we use e-mail to send reminders about upcoming Church School events. So that you don't miss our updates, please check with your child's teacher to verify that you filled out a registration form for 2007-2008.

In Sunday school, we are exploring how our church gets ready for Christmas during Advent. We'll talk about the prophecies and our journey to Bethlehem, we'll learn how Advent and Christmas fit into our liturgical calendar, and finally, on

the fourth Sunday of Advent, all the classes will practice our simple pageant where we enjoy the story of the Jesus' birth.

We're very excited that the Sunday School classes will be presenting "Outside the Box: A Traditionally Untraditional Christmas Pageant" written by Katherine Hawker as a Christmas Pageant on Monday, December 24th at 3 pm, the first Christmas Eve service of the day (replacing the 5 pm service). Please look for more

information in your Sunday school class on how you can participate in this fun family event! Many costumes will be provided. As noted above, a dress rehearsal will be held Sunday, December 23rd during the education hour and Sunday school class time.

Please come and bring your camera. We will have a time for pictures after the pageant while the kids are still up front. And, join us in the parish hall for cookies and punch after the service. - Ann Holmes

In Our Prayers - December 2007



Our Parishioners and Their Families:

Marty, Alfie Adams' uncle
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
Florence Denues, Kitty Kovacs' mother
Genevieve Dunn, Julie Arthur's mother
Virginia Currie / Emily DuPlessis
Frankie Eppes / Sarah Fort
Brenda Gainey, Milly Nelligar's sister
B.C. Garris, Mildred Wilkinson's cousin
Spencer Hill and Cindy Stumph, his friend
Arlene Homan, Joyce McPherson's mother
Katheryn Klump
Cheryl Lasek, Cindy Nanni's sister-in-law
Doug McHose
Anna Melvin, Roger Melvin's sister,
Barbara and Gene Montague
Ruth Monteith, Dick Monteith's mother
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
Juan Santos, Laura Santos's husband
Linda Wolfgang, Dave McPherson's cousin

Our Friends:

Jacob
Mary Barham
Lille Boyte
Darlene Bolan
Claudia Brugaletta
Nancy Coats
Barbara Crockett
Jackie Diaz-Cid

Laura Lynne Drover
Dee Gillespie
Marie Hines
Peter Kimosh
Anna Lee Long
Maria Luddy
Paul Mosier

Laura Murray
Betty Padgett
Eva Martinez
Paharik
Gary Pike
Tim Reynolds
Marisa Rosa
Clark Shelton
Amber Violette

Our Men and Women in the Armed Services:

Thomas, son of Tom and Darden
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
Michael, son of Bonnie LaBarbera
Megan, daughter of Gene & Shelley Leone
Sean Lynch, Frederick Newton, friends of Pinky & David Cooke
Kevin and Chap Marshall, friends of Virginia Olsen
Zachary McBee
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



December Birthdays

We offer thanksgivings for those celebrating birthdays this month that they may grow in wisdom and grace all the days of their lives

1	Caddie Farish	7	Kathryn Klump	17	Tiffany Bell	21	Jodi LaFreniere
	Janice Good		Jeffrey Long		Ethan Chapman	22	Michelle Fay
	Hamlin Landis II		Brittany McHose		Karen Wilson		Bill Nelson
	Jan Williams		Nicholas Trinajstich	18	Ruth Crawford	23	Jon Bell
2	Al Hinton		Tammy Warriner		Caitlin Lewis		Pinky Cooke
3	Kristen Lee	11	James Rollmann		Joyce McPherson		Craig Johnson
4	Sloan Flowers		Nicholas Shearer	19	Laura Doster	24	Louis Arthur
	Braxton Reynolds	13	Landon Sloan		Dave McPherson	26	Samantha Bebeau
5	Alisha Collins	15	Zachary Barrows		Joe Powell	29	Caitlin Lownes
	Eric Lownes		Julia Kingsley	20	Robert King	30	Marissa Sloan
	Jesse Reichmeider		Shirley McHose		Dennis Stever	31	Elise Archer

Joy of Christmas

Our Joy of Christmas program began in 1982 or 1983. An anonymous member of St. Johns contributed the money to enable parishioners to provide Christmas gifts and food for a needy family. Our Outreach Committee obtained the names and contact information of needy families and assigned one to each volunteer. Parishioners then obtained a cash advance and took each able family member shopping to purchase clothes, a gift for the shopper, gifts that the shopper selected for each member of the family household, and then groceries. No limit other than "What's reasonable under the circumstances" was imposed.

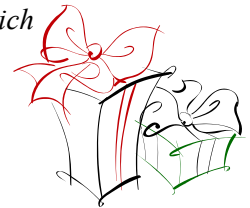
We made a lot of people happy, but it also presented frustrations.

Parishioners had to determine what was "reasonable" for a shopper who had different expectations. Parishioners assessed their experience and recommended changes to the procedure. Our present system quickly evolved. Now the Joy of Christmas Committee obtains names and statements of pressing needs and personal wishes for individual children and elderly or shut-in adults. We choose the name of a child (an Angel) or an elderly/shut-in adult (a Star). We shop for the individuals and bring the gifts to the church. The ECW raises money to furnish groceries and a festive meal for each family. Just before Christmas volunteers deliver the goodies to the families.

Our initial donor supported the program for several years, and soon it developed a life of its own. It brought such joy and meaning to our members that we have continued it, and now it as a traditional part of our Parish Christmas.

This is a shining example of our Stewardship Tradition at St Johns. It shows us that we can take a dream and make it reality. Do you have a dream? What else might we do together that will bring joy to all and make a difference in lives in our community?

May the Joy of Christmas bless us all! - *John Rich*



St. John's Care Group



Not retiring, just passing the torch...

As Christians we are often called to reach out to the world, the nation, and our communities, but who's looking out for the person sitting next to us? St John's has so many ways to serve, yet my complicated schedule prevented me from committing myself to being somewhere every Tuesday night, or even once a month.

Then I found the Care Group: meetings once a year, and scheduling on the phone or through e-mail after my boys are in bed! Finally, I found a place where I belong. Care Group co-leaders are asked to sign on for a two-year term, putting my fear of commitment at ease. So, I set out to keep the Care Group rolling along. I never could have guessed what an impact this ministry would have on my life.

The Christian soldiers who answer

the phone and agree to help out fellow parishioners in need - even when their own "to do" lists are turning into novels - they are my heroes. I consider each of you my friends even though we may never have spoken face to face. I am humbled by the people who found the courage to open their doors when things were not OK, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to let them know that they are not alone, that our church cares. I hold these people close to my heart and feel privileged to have shared the joys and sorrows life has brought them. But I cannot take all the credit; odds are if I delivered a tasty meal to your door, my husband Mike was probably behind the spatula.

Mike and I will still be making

meals, giving rides, and helping out where we are needed, but I won't be making the calls as much in the future. Sloan Flowers has agreed to take over with Dorie Allen as co-leader of the care group. Sloan can be reached at 570-9392 and Dorie at 554-1569. If you know of someone who could use a little help, or want to add your name to our list of helpers, they are waiting for your call.

As I begin a new chapter in life and search for additional ways to get involved, I feel blessed having met so many mentors, so many people at St. John's who manage to make a difference in not just one or two groups, but five or six ministries at the same time! As soon as I pick my jaw up off the floor, I'm going to start asking how they do it.

- *Tammy Warriner*

December 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																			
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9 9:15 AM Heart of Christianity 10:00 AM Church School 4:00 PM -6:00 PM Nursery Family's Dinner	10 9:30 AM TOPS 7:00 PM WBS 8:00 PM AA	11	12 12:15 PM Midweek Communion 8:00 PM AA	13 7:30 AM Vestry Officers & Finance Committee Meeting 11:00 AM 3's & 4's Preschool Christmas Program	14 11:00 AM 3's & 4's Preschool Christmas Program 8:00 PM AA 8:00 PM Alanon	15																																																																																																			
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23 9:15 AM Adult & Youth Labs 10:00 AM Church School <i>8 and 10 Holy Eucharist</i>	24 3:00 PM Christmas Pageant 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Service 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 8:00 AM Christmas Day Service Parish Office Closed	26 8:00 PM AA Parish Office Closed	27 7:30 AM Vestry Officers' Meeting	28 8:00 PM AA 8:00 PM Alanon	29																																																																																																			
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Send Calendar Events to stjohns@stjohnsvf.com

First Sunday of Advent, December 2, 2007

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14;
Matthew 24:36-44

Second Sunday of Advent, December 9, 2007

Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19;
Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12

Third Sunday of Advent, December 16, 2007

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10;
James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23, 2007

Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;
Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

Nativity of the Lord - Proper I, December 24 & 25, 2007

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96;
Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

Nativity of the Lord - Proper II, December 24 & 25, 2007

Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

Nativity of the Lord - Proper III, December 24 & 25, 2007

Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12); John 1:1-14

First Sunday after Christmas Day, December 30, 2007

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

Holy Name of Jesus, January 1, 2007

Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8;
Galatians 4:4-7 or Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 2:15-21

New Year's Day, January 1, 2007

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21:1-6a;
Matthew 25:31-46

Epiphany of the Lord, January 6, 2007

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12;
Matthew 2:1-12

Ministry Schedule

Calendar	Acolytes	Readers	Chalice	Greeters	Ushers	Hospitality	Flower Guild	Altar Guild
02-Dec Advent 1	8:00	Jack Manley	Elizabeth Manley	Bob Bidwell		Larry Demanovich		
	10:00	Kristen Kramer	Donna King	Kenille Baumgardner	Ellen, Megan, Evan, and Ryan Holst	Fritz Morrison and Mike Morse	Parish Breakfast	Dagmar Derrick Ruth Crawford
		Sean Leech	Jodi LaFreniere	Jenny Brewer				
		Hunter Kramer						
09-Dec Advent 2	8:00	Braxton Reynolds	Al Reynolds	Bob Bidwell		Greg Williams		
	10:00	John Melvin	Tom Marshall	Jim Davenport	Vivian Jones and Elizabeth Manley	Louis Mullinger and Bob Nelligar	open Flower Guild	Kenilee Baumgardner, Karen Demanovich, and Ginger Morrison
		Haley Walkup	Louis Mullinger	Harold Davis				
		Trevor Daw						
16-Dec Advent 3	8:00	Conner Williams	Jan Williams	Bob Bidwell		Tom Baker		
	10:00	Vann McDuffie	Whitney Owens	Kristen Davis	Mike Morse and Louis Mullinger	Ed Reynolds and John Rich	Flower Guild	Sharon Davenport
		John McDuffie	Carol Paulonis	Lee Holt				
		Jack Presson						
23-Dec Advent 4	8:00	Jacob Holt	Bob Bidwell	Bob Bidwell		Larry Demanovich		
	10:00	Rachel Puszczynski	Rachel Potttern	Lisa Hunt	Elwood and Helen Munz	Frank Smith and Frank Toney	Flower Guild and Preparations for Christmas	Vivian Jones, and Melanie Murphy
		Trevor Telenko	Sharon Spangler	Tom Marshall				
		Alexandra Puszczynski						
24-Dec Christmas Eve	3:00	Christmas Pageant						
	8:00	Jacob Holt	Carol Paulonis	Durward Matheny		David William Jr. and Jeff Baran	Christmas Array	Judy Baran and Sid Renolds
		Patrick Barham		Carol Paulonis				
		Kristen Kramer						
25-Dec Christmas 1	8:00	John Melvin	Whitney Owens	Kennile Baumgardner		Bill Batton and Jon and Karen Bell	Christmas Array	Elizabeth McDuffie and Patti Reichmeider
		Jack Manley		Jenny Brewer				
		Braxton Reynolds						
30-Dec Christmas 1	8:00	Jacob Holt	David Edwards	Bob Bidwell		Greg Williams		
	10:00	Jamie Rollmann	Jim Davenport	Jim Davenport	Melanie Murphy and John Rich	Jim and Sharon Davenport	Flower Guild Christmas Array	Arline McCullough and Denise Munz
		Patrick Rollman		Harold Davis				
		Sidney Bean						
06-Jan Epiphany	8:00	Jack Manley	Elizabeth Manley	Bob Bidwell		Tom Baker		
	10:00	Patrick Barham	Al Reynolds	Kristen Davis	Ed and Sid Reynolds	Harold Davis and Jack Derrick	Parish Breakfast	Karen Matchunis Alfie Adams, Amy Baile and Jenny Brewer
		Alexis Nanni	John Rich	Lee Holt				
		Taylor Nanni						

Preschool Registration for 2008-2009 School Year

Priority Registration (current students, children of church members, siblings of current students): **January 22nd – 25th, 9:15-9:45 & 11:45-12:15**, Rm. 230 in the Education Bldg. Priority Registration ends at **9:45 on January 25th**.

Open House (Prospective Families): Friday, **January 25th, 10:00- 11:00 & 11:00-12:00** in the Parish Hall. A tour of the school will be offered as well as information about the preschool (including tuition rates, curriculum, etc.). Interested people need to call the preschool office, 562-8619, to reserve a spot for the open house. No calls before January 7th, please.

Open Registration (Prospective Families) **January 28th & 29th, from 9:15-12:15**, in Rm. 230 in the Education Bldg. Applications will be determined by a lottery system, giving consideration to boy/girl ratios.

Calendar Look Ahead for 2008

A quick glance ahead with a quick call to the Diocese helped discover that our next scheduled *episcopal* visit will be in November 2008! Our new Bishop, William Gregg, is scheduled to be with us then. It seems far off, but it really isn't. Now is a good time to think and plan for Confirmation Classes and other classes too.

Let's plan some get-acquainted classes if you're new to the Episcopal

Church. Let's learn from one and the other about the needs, challenges, and opportunities of our spiritual journeys.

And, while we are at it, let's plan some Confirmation Classes for those who, in the words of The Prayer Book, "are ready and have been duly prepared to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities

of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop."

If you are interested in some get-togethers to talk about The Episcopal Church, St. John's, and how it can help you with your spiritual journey, contact the Rector, Jerry Fisher. And, if you are interested in Confirmation Classes, contact him about that, too.



St. John's Episcopal Church

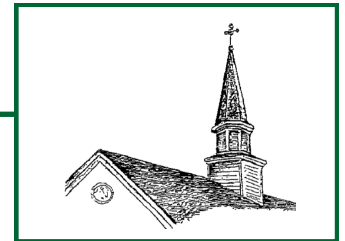
P.O. Box 608
Wake Forest, NC 27588
Just east of US1 and Hwy 98 West
intersection at 830 Durham Road

Phone: 919-556-3656
Fax: 919-554-9581
Website: www.stjohnswf.net

Office Hours:
Laura Doster, Financial Secretary
M-Th 9 am-3 pm
Carol King, Parish Secretary
Tues-Fri 9 am-3 pm

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

From the Parish Register



Membership Letters Received or Sent - *Give them courage, patience, vision and strength in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others.*

Bill LaBarbera to St. Paul's, Louisburg, NC.

Robert and Lynn Bartholomew, Kristen Bartholomew Hellies, Shery Lynn Bethea, and Justin and Brendan Bethea from Good Shepherd, Burke, VA.

Paul and Belinda Anastasi, and children Caitlin and Anthony from New Beginnings United Methodist, Youngsville, NC

Women's Retreat



The 4th Annual Women's Retreat is scheduled for **February 28 - March 2**. The retreat is held at the Lake Logan Episcopal Center in Canton, NC (www.lakelogan.org).

This year we will welcome back Sister Mary Margaret Weber as our retreat leader. Priority registration is open first to church members. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Melvin at 556-3760 or etmelvin@mindspring.com.