



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

Volume 22, Issue 2

February 2010

St. John's Episcopal Church

# February Epistle

## From The Rector

*Dear Friends at St. John's,*

I thought it was at low-ebb when I visited Haiti. It was 1986, Baby Doc had just been expelled. There were periodic riots, roadblocks, and demonstrations. There was terrible poverty yet the people showed amazing resilience and hope. I worshipped at Holy Trinity cathedral, visited Holy Trinity School, St. Vincent's School for Handicapped Children, and stayed with the sisters at St. Margaret's convent.

Now, we've seen the pictures of a desperately poor nation flattened by a major earthquake and the thousands upon thousands of her people dead and maimed. All the buildings that I knew, built and staffed by the Episcopal Church, are gone, but the sisters are safe. Something within us cries, "Why, O Lord? Why do these people have to suffer so?" But I have the queasy feeling that God is saying the very same thing to us: "Why, O my people? Why have you allowed these people to suffer so?"

Because we've have been self-centered? Distracted? Overwhelmed? Yes, all that, and more. Right now the eyes of the world focus on this crisis. But what will happen when Haiti is last week's news? Last year's news? Will we forget their cries and poverty again?

Want to help? Episcopal Relief and Development's website is [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org). The Society of St. Margaret's website is [www.smbos.com](http://www.smbos.com).

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"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you did it to me."

*Faithfully,*  
*Ann +*

### Let's have Chocolate for Lent!

Don't give up chocolate for Lent this year! We'll be enjoying soup and "Chocolat" on Thursday nights! Come between 5:30-6:30 for a Lenten soup supper and stay, if you can, to view and discuss the movie "Chocolat." Please sign up if you are willing to cook up a big pot of soup one night and to give us an idea of the number who'll be there.

### Temporary Labyrinth for Lent

Many of us, on first seeing the lovely round lawn in the columbarium, have asked: "Is this to be a labyrinth?" Well, it will, for Lent at least. A good deal of math and measuring, plus some ground keeper's paint will give us a labyrinth to try this new/very old way of praying. Want to help? Let us know. Want to try it? We'll see you there!

### Ash Wednesday Service

February 17: Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist, 12 noon and 6:30 pm.

### St. John's Most Wanted List

- Pictures, pictures, pictures for bulletin boards, website, profile. Please send electronically to the office,
- Comfy sofas and chairs for the EYC space
- Gardeners for all our lovely grounds
- Librarian for the parish library
- Office volunteers

## Senior Warden's Corner

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*Happy New Year to All!*

I will begin this Senior Wardens Corner with wonderful news by informing you that several important personnel positions have been filled within the church recently. I'm happy to report that Jeff Bierline has stepped up and is now our new treasurer. Jeff is married to Kristen McPherson Bierline who has been involved with St. John's from childhood. At our recent Vestry Retreat, Reid Calhoun accepted the call to become our Jr. Warden for 2010. I will remain your Sr. Warden for 2010 unless I am impeached. (I'm constantly working on that.) :-). All were duly and unanimously voted on by the Vestry. We also have a new Sexton, Al Pascocello, who starts employment with us on February 1st. Al comes to us with excellent references and 12 years of experience as the sexton at The Church of the Heavenly Rest in New York City .

We had a wonderful Vestry Retreat January 15-17th at Trinity Center in Salter Path, facilitated by diocese liaison Bill Wrenn. We invited spouses and children to join us because if you've ever served on a Vestry, you know that your family is on the Vestry as well! Everyone paid their own expenses for the vestry retreat, so not only did they give of their time and talent, but their treasure as well to work on the vision of the future of St. John's. We focused on areas that we all believed could be realistically accomplished this year and of course discussed the upcoming search for our Priest. We are a "no spin zone" type Vestry and are very aware of the priorities of the church: Consistent Youth Programs, Outreach/Evangelism, and Financial Independence.

The Financial Committee and the Vestry wished that we never had to speak of money again. Within the walls of St. John's, we have time and we have talent, but in all honesty we do not have enough tithes to sustain our current bare-bones financial needs. I committed to you some weeks back that we would present to you a budget after the retreat. Well I can honor that commitment right now because we do have a very thorough line-item budget...

**the problem is that I cannot at this time present you with a "BALANCED BUDGET"**. The 2010 budget we have right now is approximately \$47,000 in excess of what we have in pledges and anticipated non-pledged income for the year.

Between the Vestry and Financial Committee, we have some seasoned financial minds and we are looking for every dollar to cut from what is a bare bones and no frills operational budget. If we have another \$5,000 facility repair emergency, as we did with the HVAC system last February, we have to borrow from our Equity Line of Credit that only pushes us deeper into debt. It is a never-ending cycle.

I have to tell you that I'm a positive guy, and I'm of the belief that anything can be accomplished if the right people are at the right place at the right time and maintain their collective faith in God...and each other. I have never been more confident that we indeed do have those people in place right now. We are looking at the names on the Parish Register that we did not hear from on the Every Member Canvass, as well as folks that may have fell short on the recently completed Capital Campaign pledge. We have no choice but to reach out and ask everyone for help. We will need to look at everything in our budget from eliminating lawn care, to staff and possible Diocesan Assistance. *Please we need you to respond with your increased financial support.* If you want to know more about this budget, any of the 12 Vestry and 7 Financial Committee members will be more than willing to take time answer any questions. The budget is not a secret, and you are free to review it upon request.

We are here at this point at this time, and we must look only forward. The decisions are being made now to correct this financial trend. In the end, if we do not have the money given to the service of God and St. John's from our hearts, then we will be forced to make the hard decisions for the long-term financial well-being of the church.

*Yours in Christ,  
Tom*

## Christian Education

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Please join me in thanking Amy McDavitt for doing a fabulous job of coordinating this year's Christmas pageant. From all that I have heard it was terrific and well attended too. It sounds as if the adults had as much fun watching as the children had performing. Thank you, Amy, and all who helped her!

It sometimes amazes me how quickly we advance through the seasons. February 17th we find ourselves beginning Lent. Look forward to asking your children about the Heifer program, which we will be discussing with them during Church School. Each child will be offered a small bank in which to save coins. I think they will appreciate the satisfaction of knowing they will be

able to help purchase livestock to be used by those suffering in the aftermath of Haiti's recent earthquake.

I maintain a database with all the names and parent emails I have for children in our Church School program. If you have a child in the program, but do not recall receiving a Church School-related email from me, take a moment right now to email me at [thatann@gmail.com](mailto:thatann@gmail.com) and let me know. It may be that I do not have a current registration form for your child even though they have been attending this year. I don't want you to miss program-related information. Thank you for your help in making sure that I can communicate with each of you!

- Ann Holmes

## Care Group

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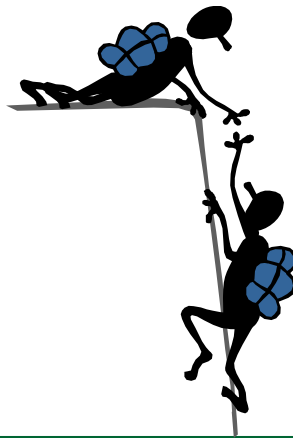
Thank you to everyone who has been helping support the Care Group with meals, rides and visits. Your help is truly appreciated!

Let's take care of our Care Group! We will be hosting a Tea and Yoga on **February 4th from 7 to 8:30 pm**. This will be a way to say "Thank you" to our Care Group and present the Care Calendar website program. Joy Shillingsburg will be hosting this event. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

We would like to stock the freezer at St John's for upcoming Care Group needs. Please drop off a meal at the Church if you can! Please include the ingredients, date made, and instructions for preparing.

We are also looking for a Care Group co-leader. We could use your ideas and support. Please let me know if you are interested. Also, please contact me, if you know of someone who may need the support of the Care Group. Thanks.

- Sloan Walkup



## Caregiver Support Group

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Are you caring for an aging parent, spouse or other relative? Could you use a place to laugh, cry, vent, and give and receive support with others who have the same situation? If so, please contact Carol Smith at either

[Smi9308@AOL.com](mailto:Smi9308@AOL.com) or 556-4442. Perhaps we can help each other as we seek answers to complex issues. Let's gather in the Rector's office after the 10:00 service on **February 7** to discuss a preferred time and day to meet.

# Diocesan Convention

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We laughed, we cried, we made new friends, and we learned much (a very pleasing much) about how our diocese works. Alan Kettle, Bill LaBarbera, and Carol Paulonis were lay delegates, with our Interim Rector Ann Burts, at the N.C. Annual Diocesan Convention in Winston-Salem, on January 22–23.

Amid the many touching stories of the overwhelming disaster in Haiti, and tales of poverty and hunger throughout the world, there was abundant humor and caring among the delegates and clergy. People gave generously of both cash and time, and filled a record of over 100 thousand meals to be delivered to starving school children by Stop Hunger Now. This was done in any spare time between and after meeting.

During the convention, we saw a video on Haiti, and Rev. Lauren Stanley, who serves Haiti, told us how we can best help. They will need long-term assistance in rebuilding stronger homes, schools, churches, and hospitals. The Saturday keynote speaker, Dr. Rob Radke, of Episcopal Relief and Development ([www.erd.org](http://www.erd.org)), told us of their work reaching hurting people in over 40 countries. He said it appears that the events have meant death or disaster for 1 in 3 Haitians.

He also gave reassuring information about the accountability of ERD as a charity. It has received top ratings from both Charity Navigator and the Better Business Bureau, because 92% of every donor dollar goes to support the people they are helping, with only a small amount needed for administrative costs and expenses.

Video of the convention should be on the diocesan website by now at [www.episdionc.org](http://www.episdionc.org). Especially look for Bishop Michael Curry's pastoral address.

**Bishop Wowed Us.** Bishop Curry's address to the assembled clergy, lay delegates, and guests, on the subject of "Ways to Say Welcome," was exciting, moving, and full of ideas. He said the Gospel way of welcome is what Jesus came to show us. God desires us to become a witness to His will.

The Book of Acts of the Apostles shows us how walls of separation fell as the disciples of Christ welcomed the Gentiles into the church. If we dare to follow Jesus into the future, we may be guided by the apostles. They organized their lives around Jesus. They followed His beatitudes, and fed the hungry. They sought justice and equity in the church, so they would be a model of compassion and justice. They acted simply, with few resources at hand, but with power from the Holy Spirit.

Bishop Curry described a present-day partnership between the Holy Spirit and human sweat, in the 25-year-old Ministry for Farm Workers in Newton Grove, NC. Through evangelism and direct assistance for dire poverty, this group has built a congregation that averages 600 farm workers per Sunday (the 5<sup>th</sup> largest congregation in the state). They were honored with the Bishop's Award during the 5 pm convention service at beautiful St. Paul's Church in Winston-Salem.

**Business:** Some items of business during the convention were explained on Friday, then went to committees. Delegates and guests were free to attend and listen to pros and cons of various pending resolutions in the committees. Voting was Saturday, with many items just small changes in wording, policy, or methods of conducting business at the convention.

One resolution that passed: Vestries may now, when pressed for time, use email for polling their members about decisions. (Good thing! Because we at St. John's have already been using email for that purpose this past half year.)

Another that affects us is the amount of income parishes are asked to give the Diocese for its work on our behalf. In the recent economic downturn, with 2009 estimated to have been the low year, some smaller churches have been unable to pay their share. So the amount will be established as an "initial percentage" of 12% for 2011, based on 2009 parish income figures.

**Youth:** A large group of teenagers came to the convention and played various parts in it. Two spoke, and presented a computer slide show on the big screens, showing their work with the Charter Commission on Youth. They had a retreat for leadership training. They helped plan, design, and coordinate diocesan youth events, i.e., "Never Alone"—overcoming dark times in life, "HUGS Camp—Helping Understand God through Service," and, coming up this year, "Freedom Ride 2010"—a bus ride retracing history and the legacy of racial injustice.

There is so much to tell you about this well-run convention. Not all of St. John's allotted delegate seats were filled. Registered guests can attend what lay delegates attend, and even speak to issues (but just not vote). If you are a first-time delegate, the Convention Secretary gives an informative hour on how the convention will work. Be part of this exciting event, if you can, next year.

- Carol Paulonis, lay delegate for St. John's.

## The Bishop is Coming! The Bishop is Coming!

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Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina will be at St. John's on **February 28** for both services. He will preach and celebrate at 8:00 and at 10:00, and will, in addition, welcome nine new Episcopalians into our fold

through the rites of Confirmation or Reception. If you haven't met Bishop Curry, or heard him preach, you are in for a rare treat! There will be a reception after each service that day to welcome him.

## Charlton Holt to Perform with the Durham Symphony Orchestra

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The Durham Symphony Orchestra (DSO) has an outreach program seeking to introduce classical orchestral music to young people. In addition to offering many community-oriented performances and educational opportunities to area schools and local institutions, the DSO hosts a Young Artists Competition every year for area youth involved in classical music training, performance, and appreciation. Charlton Holt, clarinetist and one of St. John's young members, recently competed in and won this competition.

Charlton performed for three judges, one of which was William Curry, Assistant Conductor of the North Carolina Symphony. Another judge, Nancy Lambert, is a

professional musician and the editor for *North Carolina Classical Review*.

Charlton will perform the third movement of Franz Krommer's Clarinet Concerto for Two Clarinets and Orchestra in E<sup>b</sup> at the **Carolina Theater in Durham on Sunday, March 7 at 3:00 pm**. Charlton attends the UNC School of the Arts in Winton-Salem NC as a high school junior. The other clarinetist, playing part II in this concerto is Rashad Hayward from Raleigh who is a college freshman at the UNC School of the Arts.

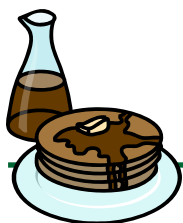
Charlton's family includes parents, Lee and Perri Holt, and brother, Jacob. Congratulations to Charlton!

## Heifer Project's Goats for Haiti

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The Heifer Project's excellent materials for Lent will be distributed to all interested young people at St. John's church and Preschool. At the end of Lent, the contents of our Heifer banks will be collected and used to send goats and chickens to Haiti. The Heifer Project gives

animals to individuals in impoverished communities, who, in turn, give offspring of these animals to their neighbors. In time, the standard of living of the whole community is improved. Adults, you can join in the effort, too!



## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

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Join us for **St. John's Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 16 from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm**. The Junior and Senior EYC will be our wait staff for the evening, and all net proceeds will help fund the youth ministries. This is a

wonderful time to enjoy food and fellowship as we prepare to enter the Season of Lent. If you can help us plan or would like to volunteer to cook bacon or flip pancakes, contact Darden at 266-7827 or [jtb3rd@bellsouth.net](mailto:jtb3rd@bellsouth.net).

## In Our Prayers



### Our Parishioners and Their Families:

**Kristen McPherson Bierline**  
**Ginny Christie**  
**Dawn and Heather Christie**  
**Ruth Dancy**, Mollie River's daughter  
**Maren Friedman**  
**Dot Hinton**  
**Helen Kovacs**  
**Barbara Kjelberg**  
**Linscott family**  
**Shirley McHose**  
**Mimi**, Tori Bennett's mother  
**Gene Montague**  
**Dick Monteith**  
**Tim Mozingo**  
**Virginia Olsen**  
**Lisa Montague Robertson**, Gene's daughter  
**Jane and Kathleen Swanson**, Tori Bennett's grandmother and step mother  
**Joe Virant**, Perri Holt's brother-in-law  
**Linda Wolfgang**, Dave McPherson's cousin

### Our Friends:

**Patrick Cancro**  
**Anna Gorniak**  
**Betty Hardaway**  
**Pat Maiocco**  
**Maria Milam**

**McDonald family**  
**Jennifer Mara**  
**David Newkirk**  
**Marisa Rosa**

### Our Men and Women in the Armed Services:

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

### Those Who Have Died:

**Barbara Montague**

## February Birthdays



03 Melissa Stever	11 Anne Powell	19 Jane Hill	25 David Williams Sr.
04 Penelope Powell	Catherine Massey	David Hylton	Jordan Harp
Thomas Williams	Erin Graber	Brian Husinko	26 Sara Vohwinkel
05 Arline McCullough	13 Jackie Bailey	22 Emily Darch	Caroline Wilkerson
06 Ryan Holst	14 Will Archer	Hannah King	27 Elizabeth Ball
Debbie Lee	16 Rachael Ball	23 Lee Holt	Max Darch
09 Rob Nelligar Jr.	18 Ric Munz	Jim McHose	28 Caitlyn Williams
10 Chuck Barham III	Joseph Pottern	Thomas Reichmeider	
Lee Darch		24 Todd Hellier	
Jack Kessler		Sarah Raper	
		Katie Matchunis	

# Acolyte Training

An **information session for prospective acolytes** will be held on **Sunday, March 14** following the 10:00 service in the sanctuary for 20 minutes. Anyone, age 9 or older (not a firm age limit), who is interested in becoming an acolyte is encouraged to attend to learn more about the role of acolytes in the church and the training schedule, which will begin in April. Current acolytes are encouraged to attend the information session (and bring a friend or sibling!) and parents are welcome.

**Current acolytes:** We will have a brief refresher meeting in the sanctuary after the 10:00 service on **February 14**. We will review your current responsibilities and discuss the upcoming training in April for new and continuing acolytes.

Please contact Ken Christie at 556-7164 or Elizabeth McDuffie at 556-6963 if you have any questions or need more information. We hope many young people will join us in this important ministry!



# Vestry Retreat

The Vestry met January 15-17 at the Trinity Center in Salter Path.

*Seated from left: Carolyn Stoklas, Elizabeth Melvin, Reid Calhoun, Kristen McPherson Bierline, Dallen Bierline, Gail Calhoun, Jeannette Kettle*

*Standing from left: Tom Baker, Roger Melvin, Alan Kettle, Darden Baker, Chris Schoden, Rob Massey, Mary Margaret Godier, Ann Burts, Jeff Bierline*

# Ministry Assignments

55	Calendar	Acolytes	Readers	Chalice	Greeters	Ushers	Flower Guild	Altar Guild	Lessons	Sermon
07-Feb	8:00	Bob Bidwell	Jan Williams	Bob Bidwell		Tom Baker		Arline	Isiah 6:1-8, [9-13]	Ann Burts
	10:00	John McDuffie	Donna King	Jim Davenport	Elwood and	Jack Derrick	Shirley McHose	McCullough	Psalms 138	
		Jack Presson	Rob Massey		Helen Munz	Al Hinton		and Denise Munz	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	
		Abby Telenko							Luke 5:1-11	
14-Feb	8:00	Bob Bidwell	Bob Bidwell	Bob Bidwell		Larry Demanovich	Patty Ray	Jenny Brewer	Exodus 34:29-35	Ann Burts
	10:00	Trevor Telenko	Louis Mullinger	Kenille Baumgardner	John Richard	Tim Matchunis		Carole Friedman	Psalms 99	
		Trevor Daw	Rachel Pottern		Melanie Murphy	Durward Matheny			2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	
		Emma Daw							Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]	
21-Feb	8:00	Bob Bidwell	Elwood Munz	Bob Bidwell		Al Reynolds		Karen	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Gene Montague
	10:00	Hayley Walkup	Al Reynolds	Carole Friedman	Ed and Sid	Michael McDuffie		Demanovich and Sid Reynolds	Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16	
		Hunter Kramer	John Rich		Reynolds	Dave McPherson			Romans 10:8b-13	
		Jayne Bennett							Luke 4:1-13	
28-Feb	8:00	Bob Bidwell	Jan Williams	Bob Bidwell		Greg Williams	Sharon Davenport and Kenille Baumgardner		Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Bishop Curry
	10:00	Sean Leech	David Roberts	Harold Davis	Laura Santos	Roger Melvin			Psalms 27	
		Sydney Osborne	Laura Santos		Alfie Adams	Louis Mullinger			Philippians 3:17-4:1	
		Jack Osborne							Luke 13:31-35	



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

**Building the Body of Christ**

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## From the Parish Register



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

**Creighton Roy Ball** and **Rachel Elizabeth Ball**, children of Wendell and Elizabeth Ball on January 10

**Died** - *That they may go from strength to strength*

**Barbara Holliday Montague** on January 3

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

**Robley and Julie Bowman**, children: **Lee, Ben and Anna** transferred to St. John's.

## Baptisms

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Upcoming opportunities for Baptism are **April 11, May 30, June 20 and November 7**.  
If you are interested, please contact Mother Ann.