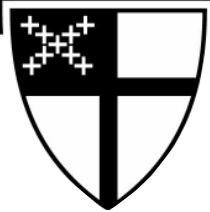


*"We are a vibrant, welcoming, and growing community of faith,
feeding the hearts, minds, and spirits of all who come."*

St. Gabriel's HERALD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. GABRIEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Volume 9 Issue 12 December 2009



Gliding

(Several folks have asked for a copy of the reflection on Advent Lessons and Carols Sunday.

Here it is as this month's newsletter article. I hope it captures this season of Advent.

The readings were Genesis 1:1-28a, Gen. 3:1-21, Isaiah 40:1-11, Isa. 65:17-25, Luke 1:26-38)

They call it "nesting." This is the preparation that soon-to-be parents undertake in anticipation of a new life coming into their midst. Now Jennifer and I certainly did our share of nesting-like fussing. We had about 5 different swatches of blue on the nursery wall. We researched cribs and changing tables. We wrestled with the eternal question: contemporary Winnie the Pooh, or vintage Pooh? All of the furniture fussing and fabric fretting was for the new life coming into our little universe. Each item and detail was for the coming child. All, that is, with the exception of one piece of furniture: the glider. Now the only gliders that I had ever heard of before were the ones that fly in the heavens. But these gliders are rocking chairs that move completely on a horizontal plane. And they are wonderful things. Perhaps most significantly the glider was for us, to be our comfortable place to try to calm a crying and fussing little one. One of my favorite memories of that nesting season was sitting in that glider B.E. (before Emily) and just moving back and forth, humming to myself, "Hush little baby, don't say a word...". This was also the time of the earliest stirrings of my sense of call that eventually would lead me out of oral and maxillofacial surgery into something new (although I had NO idea of what that might look like). I loved sitting in that glider in that room of potentiality, looking at the promise implied in crib and sky-blue paint and hand-painted clouds and hot-air balloons. That glider was my vehicle in that place and time where what-might-be intersects with what-is.

Our readings for this first Sunday of Advent – these beautiful passages on this Lessons and Carols occasion – are bits and pieces of nesting scripture. The music we have sung are the tunes that we hum to ourselves. The authors of Genesis, the prophets, the evangelist Luke sit in their gliders and ask, "What if? What might it be like for new life to come?" Genesis slides back and forth through the rhythm of creation, imagining what it might be like to be made in the image of God, imagining the possibility inherent in such a gift. Genesis also glides through the despair of having fallen, of separation, of loss, imagining if something new might ever come again. Isaiah sits in the faint light of dawn, humming to himself and anyone else who might overhear him that tune of God's promise, "Comfort, comfort, ye my people..." that is comfort. Isaiah asks us to imagine what it means to be created anew as God's joy. And Luke describes Mary – the patron saint of nesters – imagining what it might mean to carry God deep within, and having that presence grow into new life. Advent. Nesting. Gliders.

You know, Jennifer and I still have that glider. It is in our bedroom. Don't know why. When Emily and Sam were too old for nursery furniture, we just kept it. It is on my side of the room, functioning in the same capacity as it would if it were a treadmill or an exercise bicycle: the glider is covered with clothes and books, buried beneath my busyness. Has been for a while. These Advent voices – Isaiah and Genesis, Luke and Mary – they call us to find the glider. They call us to clear away the busyness. These Advent voices say, "Find your place. Glide. Imagine. Sit in this season of potentiality. Imagine: 'What if...? What if the Word were to be made flesh? Where in my little universe do I grow incarnation? How do I carry God deep within? How does what-might-be intersect with what-is?'"

It is Advent. Glide. Imagine. Find new life.

Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 04 - Rachel Bandy | 21 - Bob Skidmore |
| 05 - Jeffrey Burgess | 24 - Jana Brown |
| 06 - Erin Lutumba | 25 - Laura Ward |
| 07 - Debbie Swanson | 25 - Glenn Pugh |
| 08 - Heather Brown | 27 - Hal Collier |
| 08 - Bob Condon | 27 - Ethan LeMay |
| 08 - Steve Teachout | 30 - Marian Erbele |
| 12 - David Holmes | |
| 12 - Paul Swanson | |
| 13 - Barbara Northington | |
| 15 - Christopher Ward | |
| 16 - Jeffrey Guido | |



Lectionary

6 Second Sunday of Advent
Baruch 5:1-9; Canticle 4;
Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

13 Third Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 3:14-20; Canticle 9;
Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

20 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Micah 5:2-5a; Canticle 3;
Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

27 First Sunday after Christmas
Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Galatians 3:23-25;4:4-7;
John 1:1-18; Psalm 147

Anniversaries

- 16 - Hal & Anne Collier
- 16 - Esther & Frank Atkinson
- 18 - Dan & Carla Strott
- 29 - Wink & Anne Porterfield
- 29 - Don & Mary Ann Koon
- 30 - Bob & Dee Milledge



Sunday Worship

8:00 AM

Holy Eucharist - Rite I

8:45 AM – 9:15 AM

Fellowship

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

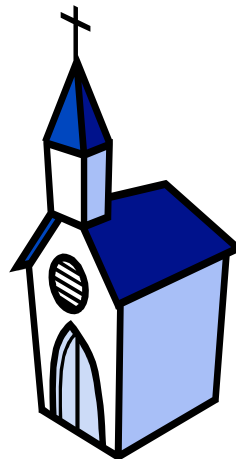
Christian Education

9:15 AM – 12:00

Nursery

10:30 AM

Holy Eucharist - Rite II



Vestry Report

November 17, 2009

Present: Kevin Flack, Diedre Page, Jana Brown, Wink Porterfield, David Holmes, Noble Shaw. Also present was the Rev. Bill Combs, Rector; Greg Bandy, Treasurer; and Darlene Knowlton, Vestry Clerk.

The meeting was called to order by Bill Combs at 7:00 p.m. with evening prayer and scripture.

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

Meeting Minutes: The minutes from the October 20th meeting were read. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes for the October meeting, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Greg stated that
· \$4,000 Special Gifts primarily is from the Fall Festival

Ch'Angels

November collections went to Care For Our Troops and was \$173.76.

December collections will be used for Christmas for St. Gabriel's to use.

October Financial Statement							
	Average Attendance	Budgeted Income	Actual Income	Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses	Loan Amortization	Net Income
October	81	\$18,912.67	\$19,550.05	\$13,707.19	\$16,525.30	\$1,777.72	\$1,247.03
Year to Day		\$189,126.67	\$181,055.26	\$169,357.06	\$184,097.16	\$15,775.51	\$ -18,817.41

(Continued from page 2)

- Slightly ahead of budget on income due to Fall Festival proceeds
- Approximately \$2,700 over budget on expenses
 - à Caused by benefits
 - Clergy Pension Payment factored into the budget monthly rather than quarterly
- YTD approximately \$8,000 behind on overall income
 - à Primarily plate collection down
 - à Expenses down because of earlier double payment to the Dioceses
 - \$6,000 will show in December report
- Weekly offering is running about what was budgeted
- Designated Gift Other the \$3,400 is the Fall Festival
 - à Will go into Operating Fund
 - Approximately \$200 will go into Quilt Ministry Account from the Quilt Raffle
- Bank Balance is back up
- \$1,000 was previously moved out of the Operating Savings Account to avoid a possible overdraft situation in September
 - à \$1,000 has been moved back into the Operating Savings Account in November
- Reviewed the RDF Account
 - à Moved approximately \$2,000 into the RDF Fund

It was questioned as to if the pension statement comes in quarterly and not monthly. It was stated that it does come in quarterly. Planning for the 2010 budget it should be adjusted to quarterly and not monthly.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Variance Report for audit. The motion was approved.

Stewardship Update

- Letters will be sent out next week
- Oblations Sunday on December 6th
 - o Moving part of service
 - o Become tradition
 - à Pledge cards returned on Oblations Sunday

Budget 2010

- Stewardship campaign results
 - o Results of campaign
 - o Expenses for next year
 - Probably will not change
 - Benefits
- Don't make a designated gift until pledge is met

OLD BUSINESS

- Vestry nominating committee
 - o Vestry nominations process to be same as last year
 - 3 Vestry members rotating off to be on nominating committee
 - 3 nominating committee members not presently on Vestry
 - Nominating Committee Members
 - o Olivia Erbele – not on Vestry
 - o Bob Milledge – not on Vestry
 - o Jean Pugh – not on Vestry
 - o Kevin Flack – rotating off
 - o Wink Porterfield—rotating off Vestry

(Continued on page 7)

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Christmas Eve Services and Times

Family Service – Holy Eucharist	5:00 pm
Carols By Candlelight	10:00 pm
Festive Christmas Mass – Holy Eucharist	10:30 pm

Oblation Sunday December 6th

Our Stewardship at St. Gabriel's is not just financial. Whether we realize it or not each and every person who comes through our doors contributes to our lives. In ways large and small our stewardship includes the gifts of our time and our abilities. As we did last year we would like to celebrate this stewardship with an Oblations Sunday ("oblation" means offering). During both the 8:00 and 10:30 services on December 6th the members of the congregation will be invited to bring forward an outward and visible sign of how you participate in the life of St. Gabriel's. It may be floral oasis, a hymnal, a rake, a sewing bobbin, a casserole dish, or a crayon. If your time here is limited to Sunday morning worship it may be a copy of the Book of Common Prayer! Whatever that symbol might be, all are invited to bring these items forward to be blessed during our Eucharistic Prayer. After all have received communion you will be invited to come forward again and retrieve your "oblation" to be taken back into your lives, blessed and made holy, just as your various gifts make St. Gabriel's blessed and holy.

Poinsettias For Christmas



Once again we will be decorating our church on Christmas with beautiful poinsettias. You may donate one or more of these plants in honor of an important person in your life, or in memory of a loved one who has gone before us. Order forms are located in the back of the nave and in the Parish Hall. Please be sure to get your orders in by December 17, 2009.



St. Gabriel's Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting is quickly approaching. On Sunday, December 6th, a meal of heavy hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will begin at 6:00. The meeting itself will begin promptly at 7:00. At this meeting we will be electing new vestry members, hearing about the events of this past year, and gathering into small groups to discuss what lies ahead for St. Gabriel's 2010, and in the years to come. Please make every effort to be at this important meeting.

Pledge In-Gathering

Because of the economic strain on so many in our congregation, and the incredible ability of these same folks to continue to meet their pledge obligations for 2009, our stewardship team has been "intentionally understated" with our pledge campaign this year. We all are aware of how tight our budget is, and what is needed from each and every one of us to keep St. Gabriel's strong and healthy (albeit on a slim diet!). But we do need to receive pledge cards at the earliest convenience. Please try to get your pledge card in by December 6th, so that our figures at the annual meeting reflect our financial situation for the upcoming year as accurately as possible.

Daughters of the King

DOK Christmas Covered-Dish Dinner: All Daughters of the King are invited to the annual Christmas dinner on December 7th at 6:30. The meal will be held in the home of Margie and Ray Robbins. Deanne Condon and Renee Duncan will be getting in touch with you with more details. For directions call 770-965-0067.

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Quilting Ministry 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Centering Prayer 6:00—7:00 PM	2 Journey to Adulthood 7:00—8:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00—8:30 PM	3 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 staffed by CLC	4 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 staffed by OUMC	5 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 staffed by OUMC
6 8:00 AM Rite I 9 - 12 Nursery 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Rite II 6 PM Hors d'oeuvres 7 PM Parish Meeting	7 Food Pantry 3:00—5:00 staffed by Springs DOK Dinner 6:30 PM	8 Quilting Ministry 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Centering Prayer 6:00—7:00 PM	9 Journey to Adulthood 7:00—8:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00—8:30 PM	10 Book Club 10:00 AM Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 staffed by CLC	11 Quiet Day—Labyrinth Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 staffed by Springs	12 9 AM—Noon Quiet Day—Labyrinth Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 staffed by Springs
13 8:00 AM Rite I 9 - 12 Nursery 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Rite II	14 Food Pantry 3:00—5:00 staffed by St Gabe Girl Scouts 7:00 PM	15 Quilting Ministry 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Centering Prayer 6:00—7:00 PM Vestry 7:00PM	16 Journey to Adulthood 7:00—8:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00—8:30 PM	17 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 staffed by CLC	18 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 staffed by St Gabe	19 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 staffed by St Gabe
20 8:00 AM Rite I 9 - 12 Nursery 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Rite II	21 Food Pantry 3:00—5:00 staffed by OUMC	22 Quilting Ministry 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Centering Prayer 6:00—7:00 PM	23 Choir Practice 7:00—8:30 PM	24 Family Service 5:00 PM Carols 10:00 pm Mass 10:30 PM	25 Christmas Office Closed	26 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 staffed by Lanier
27 8:00 AM Rite I 9 - 12 Nursery 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Rite II	28 Food Pantry 3:00—5:00 staffed by OUMC	29	30	31 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 staffed by CLC		

Those Who Serve

8:00 AM	December 6	December 13	December 20	December 27
OT	Ed Wood	Mark Guido	Sandy Kiddie	Anne Porterfield
NT	Bill Caiaccio	Randi Guido	Jan Madajewski	Wink Porterfield
Prayers	Edith Collins	Pam Keene	Bob Milledge	Ed Wood
Chalice	Wink Porterfield	Paul Swanson	Edith Collins	Jan Madajewski
Usher/Greeter	M & R Guido	D & J Madajewski	R & M Robins	P & D Swanson
Refreshments	The Guidos			

10:30 AM

OT	Joni Payne	Kim Bennett	Trudy Buggeln	Chris Kern
NT	Noble Shaw	Ruth Thompson	Kelley Ceccato	Mimi Cundiff
Prayers	Olivia Skey	Laura Ward	Nenion Conley	Beth Holmes
Crucifer	Maryann Bandy	Erin Lutumba	TBA	Erin Lutumba
Choir	Emily Combs	Nicholas LeMay	Trip LeMay	Patsheko Lutumba
Lectern	Rachel Bandy	Patsheko Lutumba	Emily Combs	Sam Combs
Children's Chapel	Erin Lutumba	Jana Brown	No Children's Chapel	No Children's Chapel
Chalice (2)	Bob Condon, Jean Pugh	Jackie Richards, Cheryl Rothschild	Noble Shaw, Bob Condon	Jean Pugh, Jackie Richards
Oblations	LeMay Family	Lutumba Family	Cundiff Family	Holmes Family
Ushers (2)	D & B Holmes	G & J Pugh	B & D Condon	D & R Duncan
Greeters (2)	J & G Pugh	B & D Condon	K & C Flack	D & B Holmes
Verger	Noble Shaw	Trudy Buggeln	Noble Shaw	Trudy Buggeln
Refreshments	Grace Lutumba			

Both Services

Vestry Person	Paul Swanson	Kim Bennett	Wink Porterfield	Kevin Flack
Altar Guild	Team 2: J & D Madajewski, M Cundiff, L Ward	Team 3: L Freeman, C Ash, B Conley, T Buggeln	Team 4: P Wood, J Tieslau, K Bennett, R Bennett	Team 1: A & W Porterfield, J Waller, C Flack
Flowers	L & M Ward	M & R Guido	Thompsons	Madajewskis
Flower Guild	Jo Tieslau	Jan Waller	Callie Flack	Margie Robins
Holy Mowers	Off	Off	Off	Off
Mow by	Fall Schedule	Fall Schedule	Fall Schedule	Fall Schedule
Sacred Sweepers	J&C Irvin/ J Duvall	G & J Lutumba	A & W Porterfield	D & P Swanson
Clean by	December 12th	December 19th	December 26th	January 2nd

(Continued from page 3)

- o Kim Bennett – rotating off Vestry
- o Qualifications to serve on Vestry were discussed
- o Two individuals have agreed to run
- o 3 nominees with highest votes at the election will serve on the Vestry
- o All others will be alternates
- o The short term position created last year when Greg Bandy moved into the Treasurer’s position will be discussed at the Vestry Retreat
- Bishop Whitmor’s visit
 - o Let know if anything pressing
 - o Vestry will meet with him at lunch
- New baptismal font by Anne Threadgill
 - o Bishop Whitmore excited about dedication of the new font basin
- Parish Clean Up Day
 - o Need someone to lead inside clean up
 - o Kevin will lead outside clean up
 - o Deanne Condon will work on bulletin boards
- There will not be a children’s Sunday School on November 29th
- A blast to be sent about Combined Service on November 29th as a reminder
- Annual Parish Meeting on December 6th
 - o Committee Reports need to be turned in
 - o To be done during meeting
 - Vestry elections
 - Financial Report
 - State Of Union Of Things
- Wedding
 - o Tent will be up in the parking lot for one week
 - o Table and chairs will be delivered
- Jean Pugh is heading the Creation Keeper Project – Deferred her presentation to next month

The meeting closed with prayer, and Bill adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Knowlton
Vestry Clerk

Angel Tree

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Our Angel Trees are decorated with cards listing needs for the less fortunate in our community. [Legacy Link tells us they must have gifts for their clients on December 9th](#), so we’re giving

you some extra time to shop.

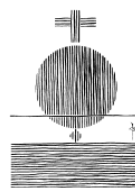
The tree on the left end of the table in the Parish Hall has cards for Legacy Link **ONLY**. The tree on the right has cards for the nursing home residents who have no families and CASA children. These gifts need to be back by December 17th. Directions and sign up sheets are between the trees.

Thank you for your generosity to those who otherwise might have nothing. If you have any questions call Dee Milledge 770-967-2102

Northeast Georgia Convocation Pilgrimage Tour of Northern Ireland, Scotland, and England

The Northeast GA convocation of Episcopal churches (the 14 Episcopal churches in this region) is sponsoring a pilgrimage trip for any members interested in visiting many holy sites in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and England. The trip is planned to run 12 days, 10 nights, from May 27 through June 7. Details are in brochures located in the Parish Hall.

Advent Quiet Morning: Saturday, December 12, 9:00-Noon.



Take time from your busy and at times hectic holiday lives. Walk the labyrinth. Pray with icons and rosaries. Recharge your spirit. Remind yourself of who you are and whose you are. Find an island of peace.



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 Fax: 770-503-1814
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 Visit us online at www.saintgabrieis.org

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

STAFF

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

