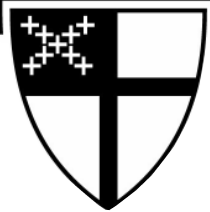


*"We are a vibrant, welcoming, and growing community of faith,  
feeding the hearts, minds, and spirits of all who come."*

# St. Gabriel's HERALD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. GABRIEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Volume 9 Issue 8 August 2009

## Ubuntu

The 76<sup>th</sup> triennial General Convention of the Episcopal Church met last month in Anaheim, California. Maybe you've read a thing or two about it.... What you may not have read was the one-word theme for this gathering of the Episcopal Church's ordained and lay representatives from around this country and around the globe: Ubuntu (pronounced "oo-BUN-too"). Ubuntu is a Bantu word that is literally translated as "I in you as you in me." Ubuntu points to the natural interconnectedness of humankind, and that our humanity depends on recognizing that interdependence.

You probably did not read that this theme adopted by our General Convention was one of the guiding principles for South Africa during their transition from the oppression of apartheid. Of Ubuntu archbishop Desmond Tutu writes, "We think of ourselves far too frequently as just individuals, separated from one another, whereas you are connected and what you do affects the whole world.... [Ubuntu] speaks of the fact that my humanity is caught up and is inextricably bound up in yours. I am human because I belong." The guiding force behind General Convention was this understanding that each of us is bound one to another, and our Episcopal Church is bound to the greater Anglican Communion.

You probably have read that the Episcopal Church is doomed, is heading for disaster, is on the brink of schism. Such words have the power to sell newspapers and magazines and boost the number of hits to websites. But such words are not grounded in the reality of what transpired in Anaheim. Such words do not have the power of Ubuntu. I would commend to your reading the letter from Bishop Alexander for his impression of what took place at General Convention (found on page 7) as well as your reading of the resolutions concerning the ordination of homosexual men and women and the blessing of same-sex unions (found on page 8). You can decide for yourselves what was and was not determined at General Convention.

What you will not read in newspapers or magazines is our equal and ongoing concern and love for our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters, as well as those who are opposed to their ordination or "marriage." You will not read about the other 600+ resolutions concerned with addressing the issues of global economics, malaria, conflict in Honduras, Sudan, Haiti and a dozen other regions, church-wide health insurance, care for war veterans, global warming, liturgy, music, and a myriad of other acts that speak to our commitment to the essence of Ubuntu: reconciliation, healing, feeding, and caring for our brothers and sisters locally, nationally, and globally.

Perhaps the greatest gift of this General Convention is this wonderful Bantu word, Ubuntu. When your friends, family, and neighbors ask you about the future of the Episcopal Church share this word with them. Tell them that you cannot possibly know how all of this might shake out, but this much you know: we are bound to one another in Jesus Christ; we are made one in God's love. We rejoice when our sisters rejoice; we bleed when our brothers bleed; we are connected to one another; we are resolutely committed to the work of Christ in reconciling and healing the world for all God's children. Tell them, Ubuntu.

## Birthdays

- 01 - Richard Cundiff
- 05 - Barbara Jean Newton
- 05 - Samantha Threadgill
- 09 - Pam Keene Fulgham
- 09 - Julia Mosley
- 15 - Sybil Shaw
- 16 - Maryann Bandy
- 21 - Sam Threadgill
- 23 - Jennifer Baker
- 23 - Ruth Thompson
- 28 - Jean Waller
- 31 - Raina Cundiff
- 31 - Billy Spires



## Anniversaries

- 02 - Jim & Jean Waller
- 05 - Alice & Ed Cotter
- 17 - Bill & Jennifer Combs
- 18 - Danny & Diedre Page
- 25 - Paul & Debbie Swanson
- 25 - Joe & Carol Irvin
- 30 - Mark & Randi Guido



## Vestry Minutes

Because of the late vestry meeting the report was not ready in time for the newsletter this month. It should be back next month.

## School Supply Ingathering August 2

This Sunday we will be completing our Backpack and School Supply Drive for those in need locally and beyond. Please bring in any and all school supplies (binders, backpacks, folders, crayons, etc.) this first Sunday of August. We will bring these items forward during the "Presentation" during both services to be blessed as a part of our Eucharists. They will then be distributed to the South Hall Food Pantry as well as RRISA (a faith-based refugee resettlement ministry supported by our diocese). The bin is already overflowing; LET'S ADD TO IT! And many thanks for your support.

## Lectionary

2  
2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-13; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35;

9  
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

16  
1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58;

23  
1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43; Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69

30  
Song of Solomon 2:8-13; Psalm 45:1-2, 7-10; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

## Sunday Worship

8:00 AM

Holy Eucharist - Rite I

8:45 AM – 9:15 AM

Fellowship

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

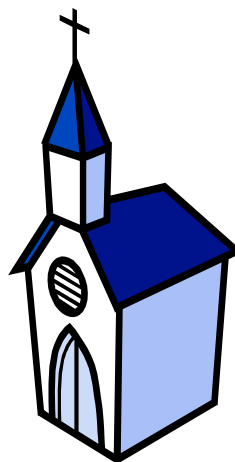
Christian Education

9:15 AM – 12:00

Nursery

10:30 AM

Holy Eucharist - Rite II



## Ch'Angels

July donations totaled \$122.05 and went to South Hall Food Pantry.

August Ch'Angels will go to the Potter's House (Gainesville arm of Atlanta Union Mission).

June Financial Statement							
	Average Attendance	Budgeted Income	Actual Income	Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses	Loan Amortization	Net Income
June	65	\$18,912.67	\$13,902.79	\$20,325.90	\$13,406.41	\$1,752.76	(\$1,256.38)
Year to Day	85.5	\$113,476.00	\$110,251.4	\$104,595.4	\$101,555.32	\$8,702.17	(\$6.02)

**THE 2009 SEWANEE CHURCH MUSIC  
CONFERENCE: Reflectified  
(Carlala's journal excerpts)**

First of all, I am in Episcopaloozaville! It's not possible to spit in any direction without hitting an Episcopal church. How weird it feels to be in the denominational majority—I'm not used to that! Also at this conference, there are more men than women, and in all my music groups, I'm not used to that, either! So many dang Yankees: this I did not expect! *\*grin\**

The conference director is organist and choirmaster for All Saints Chapel at the University of the South. He looks so much like my childhood dentist. I imagine he has a similar set of demands:

"Open your mouth."

"Open wider."

"Stay open."

We have just received music we'll be rehearsing the entire week. We are to sing an Evensong service at All Saints Chapel on Friday evening. We'll be the chapel choir at the Rite II service there this Sunday morning. This is a lot of music! It is difficult! Yikes!

There are 120+ attendees this year. We just sang an Evensong service (Monday night), and what a tsunami of sound! Almost everyone is a choir director and/or organist, and almost all are habitual conference recidivists (haha)! I am remembering what newcomer discomfort feels like (plus my name tag has a glow-in-the-dark smiley face on it, announcing my newbie status, so no bluffing).

*What part do I sing? Do I really have to attend the 7:30 a.m. Eucharist every day? Will I be able to keep up with this schedule? Will I have anything to add? Will I be exposed as a country bumpkin music charlatan? How can I possibly remember to do everything at once I'm supposed to do while singing:*

- *Breathe properly*
- *Be mindful of the text*
- *Blend my voice with the group as a whole—don't stick out*
- *Form vowels correctly and exaggerate the consonants—DICTION, DICTION, DICTION!*
- *Sing the correct notes and rhythms*
- *Phrase the music*
- *Sing with expression*
- *Don't lock my knees and pass out*

*Stay focused on the music*

If you cut me this week, I will BLEED MUSIC! We are either making it, listening to it, or talking about it. Then when we take meals together, we're talking about how to do it better! Tons of

*(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3)

people have given me advice on playing the organ. ("Carla, think of it as a big COLOR machine...") My brain is "looping" the music we've been rehearsing, which can be frustrating when I'm trying to GO TO SLEEP!!!!!! It's a happy problem to have—the music has been a pleasure to spend a week with. So have the people (even the Yankees).

As I wrote in last week's bulletin, I hardly know whom to thank for making my fabulous week at the Sewanee Church Music Conference possible. I return to Oakwood with a cranium BURSTING with musical ideas and inspiration. I am so grateful to my St. Gabe's family for allowing me the time and the means to expand my knowledge of Anglican music and liturgy. (Just remember this when I ask you to do SOMETHING NEW!!!!!!)

Members of the MUSIC READING 101 CLASS will be accompanying the Psalm at the 10:30 Rite II service on Sunday, August 2.

Dear St. Gabriel's Family,

I would like to thank each of you for your prayers, cards, and calls during my mother's final days. Mama knew that we had the care and prayers of you guys and it gave her peace.

It truly is a blessing to have the support of such a loving community.

Jo Tieslau

## Men's Ministry

The Men's Group met on Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at Curt's Restaurant. We had a lively discussion of current events, particularly the Episcopal General Convention 2009. During our business portion it was decided that the rector and the church treasurer will not be obligated to pay dues. Everyone who has not paid 2009 dues are encouraged to do so as we have depleted our treasury with the donations toward the trailer demolition and the music camp for St. Gabriel's choir director. Dues of \$50 annually are suggested. We also discussed the trailer cleanup and the need for assistance by Fran Cruz in her moving. We encourage the church members to remember all of the recycling efforts going on at St. Gabriel's. In addition, our discussion included the clearing project in which we intend to finish removing the dense undergrowth behind the church and our Handyman Ministry. We have agreed to help a church member with some outside chores such as cleaning gutters, moving some heavy objects and some hillside mowing. If you are aware of someone in our church family needing assistance with heavy household chores, please contact a member of our group and it will be discussed for feasibility.

## Sunday Mornings in August

Beginning on August 9<sup>th</sup> and continuing on the 16<sup>th</sup> we will be making some temporary changes to our worship space. The liturgy and music will not be changed from our customary services; we will simply experience our wonderful sanctuary in a different way. We hope that you find this change refreshing and enriching.

## Acolyte Training

On Saturday, August 22 at 10:00 we will be having acolyte training for all children third grade and up. Whether you are new to this or are an "old hand" be sure to join us for this important meeting. After we meet we will make the short journey to Dairy Queen for a fun lunch!

**Next meeting is August 15th  
At Curt's at 7:15  
All men of St. Gabriel's  
are welcome to join in.**

# August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00
2 8:00 AM Rite I 9 - 12 Nursery 9:15 Adult Ed. 10:30 AM Rite II	3 Food Pantry 4:00—6:00 Girl Scouts 6:30	4 Quilting Ministry 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	5 Choir WorkSession 6:30 until	6 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00	7	8 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00
9 8:00 AM Rite I 9 - 12 Nursery 9:15 Adult Ed. 10:30 AM Rite II	10 <b>School Starts</b> Food Pantry 4:00—6:00	11 Quilting Ministry 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	12 Choir Practice 7:00—8:30 PM	13 Book Club 10:00 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00	14	15 Men's Ministry 7:15 At Curt's Food Pantry 10:00—12:00
16 8:00 AM Rite I 9 - 12 Nursery 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Rite II	17 Food Pantry 4:00—6:00	18 Quilting Ministry 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Vestry 7:00 PM	19 Choir WorkSession 6:30 until	20 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00	21	22 Acolyte Training 10:00 AM Food Pantry 10:00—12:00
23 8:00 AM Rite I 9 - 12 Nursery 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Rite II	24 Food Pantry 4:00—6:00	25 Quilting Ministry 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	26 Choir WorkSession 6:30 until	27 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00	28	29 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00
30 8:00 AM Rite I 9 - 12 Nursery 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Rite II	31 Food Pantry 4:00—6:00					

# Those Who Serve

8:00 AM	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
OT	Mark Guido	Sandy Kiddie	Ed Wood	Edith Collins	Pam Keene
NT	Randi Guido	Bob Milledge	Wink Porterfield	Mark Guido	Sandy Kiddie
Prayers	Pam Keene	Ellie K/Jan Madajewski	Anne Porterfield	Bill Caiaccio	Randi Guido
Chalice	Paul Swanson	Edith Collins	Jan Madajewski	Wink Porterfield	Paul Swanson
Usher/Greeter	Ed & Pat Wood	P & D Swanson	M & R Guido	P & P Brown	B & C Caiaccio
Refreshments	The Ashs	The Guidos	Edith Collins	Jackie Richards	The Caiccaos

## 10:30 AM

OT	Beth Holmes	Grace Lutumba	Noble Shaw	Kim Bennett	Olivia Erbele
NT	Chris Kern	Zach Newton	Jim Waller	Trudy Buggeln	Beth Holmes
Prayers	Rich LeMay	Joni Payne	Laura Ward	Nenion Conley	Mimi Cundiff
Crucifer	Summer Schedule	Summer Schedule	Summer Schedule	Summer Schedule	Summer Schedule
Choir	Not used during the summer.				
Lectern					
Children's Chapel	Not used during the summer.			TBA	TBA
Chalice (2)	Jean Pugh Cheryl Rothschild	Noble Shaw Jim Waller	Bob Condon Jean Pugh	Cheryl Rothschild Noble Shaw	Jim Waller Bob Condon
Oblations	Cundiff Family	Holmes Family	LeMay Family	Lutumba Family	Cundiff Family
Ushers (2)	B & D Condon	G & J Pugh	D & B Holmes	Z & BJ Newton	B & D Condon
Greeters (2)	K & C Flack	B & D Condon	S & J Brown	D & B Holmes	G & J Pugh
Verger	Jim Waller	Trudy Buggeln	Noble Shaw	Jim Waller	Trudy Buggeln
Refreshments	Jim & Jean Waller	The Pughs	Rene Duncan	The Wards	The Condons

## Both Services

Vestry Person	Paul Swanson	Kim Bennett	Wink Porterfield	Kevin Flack	Jana Brown
Altar Guild	Team 4: P Wood, J Tieslau, K&R Bennett	Team 1: A&W Porterfield, J Waller, C Flack	Team 2: J&D Madajewski, M Cundiff, L Ward	Team 3: L Free- man, C Ash, B Conley, T Buggeln	Team 4: P Wood, J Tieslau, K&RM Bennett
Flowers	Jim & Jean Waller	Open	The Combs	The Thompsons	Mark & Randi Guido
Flower Guild	Jo Tieslau	Jan Waller	Callie Flack	Margie Robins	Margie Robins
Holy Mowers	S & W Brown	Condon & Conley	Flack & Porterfield	Lutumba & Robins	J & J Guido
Mow by	August 8th	August 15th	August 22nd	August 29th	September 5th
Sacred Sweepers	Payne & Duncan	Irvin & Duvall	G & J Lutumba	A & W Porterfield	D & P Swanson
Clean by	August 8th	August 15th	August 22nd	August 29th	September 5th

## Trailer Demolition

The trailer is gone! After much work on most of the July Saturdays the trailer demolition is complete. In the course of the dismantling we discovered exactly how bad the trailer's condition truly was (there evidently had been a fire in the past): it was good to remove it before anyone was seriously injured. The good news is that much of the aluminum siding and trim, and steel supports were salvaged for recycling. The bad news is that Gabbie's supply of mice and other assorted rodents are no longer in one place! Many thanks to Kevin Flack and Dan Strott for their great care and dedication in dismantling this building as safely as possible. Thanks also to Jim Ash, Esther Atkinson, Syd and William Brown, Hal Collier, Bill Combs, Bob Condon, Barbara and Nenion Conley, Mimi Cundiff, Kevin and Callie Flack, Michael and Lyra Griffith, Dee Milledge, Anne Porterfield, Jean Pugh, Roger (friend of Jim Ash), Cheryl Rothschild, Noble Shaw, Dan Strott and Jean Waller for their work on the demolition and for providing lunch and refreshments on the work days.

## Book Club

We will discuss "Pillars of the Earth" by Ken Follet on Thursday, August 13 at 10:00 am. Anyone is welcome to join at any time. Even if you haven't read the book - come see what lively discussions we have.

## Vacation Bible School

This year's VBS was held at Christ Lutheran Church the last week of July. The St. Gabriel's kids joined about thirty others and had a great time. Many thanks to Diedre Page as our St. Gabriel's coordinator, and we are most appreciative to all the parents and kids (both from St. Gabe's and Christ Lutheran) who helped to make this a fun time.

The deadline for the September newsletter will be August 26th.

## General Convention 2009

*The following are the General Convention resolutions passed on the ordination of homosexual individuals and the blessings of same-sex unions. The first is in response to a moratorium passed in 2006 on the ordination to the episcopate of "any candidate whose manner of life presents a challenge to the wider church and will lead to further strains on communion."*

<i>Resolution:</i>	<b>D025</b>
<i>Title:</i>	<b>Commitment and Witness to Anglican Communion</b>
<i>Topic:</i>	<b>Anglican Communion</b>
<i>Committee:</i>	<b>08 - World Mission</b>
<i>House of Initial Action:</i>	<b>Deputies</b>
<i>Proposer:</i>	<b>Ms. D. Rebecca Snow</b>

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 76th General Convention reaffirm the continued participation of The Episcopal Church as a constituent member of the Anglican Communion; give thanks for the work of the bishops at the Lambeth Conference of 2008; reaffirm the abiding commitment of The Episcopal Church to the fellowship of churches that constitute the Anglican

*(Continued from page 7)*

Communion and seek to live into the highest degree of communion possible; and be it further  
*Resolved*, That the 76th General Convention encourage dioceses, congregations, and members of The Episcopal Church to participate to the fullest extent possible in the many instruments, networks and relationships of the Anglican Communion; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the 76th General Convention reaffirm its financial commitment to the Anglican Communion and pledge to participate fully in the Inter-Anglican Budget; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the 76th General Convention affirm the value of "listening to the experience of homosexual persons," as called for by the Lambeth Conferences of 1978, 1988, and 1998, and acknowledge that through our own listening the General Convention has come to recognize that the baptized membership of The Episcopal Church includes same-sex couples living in lifelong committed relationships "characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication, and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God" (2000-D039); and be it further

*Resolved*, That the 76th General Convention recognize that gay and lesbian persons who are part of such relationships have responded to God's call and have exercised various ministries in and on behalf of God's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and are currently doing so in our midst; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the 76th General Convention affirm that God has called and may call such individuals, to any ordained ministry in The Episcopal Church, and that God's call to the ordained ministry in The Episcopal Church is a mystery which the Church attempts to discern for all people through our discernment processes acting in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the 76th General Convention acknowledge that members of The Episcopal Church as of the Anglican Communion, based on careful study of the Holy Scriptures, and in light of tradition and reason, are not of one mind, and Christians of good conscience disagree about some of these matters.

<i>Resolution:</i>	<b>C056</b>
<i>Title:</i>	<b>Liturgies for Blessings</b>
<i>Topic:</i>	<b>Liturgy</b>
<i>Committee:</i>	<b>13 - Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music</b>
<i>House of Initial Action:</i>	<b>Bishops</b>
<i>Proposer:</i>	<b>Diocese of Missouri</b>

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 76th General Convention acknowledge the changing circumstances in the United States and in other nations, as legislation authorizing or forbidding marriage, civil unions or domestic partnerships for gay and lesbian persons is passed in various civil jurisdictions that call forth a renewed pastoral response from this Church, and for an open process for the consideration of theological and liturgical resources for the blessing of same gender relationships; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, in consultation with the House of Bishops, collect and develop theological and liturgical resources, and report to the 77th General Convention; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music, in consultation with the House of Bishops, devise an open process for the conduct of its work inviting participation from provinces, dioceses, congregations, and individuals who are engaged in such theological work, and inviting theological reflection from throughout the Anglican Communion; and be it further

*Resolved*, That bishops, particularly those in dioceses within civil jurisdictions where same-gender

*(Continued on page 9)*

marriage, civil unions, or domestic partnerships are legal, may provide generous pastoral response to meet the needs of members of this Church; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Convention honor the theological diversity of this Church in regard to matters of human sexuality; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the members of this Church be encouraged to engage in this effort.

*The following is Bishop Alexander's letter to the clergy of the diocese on the General Convention*

## The Office of the Bishop

**July 15, 2009**

Sister and brothers in Christ Jesus:

Grace to you and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord!

It is late Wednesday night in Anaheim. We have completed eight of the ten legislative days of the 76th General Convention. I thought I would take the opportunity of a lighter-than-usual evening schedule to write to you and highlight a few matters. If it seems necessary, I will prepare a second communication to you at the end of Convention.

First, let me say that your deputation and bishops have worked faithfully through the Convention. We have two legislative committee chairs among us as well as a number of appointments to major committees of the Convention. Our other deputies have tracked legislation, sought and shared voluminous amounts of information, and have contributed significantly to the work before us. The Diocese of Atlanta is "in the thick of things" at The General Convention!

Secondly, let me share some of the highlights. I share these from my perspective only. Bishop Whitmore and the lay and clergy deputies may see some of this from a slightly different vantage point.

Ecumenical and Interfaith -- There have been several important events on this front. The Convention has approved a full-communion agreement with the Moravian Church in America. The Convention has also moved forward our growing ecumenical relationships with the Presbyterian Church and opened the way to further bilateral dialogues. Another significant development is a major position paper on our church's participation and essential witness in interreligious conversations which passed both houses late today.

Church Pension - As you know, the Convention considered a new lay pension plan and a new mandatory denominational health plan. The provisions of these two plans have been well publicized in anticipation of Convention and mammoth amounts of research and background materials have been given to clergy and parishes over the last couple of years. After lengthy conversations, both houses of the Convention passed both measures by near-unanimous votes. In the Diocese of Atlanta, the vast majority of our parishes and the diocese itself is already with Medical Trust, an affiliate of the Pension Fund. The principal thing that we will feel in the Diocese of Atlanta is that our costs should go down measurably. While there are many details to be worked out, before we came out for Convention we began conversations with Medical Trust in the hopes that the Diocese of Atlanta can begin its phase-in of the plans near the beginning of the three-year phase-in period. The sooner we're in the new program, the sooner we will be able to accrue savings and redirect funds to other ministries both at the parish and diocesan level.

Human sexuality - Several dozen resolutions on some aspect of human sexuality were submitted to the Convention by dioceses, parishes, and individuals across the church. The Convention, working through its legislative committees on World Mission and Prayer Book and Liturgy, combined most of these resolutions into two.

The first of these -- Resolution D-025 -- has been widely reported in the press. The press coverage has essentially said that the Episcopal Church has approved the ordination of gay and lesbian persons. Well, no, this Convention took no such action. What this resolution did was simply to reaffirm our own Canons. Back in 1994, the General Convention created a Canon that opened access to the ordination processes of the church -- for all holy orders -- to all baptized persons. This has been our canonical position for fifteen years and it is consistent with the baptismal theology of the Book of Common Prayer. Discernment for holy orders is serious business and should be. In the Episcopal Church we take such discernment with the utmost of seriousness. There is no "right" to ordination for anyone. Our Canons are clear that all baptized persons are to have access to discernment processes. Whether any persons actually gets ordained is a much more complicated set of questions. To summarize: the principal thing this resolution does is simply to affirm that when our church makes decisions on who can and cannot be ordained, we will discern those decisions in accordance with our Canons. The Canons on these matters have not changed since 1994.

Some will ask, does this ignore the request of the Windsor Report for a moratorium on the election and consent to gay or lesbian partnered priests to the episcopate? Some would say so; I don't think so. I don't find the moratorium concept at all helpful, but unless and until a diocese of the church elects a gay partnered person to the episcopate, and the church gives its consent, there is, practically speaking, a moratorium in effect. And again, the only thing this Convention has said is that when any such decision comes before the church, the decision will be made according to our own Canons. The Convention simply clarified that "state of the question" to those who have been asking. The Convention changed nothing.

A very positive dimension of the resolution was its very strong affirmation of our desire as a church to participate fully in the mission and ministry of the Anglican Communion at every level of the church's life. (On this matter, we are very much ahead of the curve in the Diocese of Atlanta with official partnerships in Ecuador, Brazil, and Tanzania, and less formal but no less important relationships in Honduras, Haiti, Guatemala, and other places.) We also commit ourselves to full financial support of the Anglican Communion. We provide a disproportionately large percentage of the Communion budget and we have committed ourselves to continuing to do so. Let no one question our commitment to the Anglican Communion!

A second resolution - C-056 - is the Convention's response to a large group of resolutions, mostly from dioceses, concerning same sex blessings and gay marriage. At the heart of the resolution are the difficult pastoral needs particularly in those states in which some form of gay marriage or civil unions is the law of the land. There is also the felt need, by many in the church, to work more carefully through the theological and liturgical issues related to the church's pastoral and liturgical response to our members who are living in committed, same-sex relationships. I believe the Convention is looking at this in a creative way. First, we name the "tension" between those parts of the church in which gay unions or marriage is provided for by law and those parts of the church that serve in civil jurisdictions where no legal provisions pertain. Recognizing that tension is important. Secondly, the resolution asks for more theological and liturgical work to be done on the matter and the results of that work be brought to the 2012 Convention. It is impossible to tell at this point what sort of form that work will take. This provision strengthens the resolution, in my judgment, because as a liturgical and sacra-

mental church it is essential to do theological and liturgical work hand-in-hand, and not as separate endeavors. Thirdly, this resolution invites the Anglican Communion to join us in this theological and liturgical exploration. I am confident that this invitation for collaboration will be welcomed by a number of provinces in the Communion. C-056 passed the House of Bishops late in the day on Wednesday and is expected to reach the floor of the House of Deputies on Thursday.

The obvious question is: does this mean the General Convention has "approved" rites for same-sex unions or gay marriage? The answer to that is "no." What the Convention did was to pave the way for more extensive theological and liturgical work to be done in the upcoming triennium. The next Convention will receive a report that will be both theological and liturgical in scope and will almost certainly contain some "model rites" for the church to consider. The 2012 Convention will have to decide whether to proceed further and, if so, in what manner.

With respect to the Anglican Covenant, the House of Deputies has approved a resolution that commits the Episcopal Church to continued participation in the covenant process that grew out of the Windsor Report. It will come before the House of Bishops on Thursday and will almost surely get the bishops' full support.

A major revision of Lesser Feasts and Fasts to be called Holy Women, Holy Men is also winding its way through the legislative process. The Bishops have approved a resolution for a feasibility study for a new hymnal. . .and on and on and on . . . with two days to go!

We're tired and getting weary, but this Convention has done good work -- and in many cases -- very good work. It is very clear to anyone here that our church is strong and vital and about the work of God's mission!

To God be the glory!

Faithfully,

*J. Neil Alexander*

The Right Reverend J. Neil Alexander  
Bishop of Atlanta

#### Altar Flowers

When signing up for a designated Sunday on the Altar flowers sign up sheet, please take a minute to take one of the envelopes in the container hanging beside the sign up sheet to fill out the envelope and place the envelope in Darlene's basket outside her office door. This will let Darlene know what the flowers are for. Also the information is placed in the bulletin each Sunday, and it will help me in correctly wording this information.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Darlene Knowlton  
Parish Administrator



STAFF  
 Rector – the Rev. William Combs  
 Deacon – Sue Huff  
 Parish Administrator – Darlene Knowlton  
 Music Director – Carla Strott  
 Treasurer – Greg Bandy  
 Newsletter Editor – Sheena Lawrence

2009 VESTRY  
 Kevin Flack – Senior Warden, Building and Grounds  
 Wink Porterfield – Junior Warden, Stewardship  
 Noble Shaw – Parish Care  
 David Holmes – Congregational Development  
 Jana Brown – Worship  
 Jana Bennett – Outreach  
 Diedre Page – Christian Education  
 Cheryl Rothschild – Finance  
 Paul Swanson – Communication

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