



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

Volume 21, Issue 11

December 2009

St. John's Episcopal Church

December Epistle

From The Rector

Dear People of God,

We are entering a holy season of preparation and waiting, Advent. In this liturgical season, the church, unlike the rest of our society, participates in a bit of churchly amnesia—we prepare for the coming of Christ as though we don't know how, or when it will occur! While the malls are full of Christmas carols, we sing "Lo he comes" and "O come, o come." While angels and crèches appear all around us, we stick to Advent purple with greens.

Not to worry—in the end, on Christmas Eve—all the splendor the church can muster will appear! We will then celebrate Christmas until the Feast of Epiphany on January 6—the twelve days of Christmas of the song!

Similarly, we are in a preparatory season called *interim*. You have said good-bye to your retiring Rector. You are waiting for the search to begin. The Interim Rector has arrived and is having a wonderful time getting to know you all. Please help me by saying your name, wearing your name tag, AND by finding opportunities to sit down and talk a bit. Coffee perhaps?

Sometime after we celebrate the coming of Christ in the Christmas season, we will begin our work to prepare for the search for your next Rector. Like Advent, it will begin rather slowly, with small gatherings and holy conversations about

St. John's and our sense of God's dream for the future here. But, in time it will pick up momentum as we assemble all the hopes, dreams and joys of this blessed place into a vision of the time ahead.

I can't ask you to completely forget this work that is before us, but just for now, for Advent, hold it, too, in a bit of holy amnesia, and trust God's hand will lead through this time to God's dream that lies ahead.

I am privileged to be part of your lives in this holy and blessed time.

In Christ's love,
Ann +

What *Do* You Call A Female Priest?

Every Episcopal church I know has this question and while there are various answers, here's mine: I begin by asking "what do you call a male priest?" For example, what did you call the previous rector? If your answer was "Jerry," I suggest you call me "Ann."

If your answer was "Mr. Fisher," I suggest you call me "Mrs. Burts." But, if you are an adult, I'd really rather you called me Ann. This may be, however, the way you prefer to teach your children to address me.

If your answer was "Father Jerry," then, I suggest you call me "Mother Ann." This is especially useful if you are speaking to me, or about me, with children. They may hear you call me "Ann" but by adding "Mother", it has a child-appropriate manner of address. Of course, there is always the all-purpose southern, "Ms. Ann;" that works just fine, too.

In the end, no matter what address you find most comfortable, just call me!

Inside this issue:

Senior Warden's Corner / Advent Class	2
Financial Snapshot	3
Preschool News / Christian Formation	4
Misc News / Search Committee	5
Prayer List / Birthdays	6
Advent Schedule / Ministry Assignments	7
Parish Register	8

Senior Warden's Corner



Good People of St. John's,

Please take a moment to read and prayerfully consider the following:

I have given much thought and I have prayed for guidance on how to approach you and ask for your new, continued and hopefully increased financial support in 2010. I have been reading and looking back on prior Stewardship Sermons that struck me and moved me to pledge and secondly to increase that pledge when I could. Darden and I have been at St. John's for nearly 23 years and I personally have experienced the ups and downs on whether to pledge or not. I opened the Pledge Card envelope (I can feel it before I even open it) and started complaining ("Well they are asking for more money again") and I threw the card in a pile. I now look back on that and realize that even when I was acting that way, and my faith was minimal, God never felt the same way about me. His faith in me never wavered, and, when I was ready to come back, God took me back and forgave me for my selfishness.

In our family's 23 years at the church, all three of my children came through the doors of St. John's; two were confirmed, one was married here (so far), and our granddaughter will be baptized here. I have seen children from wee acolytes and Christmas pageants go on to serve in South America with the Peace Corps, to acting and singing in New York, to serving our country in Iraq and Afghanistan, and overall to grow into wonderful, compassionate adult human beings of whom we all can be proud. All of us at St. John's had a hand in what those children have become.

I have watched the loss of loved ones create an immediate huge gathering of support and fellowship within these walls of our St. John's. I have watched a

wonderful preschool ministry grow literally from a spot that had grass and rock to what you see now. I have seen an old broken down concrete basketball court grow to a beautiful, contemplative, spiritual place of peace and rest for the entire community—our Columbarium.

Most of what you have just read was due to the parishioners and I would agree. You can have all the financial resources in the world but without people giving of their time and talent it simply does not work. The other side of that coin is that in the real world you must have the money to support the ministries and the people as well. Look at your own lives: mortgage, unforeseen repairs, education, food, warmth, light bill, your payroll, and benefits, telephone, internet, lawn care, pest control, groceries, etc., etc. St. John's has all of those things, just as you do. We need your commitment to build a realistic budget—just as you have a budget in your home.

I hope the things I mention above motivate you to pledge your financial support to St John's and inevitably to the work our Lord in 2010.

We call our yearly Stewardship Campaign an "Every Member Canvass" with the optimum words being *Every Member*. Your entire Vestry and I have committed to turn our pledge cards in by DECEMBER 6, 2009; we humbly ask that you do the same. The pledge card will offer you multiple options to select from and we need 100% return of the cards as we also try to update the St. John's register.

Either way I look forward to seeing you all and wish you a peaceful, prosperous 2010.

Sincerely,

Tom Baker, Senior Warden

Adult Advent Education Class

In this preparatory time of Advent, in this interim time for St. John's, let's sit down over a cup of coffee between the services and talk of God's dream....a dream of entering into the world as the Christ....a dream of a full

and happy future for St. John's. We look forward to a time of study and reflection with you.

- Ann Burts & John Linscott

St. John's Financial Snapshot: January-October 2009

INCOME	Month-to-Date October	YTD 2009		
Budget	\$36,068.08	\$394,680.80		
Actual	\$34,074.02	\$378,744.43		
EXPENSES	Month-to-Date October	YTD 2009		
Budgeted	\$37,396.28	\$404,079.83		
Actual	\$47,155.74	\$413,658.57		
Operating	Current Month Oct '09	2009 YTD	2008 YTD	Budget YTD
Revenues	\$13,122.57	\$179,096.88	\$193,828.51	\$200,991.60
Expenses	\$17,528.55	\$196,523.03	\$206,485.05	\$208,618.73
Net Income	(\$4,405.98)	(\$17,426.12)	(\$12,656.54)	(\$7,627.13)
Non-Operating	Current Month Oct '09	2009 YTD	2008 YTD	Budget YTD
Revenues	\$20,951.45	\$199,647.55	\$171,958.83	\$193,689.20
Expenses	\$29,627.19	\$217,135.54	\$183,466.59	\$195,461.10
Net Income	(\$8,675.74)	(\$17,487.99)	(\$11,507.76)	(\$1,771.90)

This allows you to see that St. John's is operating at a loss. Revenues and pledges are below expectations and budget, but we are making progress. Recently the Finance Committee of St. John's refinanced the mortgage on the church property and buildings to take advantage of the low interest rates and reduce our debt. In doing so, we changed our banking relationship to First Citizens Bank. The new terms are a \$550,000 Term Loan, financed for 5 years at fixed rate of 5.375%. Payment based on a 15-year amortization, estimated payoff June 2024, monthly payments of \$4,486.05.

Non-operating revenues are ahead of last year and budget. Capital campaign revenues are up over last year but less than budgeted. Columbarium revenues have been more than expected. We have historically not budgeted either the revenues or expenses for parish groups as their income should equal their expenses.

Finally—non-operating expenses. These expenses are up significantly over last year (\$33,669) and exceed the

budget by \$21,674. These overages can be explained by two categories, preschool and new building depreciation. Preschool expenses are slightly under budget but significantly increased over last year. Some of this can be explained by the addition of summer camp. It appears that the rest of it relates to timing of payroll payments. New building depreciation is up significantly over last year and over budget. The depreciation for the basement renovation began in the fall of 2009. This explains the significant increase over last year.

Non-operating expenses are creeping up primarily in preschool salaries and benefits as mentioned above, and in new building depreciation as a result of the work done to complete the lower level of the education building.

A couple of unusual items were the dehumidifier Jerry purchased for the basement and the repair of the security system where it was hit by lightning. The total for these two items was approximately \$800.

- Rob Massey

Preschool News

The preschool children have been very busy with Thanksgiving activities. The older children helped sort, bag, and load into my car all of the donated food items we collected for Tri-Area Ministries. As we focus on all of God's gifts in our lives and ask the children what they are thankful for, the answers are touching if not quite specific. One 3-year-old boy very clearly stated that he is thankful for "green bean & baby corn chicken dinners, brownies, and warm baths."



Everyone is welcome to join us for the holiday program put on by our 4-year-old classes on December 17th at 11:00 in the sanctuary.

The preschool will be closed from December 21st until on January 5th. There is a teacher workday on January 4th.

We have one opening for a student in our Monday/Wednesday 1-year-old class and one in our five-day 4-year-old class. Please contact Kristen Baron at 562-8619 for more information.

Registration for the 2010–2011 school year starts in January. Priority registration for current students, church members, and siblings will take place on January 18th through January 22nd during school hours (9:15 am to 12:45 pm). Open House for prospective parents will be held on January 20th. Please call the preschool at 562-8619 after January 3rd to sign up for either the 9:45 am Open House time slot or the 11:00 am slot. Tours will be conducted and information and applications will be given at that time. Open registration for the community will be held January 25th through January 27th from 9:15 until 12:45.

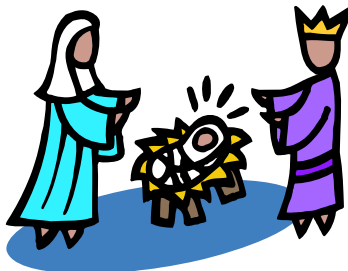
Classes offered and tuition rates will be available on www.stjohnswf.com the beginning of January.

Happy Holidays from all of us at the preschool!
- Kristen Baron

Christian Formation

Balance: using the time during Advent to prepare and quiet our hearts for the Mystery of Christmas while still creating a joyful and meaningful celebration for the children. I believe our plans for this year will help us accomplish both.

We have selected a beautiful Children's Christmas Eve Liturgy. In the coming weeks, you and your children will



learn more about how they can choose to be a part of the five 'o'clock service by helping to present the nativity. Participation and costumes are optional.

Considerations for Epiphany are also being made. Please let me know if you are inspired to help with a Festival of Lights or traditional Epiphany pageant. Ideas and feedback are always welcome.

Peace to you through Advent and always,
- Ann Holmes

Miscellaneous News

Jr. EYC has had a great and busy fall with activities such as Gleaning, a game night complete with a Twister tournament, and a trip to Hillridge Farms. As the holiday season gears up, the Jr. EYC slows down. During your extra free time, be sure to spend time with your families and be thankful and grateful for all of your blessings.

We will get together on Dec 13th for a Christmas event and then on Jan 10th our schedule will pick back up as normal. More details on our Christmas event will be posted at StJohnsJrEYC.blogspot.com. - Jane Cheek



Donations for Holiday Plantings:

This Christmas, as we did at Easter, we are asking for donations in honor or in memory of loved ones.

These donations will be used for plantings around the church and columbarium as well as for the decorations for the church interior. Names of those honored will appear in the Christmas bulletins. Please contact the office or pick up a form when you are next in church.



Food Donations: We're asking folks attending the 3:00 pm Christmas Eve service to bring non-perishable foods for families in need. Children will be invited to bring these offerings up to the crèche during the service.



Social Spirits; There are few things better than \$2.50 pints, fellowship, and trivia night to take away the stress of Holiday shopping! Social Spirits will continue meeting on Wednesday nights from 7–10 at the Wake Forest Ale House. Jane and Daniel will be out of town on December 30, but feel free to go that night without them!
- Jane Cheek

Care Group: Please let me know if you know of someone who may need some assistance from our Care Group. Thanks to those who have helped with the Care Group. Your kindness and generosity are appreciated.
- Sloan Walkup

Search Committee

In last week's sermon, Ann waxed poetically about how each ending is just a new beginning. So here I find myself, finishing my term as the Junior Warden at Saint John's. It's been a great experience, and one I will cherish always.

So what is the new beginning? I've been asked to Chair the Search Committee, tasked to find a new rector that will "fit" neatly into the puzzle that is St. John's. I am looking to put together a small and diverse group of dedicated people that will attempt to represent all the different demographic groups in our church community.

I have a number of great candidates at this time, but am asking for more to make sure all are represented. I'm also changing the name of the Search Committee to the Search Team—which tells you that we are looking for team players, putting common goals above individual goals.

If you feel you can be part of this team, please contact me via email at rob.reichmeider@ni.com, or call me at 919-819-2786. My goal is to find the right candidate in three to six months...so we have some work to do.
Thanks!
- Rob Reichmeider

In Our Prayers



Our Parishioners and Their Families:

Kristen McPherson Bierline
Gail Calhoun
Ruth Dancy, Mollie River's daughter
Maren Friedman
Dot Hinton
Burton Linscott, John's father
Shirley McHose
Mimi, Tori Bennett's mother
Barbara & Gene Montague
Dick Monteith
Tim Monzingo
Robert Hart Raynor, Millie Nelligar's cousin
Lisa M. Robertson, Gene & Barbara's daughter
Abby Telenko
Joe Virant, Perri Holt's brother-in-law
Linda Wolfgang, Dave McPherson's cousin

Our Friends:

Don Bates
Patrick Canero
Anna Gorniak
Judy Gulas
Betty Hardaway
Pat Maiocco
Maria Milam
McDonald family
Laura McMillian
Rodney Parker
Marisa Rosa

Our Men and Women in the Armed Services:

Thomas, son of Tom & Darden Baker
John, son of Pinky & David Cooke
Drew Holt and Ben Miller, nephews of Lee & Perri Holt
Frank Kelly, grandson of Carol Smith
Michael Klump, brother of Kathy Binns
Michael, son of Bill and Bonnie LaBarbera
Megan Leone
Sean Lynch, friend of Pinky & David Cooke
Chad Marshall, friend of Virginia Olsen
Ryan McDavitt

December Birthdays



1 Hamlin Landis Jan Williams	6 Amy McDavitt Alex Paff	18 Ruth Crawford Caitlin Lewis Joyce McPherson	23 Jon Bell Pinky Cooke
2 Al Hinton	7 Brittany McHose Tammy Warriner	19 Dave McPherson Joe Powell	23 Craig Johnson
4 Hillary Hunt Braxton Reynolds Sloan Walkup	11 Nicolas Shearer	20 Robert King Dennis Stever	24 Louis Arthur
5 Alisha Collins Eric Lownes Jesse Reichmeider	15 Julia Kingsley- Shirley McHose	21 Jodi LaFreniere	25 Charlotte Jarest
	17 Tiffany Bell Karen Wilson	22 Mallory Houston	29 Caitlin Lownes
			30 Brendan Bethea
			31 Elise Archer

Advent Schedule

December, wild and crazy (as ever!). Yes, we know December gets crazy in our homes, but let me outline things that will be happening at St. John's for you. Put them on your calendar, we want you to be here!
- Ann Burts

December 6 is Advent II: Our wreaths at home as well as in the church will sport TWO purple candles and we will be reviewing our favorite Advent hymns...*O come o come, Lo he comes....*etc. We will be returning our pledge cards to demonstrate our commitment to St. John's for 2010.

December 13 is Advent III: The two purple candles will be joined by a pink one. Oh, my, how fast Advent goes!

December 20 is Advent IV: Another purple candle will join the others on our wreaths, and we will sing the last of the Advent hymns. At St. John's it is also the day of the Annual Meeting at the 10:00 service. Plan to be here for that!

December 24, Christmas Eve

- 3:00 pm: A short Christmas service with music for the very young (and their families)
- 5:00 pm: Christmas with Pageant, music, and Holy Eucharist
- 10:30 pm: Music for Christmas Eve
- 11:00 pm: Festal Christmas Eve service with choir and Holy Eucharist

December 27, The first Sunday after Christmas

- 8:00 am: Holy Eucharist
- 10:00 am: Lessons and Carols for Christmas with Holy Eucharist

Be watching for January's Epistle and the exciting events that conclude the Christmas season and begin Epiphanytide.

Ministry Assignments

Calendar	Acolytes	Readers	Chalice	Greeters	Ushers	Flower Guild	Altar Guild	Lessons	Sermon
6-Dec 2 Advent	8:00	Bob Bidwell	Bob Bidwell	Bob Bidwell		Greg Williams	Sharon	Baruch	
	10:00	Sean Leech Philip Paige Jayne Bennett	Al Reynolds John Rich	Durward Matheny	Vivian Jones Louis Mullinger	Al Hinton Tim Matchunis	Flower Guild Kenille Baumgardner	Canticle 4 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	Ann Burts
13-Dec 3 Advent	8:00	Bob Bidwell	Bob Bidwell	Bob Bidwell		Larry Demanovich	Elizabeth	Zephaniah 3:14-20	
	10:00	John McDuffie Jack Presson Jack Kessler	David Roberts Laura Santos	Jenny Brewer	John Rich and Melanie Murphy	Durward Matheny Michael McDuffie	Flower Guild Patti Reichmeider	Canticle 9 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	Ann Burts
20-Dec 4 Advent	8:00	Bob Bidwell	Bob Bidwell	Bob Bidwell		Al Reynolds		Micah 5: 2-5a	
	10:00	Trevor Telenko Hunter Kramer Meredith Massey	Carol Smith Sharon Spangler	Kenille B.	Elwood and Helen Munz	Dave McPherson Roger Melvin	Flower Guild Vivian Jones and Melanie Murphy	Canticle 15 Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1:39-45	Ann Burts
27-Dec Christmas	8:00	Bob Bidwell		Bob Bidwell		Tom Baker			
	10:00	Hayley Walkup Sidney Osborne Jack Osborne	Emily Baker Kenille Baumgardner	Lisa Hunt	Ed and Sid Reynolds	Louis Mullinger Bob Nelligar	Flower Guild Arline McCullough and Denise Munz		Ann Burts



P.O. Box 608
Wake Forest, NC 27588

Phone: 919-556-3656
Fax: 919-554-9581

Website: www.stjohnswf.net

Communications Team:

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

Building the Body of Christ

From the Parish Register

Born—*Bring this child to love all that is true and noble, just and pure, lovable and gracious, excellent and admirable*

Shane Patrick Houston, October 13th, to Dan and Becky and his sister Mallory.



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

Charles and Nancy Clausen to St. James, Black Rock, NC

Eric Allen Ferris, Jill Van Etten Ferris, Ashley Morgan Ferris, and Kenan Taylor Ferris from St Peter's Episcopal Church, Essex Falls, NJ