



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

Volume 22, Issue 12

December 2010

St. John's Episcopal Church

December Epistle

From The Rector

Dear St. John's Friends,

We have had quite a year! While it has been hard work, it has also been great fun and the reason for that is YOU! Each step of the way, when there was a need, some one or more of you stepped up to make things happen. You have made miracle after miracle happen and I cannot thank you enough. Don't change a bit—just keep up the momentum!

You will probably hear something like this from me again in a sermon before I get away from here, but it is too important not to repeat: YOU will make the new rector into the priest you want and need—the priest God calls them to be for you!

If you are enthusiastic, your ministry will be exciting. If you are thoughtful, your ministry together will be wise. If you offer your best, they will give their best. The more you do together with them following Christ faithfully, the more you will know this stranger to be EXACTLY the right priest for you.

They are, I believe, the most blessed of clergy, for they will be serving you!

*God bless,
Ann+*

Inside this issue:

Sr. Warden's Corner / Estimate of Giving	2
Treasurer's Report / Preschool	3
Stewardship Corner / Joy of Christmas	4
Parish Life / Misc. News / Vestry Bios	5-6
Christian Education / Flower Guild	7
Prayer List / Birthdays / Ministry Schedule	8-9
From the Parish Register	10

Transition Schedule

As we approach the announcement of our new Rector (sorry, we can't tell you who just yet!), we can announce the schedule of the transition:

Ann Burts

* *Christmas Eve:*

4:00 pm Pageant and Holy Eucharist

10:30 pm Music for Christmas

11:00 pm Holy Eucharist

* *Christmas Day:*

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

* *December 26:*

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

10:00 am Lessons and Carols and Holy Eucharist

* *January 2:*

Ann's last Sunday at St. John's

Mid Wooten

* *January 9:* preacher and celebrant

New Rector

* *January 16:* first Sunday for new rector

Parish Annual Meeting

The Episcopal Church has much the same structure and polity as our American government. Our "town meeting" will take place on Sunday, **December 12** during the 10:00 service. We will elect vestry to serve for the next three years and will hear from various ministry leaders about the work of their committees in the past year. A budget for 2011 will be presented based on the results of our recently completed stewardship campaign. Plan to be there!

After the service, we will enjoy a BOJANGLES luncheon, fellowship and celebrate the start of all our new committees. We hope to see you!

Senior Warden's Corner



Hello St. John's,

Well I have finally arrived at my final Senior Warden Corner. Three years ago, Patty Davis approached me to consider serving on the Vestry and, after turning down the invitation the two prior years, I decided to think seriously about it. The two previous occasions that I had been approached by Bob Bidwell and others, I quickly fired off several excuses that got me out of the situation for another year very quickly. In 2008, two of my three kids were gone and I decided that I was either in to searching for my relationship with God or I was out—I chose in! I was going to work at my spirituality rather than just getting up every couple of Sundays, trudging to church, smiling at a few people, shaking a few hands, drinking some coffee, and going home to football 90 minutes later.

I agreed to have my name placed on the ballot for Congregational Election to the St. John's Vestry in 2008, Jerry asked me to take the Sr. Warden position in 2009, and I agreed in 2010 to take a second year for continuity through the search. What a ride it's been! I have met some fine folks, and I have made some folks mad. I have experienced support in the highest form from people I admire and respect, and I have had letters sent to the Bishop showing displeasure with something

we have done. But the one thing that I'm most proud of is that we—the Vestries that I have had the pleasure of working with—**HAVE MADE THE NECESSARY DECISIONS** to keep St. John's alive and well during the toughest economic downturn since the Great Depression.

Thanks to all of you, and several great Finance and Stewardship Committees, we have turned this ship around.

I thank you all for the talent, treasure, and time that you put into St. John's. By the time you read this we will have chosen our new Rector. We will not announce it for confidentiality and simple courtesy reasons, but we will be complete in the process and I can walk away with a very clear conscience that the Church is in good leadership hands from every position.

So to the Vestry members from the classes of 2008-2012; to you the Parish; to all of the Committees; to Jerry, Ann, Catherine, Arienne, Laura, Al, and especially to my beautiful wife Darden who has listened to me for the last three years, I say a sincere thank you for your support and goodbye from the Sr. Warden chair.

God's peace to us all.

Most humbly yours,

Tom

2011 Estimate of Financial Giving Update

Operations and Ministries	\$238,410
Building Fund	\$ 12,050
Grand Total	\$250,460



This is an all-time record! Many thanks for your participation and generosity. Our estimates will determine next year's budget, which will be presented at our annual meeting on December 12. If you have not yet returned your estimate, please do so as soon as possible so that your gift can be used for planning purposes.

-Abby Presson, Stewardship Committee

Treasurer's Report

The Church's actual cash flow year-to-date is a positive \$16,132. This includes only a small portion of the projected \$15,000 payout to the Search Committee, but all signs point to the Search Committee keeping their costs below that amount. Even if the projected amount is used this year, our cash flow year-to-date is still a positive \$2,857. The budgeted cash flow year-to-date is a negative \$23,762, so this entire expected shortfall has been erased and then some with two more months to go this year. Great job by everyone! Thanks for your support.

-Jeff Bierline, Treasurer

CASH FLOW TO DATE - OCTOBER 2010

Church	Cash In	October	YTD
	Actual	\$26,554	\$251,307
	Budget	\$23,125	\$219,600
	Cash Out		
	Actual	\$23,152	\$235,175
	Budget	\$25,898	\$243,362

St. John's Preschool

The preschool families have been busy helping the church with collections for Back Pack Buddies, Tri-Area Ministries, and Joy of Christmas programs. This year, the preschool is assisting a family with 8 children in hopes that they have a joyful Christmas.

The four-year-old preschool classes invite you to their Holiday Program on Thursday, December 16 at 11:00 am in the Chapel. Watching these little ones sing and move to the music is sure to put you in the holiday spirit! Light refreshments will follow in the Parish Hall.

The preschool will be closed for the holidays from December 20 until December 31. Monday, January 3, is a Teacher Work Day. Classes resume Tuesday, January 4.

To join our Parent/Tot Playgroup or to be placed on our waiting list for this school year, please contact Kristen Baron at 562-8619.

An Open House for prospective parents interested in preschool for the 2011-2012 school year will be held on Friday, January 14. Please call the preschool at 562-8619 to choose either the 9:45 am or 11:00 am Open House time slot. Priority and open registration will be held from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm, Monday through Friday from January 17 until January 21. New tuition rates will be posted on our website on January 3. Go to www.stjohnswf.com and click on 'Preschool.'

On behalf of everyone at the preschool, we wish you a blessed holiday season. We appreciate all that the church does to support our early childhood program.

-Kristen Baron, Preschool Director



Stewardship Corner

The term *stewardship* has been defined as time spent focusing on the Lord, building relationships with others, and using the gifts God has given us. The meaning of *Christian stewardship* has focused often on tithing, but this is not the priority definition. The true priorities are how time is spent, how relationships are retained, and then how money is spent. There are things that have to do with this responsibility that many people have never thought of.

Most agree that it is a good idea to spend time studying ways to become a responsible Christian. The Lord gives a few thoughts on the subject in the Bible: Those who were good stewards were incredibly blessed. The meaning of Christian stewardship involves how the precious gifts that God has given to all are used and cared for. The good steward is someone who is doing the best he can with the things that God has given him. This shows up in how a person reacts in situations and how much he/she is willing to sacrifice to pursue his or her responsibility.

Wasteful actions are contradictory to being responsible with what has been given. Rather than doing things that are glorifying to the Lord, wasteful people do things that are glorifying themselves. The

true definition of stewardship is people using all of their talents and repeatedly sacrificing their desires in order to do the right thing. The meaning of Christian stewardship has been completely confused over the years. It has been a rather popular term used when religious leaders want their followers to give something. It is often associated with the words “tithe,” “generosity,” and “money.” While these associations are not wrong, stewardship means much more than simply giving time, talent, and treasure.

Christian stewardship demands a way of life that encourages virtue and bears the fruit of solidarity among peoples. People must understand that Christians are called to be good stewards all the time, not just on Sunday morning. The meaning of stewardship, when it comes to relationships, means that a Christian is not taking another for granted and instead is giving 100% to the relationship. It shows the utilization of everything that the Lord has provided in order to nurture that relationship. When it comes to money, using it and spending it wisely in a way that would honor the Lord is the best course of action to become a responsible Christian.

-Joe Paulonis

Joy of Christmas Program

Once again St. John’s Joy of Christmas program is in full swing! This year, St. John’s will provide Christmas for 10 families (37 children) and 10 seniors. We hope you will open up your heart and help a child or senior. St. John’s ECW worked with the counselors of three local elementary schools to identify families in need. These schools were Rolesville Elementary, Wake Forest Elementary, and Forest Pines. Julie Arthur will coordinate the seniors list and assist with the food list. The ECW will provide the funds needed to provide each family and senior with Christmas dinner and staples. All gifts are due at church on December 12.

Rob Reichmeider will work with the store manager of Food Lion or Lowe’s Foods to fill our food order. On Saturday, December 18, Rob, with help from his Boy Scout Troop 5, will pick-up the food order and bring it to the church. From there the scouts will help assist the Team Leaders put the food together for the 10 families and seniors. Sunday, December 19, will be the pick-up day for food and gifts, and the Team Leaders will then deliver it to their family/senior.



St. John's Parish Life By The Numbers

As 2010 comes to a close, I thought I would pass on some numbers that are NOT monetary regarding St John's:

- | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 78 | New members | 1 | New Husqvarna riding mower for cutting our beautiful grounds |
| 16 | New Acolytes | 50 | Gallons of paint used to freshen up the classrooms in the Education Building |
| 8 | Newly confirmed/received | 1 | New office computer |
| 6 | New Altar Guild Members | 1 | New commercial vacuum cleaner |
| 3 | New Lay Eucharistic Ministers | 2 | New carriage lights gracing the front doors to the church |
| 16 | Baptisms | | |
| 3 | Funerals | | |
| 4 | New Augustine Project volunteers | | |
| 1 | New Welcoming Committee | | |
| 1 | New Sexton | | |
| 960 | Hot dogs cooked for Hot Dog Sundays | | |
| 1,820 | Otis Spunkmeyer cookies consumed during Coffee Hour after 10:00 service | | |
| 1 | New refrigerator for the EYC | | |

Too Many To Count:

New Church School teachers, Bell ringers, Readers, Greeters, Choir members and, in general a renewed energy.

Great things are happening here! Let us all look forward to a great year in 2011.

-Catherine Massey, Parish Life

Miscellaneous News

Young Families Dinner: The next Young Families Dinner will be on Sunday afternoon, **December 5, from 4 to 6 pm.** Please join us for some delicious Italian food and wonderful fellowship! Contact Brooke Dickhart at brookedickhart@yahoo.com for more information.

Attention Newcomers: Are you one of our MANY newcomers? Feel like one although you've been here a while? We'd like to celebrate YOU and give you a chance to ask questions on Sunday, **December 19.** Join us in the Parish Hall for a brunch at 9:00 am! We look forward to having time with you then.

-Newcomers Committee

End-of-Year Donations: End of the year is coming! If you want credit for donations to St. John's on your 2010 taxes, NOW is the time to make such a donation. Perhaps you would like to make a one-time donation to

help with our heavy mortgage? Donations must be received and credited in this calendar year, so act now. And **thank you all** for your great generosity to St. John's this year!

Another Great Idea! We have many vibrant and interesting seniors. What about getting together and doing something like eating out, having Bible study, taking some day trips, watching an educational video series, or going to a concert or movie, etc.? Interested in attending or helping form such a group? Please call the office.

Diocesan Convention: Our representatives to "state legislature" (delegates to Diocesan Convention) are chosen by the Vestry and they are Bill LaBarbera, Carol Paulonis, Tom Baker, and Ken Marsh. The convention will be held in January.

Vestry Candidate Bios

St. John's Annual Meeting is scheduled for **December 12**. The congregation will conduct a vote to elect new Vestry members to fill vacant positions beginning January 2011. The bios of the four Vestry candidates are below:

Tori Bennett

Tori was raised in San Diego, but has lived in the South for the past 15 years. She and her husband David have two children: Jayne, 11, and Tyler, 8. She has lived in Wake Forest for five years. Tori was raised in the Episcopal Church and attended an Episcopal junior and senior high school in San Diego. After high school she left the church for several years. She attended churches on and off, but never felt like she had found a home until she landed at St. John's. Her family has been attending St. John's regularly for the past three years. They have all become very involved in several of St. John's ministries. Several months ago, Tori was elected by the Vestry to fill the remainder of a vacated term. She has enjoyed her short term and would be honored to serve St. John's for another three years.

Jeannette Kettle

Jeannette was born in London, England, and came to the United States in 1977. She is the wife of Alan and the mother of four daughters and a son and grandmother to seven granddaughters and two grandsons. Prior to moving to North Carolina, she was the Business Manager of a private school.

Jeannette has been actively involved in her last two parishes over a period of nine years. She has been a member of ECW and has served on various committees and commissions including stewardship, outreach, grounds, and fundraising teams. Since joining St. John's, Jeannette has been a member of the stewardship, grounds and green committees. She has written a green grant application and conducted a successful fund raising campaign.

William A. LaBarbera

Originally from western New York state and a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology, Bill served previously as Jr. Warden at St. John's in 2005. After a 20-year career in the US Air Force with duty stations around the world, Bill retired and relocated to the Wake Forest area and began a new career in radio engineering and communications with Square D Corp and WCPE radio as membership director. Bill maintains an active retirement and is currently employed part-time in the design department of the NC Museum of History. He is an active volunteer in various non-profits and committees at St. John's.

Jo Ann Jonker Vaught

Jo Ann, an Oxford University Scholar, is a Master Facilitator and Certified Organizational Consultant with a concentration in Human Behavior, Executive Coaching and Group Development (Georgetown University). Jo Ann is certified as a mediator by the Supreme Court of Virginia and brings over 30 years of training and management experience providing confidential, cutting-edge counsel to individuals and organizations striving to achieve a balance between human and production needs in the workplace.

She moved to Wake Forest in 2003 and immediately decided that St. John's was the church home for her. Jo Ann's two grandchildren, Ellie Grace Campion and Olivia Layne Campion, both attended St. John's preschool. She recalls the advice of her uncle, a pastor in the Dutch Reform Church: "Find a church that needs YOU." Serving on St. John's vestry would be an opportunity to follow that advice, and to offer heartfelt service to God, St. John's, and the community.



Christian Education

The children are enjoying our quiet invitation to step into this special time of preparation, Advent. This can be such a busy time for many families. It is good that the church provides us with four weeks to slow down and spend time preparing to enter the great mystery ahead. I hope your family is enjoying the prayers that were provided to use at home with your Advent wreath and that this is helpful in continuing the tone we try to set at church.



- * **Friday, December 24:** The children's pageant will take place during the 4 o'clock service.
- * **Sunday, December 26:** We do not hold children's classes the Sunday following Christmas.
- * **Sunday, January 2:** We begin the 10 o'clock service with a Kings Processional. Children gather in the narthex before the service, with or without crowns, bearing gifts (canned goods) following yonder star (carried by an acolyte) while the congregation sings a hymn. After this processional, the children proceed to their classrooms and then join the congregation for communion as usual.

- Ann Holmes

St. John's Flower Guild

Do you enjoy arranging flowers and greenery? Do you like to see fresh arrangements on the altar each week? Then you are just the person we need to join the Flower Guild at St. John's!

Our ministry provides flowers and greenery appropriate to each season on a weekly basis. We have a closet full of vases and other necessary materials that you may explore and use as you wish. During Christmas and Easter you would not work alone, but with a group to decorate for these special services.

This is a very satisfying and creative ministry that supports all our worship services. No real experience is necessary, just your willingness to participate. All flower arrangements are beautiful!

All parishioners are welcome to sign up on our dedication poster in the hallway near the secretary's office.

When you sign up to dedicate the flowers on a particular Sunday, we ask that you donate \$35 for one vase and \$75 for two vases and specify your wishes for colors, etc.

Please consider the Flower Guild as a fun way to share your talents with everyone at St. John's. You can contact Melanie Murphy (556-2100) or Shirley Matheny (556-4766) for more information.

-Melanie Murphy



In Our Prayers



Drew Bridges
Sam Brown
Patrick Cancro
Carl Caudill, Jane Cheek's brother
Gene Chalk
Ginny Christie
Dawn and Heather Christie
Virginia Currie
Ruth Dancy, Mollie Rivers' daughter
Tania Entz
Frankie Epps
Sully Felligno
Anna Gorniak
Marie & Hudson Hamilton
Colleen Hinton
Nelda Huffstetler
Jack Hunt
Christine Kaye
Helen Kovacs
Pat Maiocco
Dayatra Matthews
Shirley McHose
Shane McKewen
Roger Melvin
Mestas family
Maria Milam
Lisa Montague, Gene Montague's daughter
Dick Monteith
Tim Mozingo

Elwood Munz
David Newkirk
Virginia Olsen
Anthony Ottley
Nora Ottley
Mark Paige
George Shiflett
Harriet Stuckey, Perri Holt's sister
Alma Lee Tabor
Rusty Thomas
Jim Turnage
Cooper Ulrich
Kent Willis
Linda Wolfgang, Dave McPherson's cousin

Our Men and Women in the Armed Services:

Thomas, son of Tom & Darden Baker
John, son of Pinky & David Cooke
Michele Cooke
Derek Dinkins, cousin of Daniel Cheek
Drew Holt, Ben Miller and Daniel Virant,
nephews of Lee & Perri Holt
Frank Kelly, grandson of Carol Smith
Michael, son of Bill & Bonnie LaBarbera
Michael Klump, brother of Kathy Binns
Sean Lynch, friend of Pinky & David Cooke
Ryan McDavitt
Steven

December Birthdays



1 Hamlin Landis Margaret Poindexter Jan Williams	6 William Kovacs Amy McDavitt Alex Paff	17 Tiffany Bell Ethan Chapman Molly Hare Karen Wilson	22 Mallory Houston Lucas Jones
2 Al Hinton	7 Cullen Fisher Brittany McHose Tammy Warriner	18 Caitlin Lewis Joyce McPherson	23 Jon Bell Pinky Cooke
3 Kristen Lee Ashby Ray	8 Sara Mielish	19 Dave McPherson Joe Powell	24 Louis Arthur
4 Hillary Hunt Braxton Reynolds Sloan Walkup	13 Ken Marsh	20 James Cooke Robert King Dennis Stever	25 Charlotte Jarest
5 Alisha Collins Eric Lownes Jesse Reichmeider	15 Julia Kingsley Shirley McHose		29 Caitlin Lownes
			30 Brendan Bethea
			31 Elise Archer

December Ministry Assignments

Calendar	Acolytes	Readers	Chalistics	Greeters	Ushers	Flower Guild	Altar Guild	Lessons	Sermon		
05-Dec	Advent	8:00	Jack Presson Jaxon Farrell Henry Allen	Louis Mullinger	Bob Bidwell	Leej Copperfield Mary Martin	Flower Guild	Miriam Houtz and Melanie Murphy	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72 1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	Ann Burts	
		10:00	Jack Kessler Julia McCormick Stephanie Thomas	Donna King Al Hinton Harold Davis	Kenille Baumgardner Catherine Massey	Jennifer Clark Jenny Brewer					Kristen and Jeff Bierline
12-Dec	Advent	8:00	Hunter Kramer Jack Osborne Sydney Osborne	Katharine Ferguson	Bob Bidwell	Katharine Ferguson Larry Demanovich	Flower Guild	Arline McCullough and Denise Munz	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:4-9 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	Annual Meeting	
		10:00	Hayley Walkup Maddy Flowers Lauren Walkup	Laura Santos Carole Friedman Jim Davenport	Tom Baker Carol Paulonis	John Rich and Melanie Murphy					Joe Paulonis Roger Melvin
19-Dec	Advent	8:00	Trevor Telenko Jack Presson Abby Telenko	Cathy Plaut	Bob Bidwell	Jean Leppek Mike Morse	Flower Guild	Linda Hayes and Kelly Osborne	Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7,16-18 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25	Ann Burts	
		10:00	Phillip Paige Kody Hicks Conner Hicks	Al Hinton Rob Massey David Bennett	Carole Friedman Elizabeth McDuffie	Reid and Gail Calhoun					Frank Toney David Williams
24-Dec	Christmas Eve	4pm	Trevor Daw Creighton Ball Meredith Massey		Catherine Massey	Dorie Allen Catherine Massey	Flower Guild	Jenny Brewer Carole Friedman	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:1-14 Luke 2:1-20	Ann Burts	
		10pm	Vann McDuffie Sean Leech John McDuffie	John Rich Jim Davenport Tom Baker	Carole Friedman Ken Christie	Jim and Sharon Davenport					Harold Davis Jack Derrick
25-Dec	Christmas Day	10:00					Flower Guild	Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1:1-14	Ann Burts		
Dec 26 Lesson and Carols		8:00	Jonathan Farrell John McDuffie Jaxon Farrell	Louis Mullinger	Bob Bidwell	Jean Leppek Mary Martin	Flower Guild	Karen Demanovich and Kenille Baumgardner		Ann Burts	
		10:00	Hunter Kramer Sophie Holmes	TBA TBA	Catherine Massey	Reid and Gail Calhoun					John Rich Al Hinton
			Anna Armstrong	TBA	Harold Davis						
02-Jan	Epiphany		Jack Kessler Shane Morse Olivia Massey Sean Leech Daniel Brittingham Sydney Wright	Bob Bidwell Carol Smith Al Hinton	Bob Bidwell Tom Baker Kenille Baumgardner	Leej Copperfield Sully Felligno	Flower Guild	Elizabeth McDuffie and Elizabeth Melvin	Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Ann Burts	

Calendar

Check out St. John's interactive calendar online at www.stjohnswf.com. Click on **Contacts**, then in the menu on the left, click on **Calendar**.

St. John's Care Group

The Care Group at St John's provides meals and other support to families who are currently in need of assistance. If you know of someone who could use our support, contact Sloan Walkup at 556-1657 or sewalkup@gmail.com.

If you would like to be a part of the Care Group, please let us know. We would love to hear from you! We are currently looking for a co-chair for the Care Group for 2011. Contact Sloan Walkup or Catherine Massey if you are interested.





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Communications Team:

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

Building the Body of Christ

From the Parish Register



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

Joan and Jonathan Ray from St. John's, Hollywood, FL

Emily Duplessis from St. Mark's, Riverside, RI

Russ and Christine Knights, St. Anslem's, Shoreham, NY

Grace Edwards, from St. Phillip's Cathedral, Atlanta, GA

Matthew, Claudia and Josie Curran, from Christ Church, Raleigh

Greg and Jan Williams, from Church of the Good Shepherd, Raleigh

Nikki Slocum from St. Peter's, Charlotte

Dewey and Alice Jordan from St. Mary's, High Point

Mark, Julia, Sara Mielish, and Mark Reed, from Christ Episcopal, New Bern

Confirmed

JoAnn Yonker Vaught, November 14th at St. Stephen's, Oxford