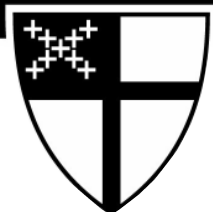


"We are a vibrant, welcoming, and growing community of faith,
feeding the hearts, minds, and spirits of all who come."

St. Gabriel's HERALD

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. GABRIEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Volume 10 Issue 1 January 2010



A Home for Hope

Early in December at the Annual Meeting we were asked to discuss three questions related to our life here at St. Gabriel's. To the last question ("What is your dream for 2010") a parishioner responded with one word: hope.

Emily Dickinson famously wrote, "Hope is the thing with feathers." This metaphor of hope as a bird seems to be so true. Hope is beautiful. Hope soars. Hope can be resplendent in a breathtaking array of colors. Hope can also seem to be migratory; it can seem to depart as quickly as it arrives. We may experience hope as "flighty."

Perhaps it is better to quote Dame Emily a bit more fully, for the full first stanza of her poem is, "Hope is the thing with feathers – that perches in the soul – and sings the tune without the words – and never stops at all." The fullness of these words captures more clearly the reality of hope. Hope is not something outside of us, but rather a gift from God within us. Hope perches in the very center of our being, singing the tune of our most intimate relationship with God that transcends all words. We have hope because we have a God who is love. As God is never away from us we need never be without hope. Christopher Bryant, a 20th century Anglican monk, suggests that hope is what drives our very being: "If we are right in seeing the perfection of man not as something from which we have fallen in primeval times but as something to be striven for, a goal to be achieved in the future, then hope rather than self-blame or sorrow for sin is all the more plainly the primary incentive in the human journey." Hope is God's song drawing us ever closer to the image of God we were created to be.

To dream of hope – as at least one parishioner puts it – is to dream of God, and God's will for us made manifest. Our vestry will be meeting later this month to plan for 2010. Regardless of the details of that strategic plan what we all should strive for is to make that dream palpable, where St. Gabriel's continues to grow as a place where all are invited and enabled to grow in the likeness of Christ. Perhaps more than anything else what we might strive to create for ourselves and others in this upcoming year is a sacred space for plumage. God only knows how many feathers are stripped by the harsh winds of our current world. The challenge for us is to be that place where all may learn to take up their faith and wear it in fiery feathery splendor. With such plumage of hope we can surely fly.

Birthdays

03 Dale Thompson	19 JoAnn Taylor
04 Nathan Head	20 Kelly Cowart
05 Tim Tieslau	23 Johnny Bridges
07 Ron Petrey	23 Ray Robins
09 Katie Baker	26 Billie Manterfield
10 Mimi Cundiff	27 Jo Tieslau
11 Christiana Ward	28 Joan Cunningham
12 Robbie Estes	28 Sandy Kiddie
13 Alan Cowart	28 Pat Wood
13 Syd Brown	
13 Olivia Erbele Skey	
15 Matt Ceccato	



Lectionary

3 Second Sunday after Christmas
Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 84;
Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a; Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

10 First Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29;
Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

17 Second Sunday after the Epiphany
Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10;
1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

24 Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21

31 Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Anniversaries

None



Vestry Report

December 15, 2009

PRESENT: Cheryl Rothschild, Wink Porterfield, Kevin Flack, Paul Swanson, Jana Brown, Noble Shaw, and 2010 Vestry members: Louise Freeman, and Dennis Duncan. Also present: 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 November 17th meeting were read. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes for the November meeting. A question was asked as to what RDF Account is. RDF is **R**ector **D**iscretionary **F**und account. The motion passed.

The 2010 Vestry members were introduced, Louise Freeman and Dennis Duncan.

(Continued on page 3)

Sunday Worship

8:00 AM

Holy Eucharist - Rite I

8:45 AM – 9:15 AM

Fellowship

9:15 AM – 10:15 AM

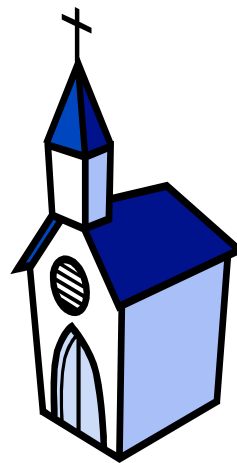
Christian Education

9:15 AM – 12:00

Nursery

10:30 AM

Holy Eucharist - Rite II



Ch'Angels

November: Care For Our Troops: \$173.76

December: St. Gabriel's use for providing Christmas presents as needed

January 2010: GAM - Gainesville Action Ministries

November Financial Statement

	Average Attendance	Budgeted Income	Actual Income	Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses	Loan Amortization	Net Income
November	88	\$18,912.67	\$21,432.63	\$17,277.43	\$14,313.15	\$1,777.72	\$5,341.76
Year to Day		\$208,039.33	\$202,382.89	\$186,634.49	\$198,438.30	\$17,559.53	\$(13,614.94)

(Continued from page 2)

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Greg stated that:

- ✦ Fall Festival designated money was moved to plate.
 - ✦ Under budget on expenses
 - ✦ Approximately \$5,700 on income behind YTD
 - ✦ \$11,000 to \$12,000 high on expenses showing
 - Show reimbursable and Designated Expenses in actual which are not budgeted for.
 - * Next year Reimbursable and Designated Expenses will be tracked but will not be compared against the budget.
 - \$6,000 for Diocesan Pledge has already been paid.
 - * In December the Diocesan Pledge will go to \$0.
 - ✦ December income received to date is approximately \$13,000.
 - \$3,500 received on first Sunday in December was 2010 Pledge Pre-pays.
 - ✦ December so far is looking hopeful.
- A question was asked as to how it is looking for the end of this year. Greg stated that if the next two to three Sundays go well there is a good chance the year should end in the black.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STEWARDSHIP:

- ✦ Final for this year \$170,000/\$175,000
 - Far off from what need
- ✦ Need \$215,000 budget for 2010
- ✦ 64 pledges in 2009
- ✦ 2010 Stewardship letter and 2009 statements to go out next week
- ✦ Right now \$70,000 short of what is needed for 2010

It was questioned as to how many pledges for 2010 have been received. It was stated that 51 have been received as of this time which include 5 new pledges.

- ✦ St. Gabriel's does a large amount in the community through Outreach
 - If St. Gabriel's had to close it would hurt community
- ✦ Stewardship Chairperson will need to deal with some situations next year.
 - Families retiring in other areas
 - Retirees not able to pledge as much
- ✦ Suggested that we have a diocesan speaker come to discuss planned giving, where St. Gabriel's might be included in wills.
 - Several have already done

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FORMATION:

- ✦ 5:00 p.m. Service
 - Children's play during this service
- ✦ Christmas Ark
 - Children Outreach
 - Ark will be in Parish Hall
 - * Ark being made by Diedre and Dan Page

RECTOR'S REPORT:

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

- ✦ Bishops Visit
 - Spoke about how to grow
 - * Opportunities for St. Gabriel's
 - Deaton Creek Subdivision
 - Apartments
 - College
 - Newsletters – Other
 - Fallen away Catholics
 - Spanish population
 - Will support if something for their children
- ✦ Olivia and Fred's Wedding
 - 230/240 in attendance
 - commitment from parish
 - * time
 - * talents
 - * Anne Threadgill designed a good time
- * Needs Assessment – need to revisit
- * Stewardship – revisit parish profile
 - Confident church will survive
- * Trailer demolition
 - Accomplished smoothly
 - Money in hand before started
 - Did not affect budget
- Turn in Bank Night Drop keys
 - * Must have by December 29, 2009
- ✦ New vestry member “training” and VPOD duties
 - During retreat
 - Vestry wide
 - * What works
 - * Changes needed
 - Apart of church don't know
 - * Serving on Vestry to learn

OLD BUSINESS

- ✦ Annual Report
 - Nice spread
 - Good energy
 - More people
- ✦ Vestry Retreat
 - Directions provided
 - Balance owed
 - * \$600
- ✦ Eating
 - Paul Swanson and Jana Brown will coordinate meals
 - Cabins
 - * Total of 3 available
 1. Meeting and meals
 2. Ladies sleeping quarters
 3. Men sleeping quarters
 - * Each cabin will sleep 4
 - * Darlene will commute

NEW BUSINESS

- ✦ Farewell and gratitude to Kevin, Wink, and Kim
 - Each vestry attendee spoke
 - * Done remarkable job

The meeting closed with prayer, and Bill adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene Knowlton
Vestry Clerk

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 Flower Guild Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 <i>staffed by CLC</i>
3 8:00 AM Rite I 9 - 12 Nursery 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Rite II	4 Bill off 1/4—1/13 Food Pantry 3:00—5:00 <i>staffed by OUMC</i>	5 Quilting Ministry 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Centering Prayer 6:00—7:00	6 J2A 7:00—8:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00—8:30 PM	7 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 <i>staffed by CLC</i>	8	9 Flower Guild Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 <i>staffed by OUMC</i>
10 8:00 AM Rite I 9 - 12 Nursery 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Rite II	11 Food Pantry 3:00—5:00 <i>staffed by Springs</i> Girl Scout Leaders 7:00 PM	12 Quilting Ministry 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Centering Prayer 6:00—7:00	13 Darlene PANDA Meeting 10-12 J2A 7:00—8:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00—8:30 PM	14 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 <i>staffed by CLC</i>	15	16 Men's Ministry 7:15 at Curt's Flower Guild Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 <i>staffed by Springs</i>
17 8:00 AM Rite I 9 - 12 Nursery 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Rite II	18 Food Pantry 3:00—5:00 <i>staffed by St Gabe</i> DOK Training 7 PM	19 Quilting Ministry 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Centering Prayer 6:00—7:00 Vestry 7:00 PM	20 J2A 7:00—8:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00—8:30 PM	21 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 <i>staffed by CLC</i>	22 Vestry Retreat 1/22—1/24	23 Flower Guild Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 <i>staffed by St Gabe</i>
24 8:00 AM Rite I 9 - 12 Nursery 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Rite II	25 Newsletter Deadline Food Pantry 3:00—5:00 <i>staffed by Lanier</i> DOK Training 7 PM	26 Quilting Ministry 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Centering Prayer 6:00—7:00	27 J2A 7:00—8:30 PM Choir Practice 7:00—8:30 PM	28 Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 <i>staffed by CLC</i>	29	30 Flower Guild Food Pantry 10:00—12:00 <i>staffed by Lanier</i>
31 8:00 AM Rite I 9 - 12 Nursery 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 AM Rite II						

Those Who Serve

8:00 AM	January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
OT	Bill Caiaccio	Randi Guido	Jan Madajewski	Wink Porterfield	Edith Collins
NT	Edith Collins	Pam Keene	Bob Milledge	Ed Wood	Mark Guido
Prayers	Mark Guido	Sandy Kiddie	Anne Porterfield	Bill Caiaccio	Randi Guido
Chalice	Wink Porterfield	Paul Swanson	Edith Collins	Jan Madajewski	Wink Porterfield
Usher/Greeter	Ed & Pat Wood	Paul & Pam Brown	Bill & Carol Caiaccio	M & R Guido	D & J Madajewski
Refreshments	Parish Care	Jan Madajewski	Debbie Swanson	Margie Robins	Esther Atkinson

10:30 AM

OT	Rich LeMay	Joni Payne	Ruth Thompson	Kim Bennett	Nenion Conley
NT	Grace Lutumba	Noble Shaw	Jim Waller	Trudy Buggeln	Mimi Cundiff
Prayers	Julia Mosley	Olivia Skey	Laura Ward	Kelley Ceccato	Callie Flack
Crucifer	Erin Lutumba	Trip LeMay	Mary Ann Bandy	Erin Lutumba	TBA
Choir	Patsheko Lutumba	Ian Cundiff	Rachel Bandy	Trip LeMay	Nicholas LeMay
Lectern	Nicholas LeMay	Sam Combs	Emily Combs	Patsheko Lutumba	Sam Combs
Children's Chapel	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Chalice (2)	Cheryl Rothschild Bob Condon	Noble Shaw Jean Pugh	Jackie Richards Cheryl Rothschild	Noble Shaw Bob Condon	Jean Pugh Jackie Richards
Oblations	Holmes Family	LeMay Family	Lutumba Family	Cundiff Family	Holmes Family
Ushers (2)	D & R Duncan	B & D Condon	J & G Pugh	D & B Holmes	B & D Condon
Greeters (2)	J & G Pugh	S & J Brown	B & D Condon	K & C Flack	D & B Holmes
Verger	Noble Shaw	Trudy Buggeln	Noble Shaw	Trudy Buggeln	Noble Shaw
Refreshments	Parish Care	Jean Waller	The Pughs	The Newtons	The Shaws

Both Services

Vestry Person	Jana Brown	Noble Shaw	David Holmes	Diedre Page	Cheryl Rothschild
Altar Guild	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 Bennett, R Bennett	Team 1: A & W Porterfield, J Waller, C Flack	Team 2: J & D Madajewski, M Cundiff, L Ward
Flowers	Poinsettias	Open	Louise Freeman	Open	Open
Flower Guild	Callie Flack	TBA	TBA	Jo Tieslau	Jo Tieslau
Holy Mowers	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off
Mow by	Winter Schedule	Winter Schedule	Winter Schedule	Winter Schedule	Winter Schedule
Sacred Sweepers	BJ & Z Newton	Bob Condon	Combs Family	J Payne R Duncan	J & C Irvin/J Duvall
Clean by	January 2 nd	January 9 th	January 16 th	January 23 rd	January 30 th

Stewardship Update

Thus far we have received 60 pledges for a total of \$181,410.00. Our pledge income for 2010 must total \$215,000 to meet our “barebones” budget. This represents an increase from last year’s pledge total amount of \$194,000, meaning that we will need to have some of us pledge for the first time, and others of us (who are able) to increase their pledge for the upcoming year. As we discussed in the winter of 2008 our budget has no room for cuts; if we fall short of pledge income our vestry will be placed in a very difficult position in creating a balanced budget. We at St. Gabriel’s are a family, and what we are talking about in the language of family is our living expenses. If you find that you are in a position to increase your planned giving for 2010 we ask that you prayerfully consider doing so. And as always we are most grateful for all that is given to make St. Gabriel’s the face and hands and heart of Christ in south Hall County.

The Christmas Ark



For Christmas this year the children of St. Gabriel’s are creating a wonderful Christmas Ark, and you are invited to be “Noahs.” and help load the ark. Through Episcopal Relief and Development you will have the opportunity to purchase one or more farm animals for a family living in extreme poverty in Africa or South America. When you purchase this chicken, goat, pig, etc you will then “load” the animal onto the very large ark that Diedre Page and the kids are creating. This international outreach project will run during the season of Christmas through the first several weeks of January. What a wonderful way to share the blessings of your Christmas holiday!



Creation Keepers Corner

The Christmas Wish List for light bulbs is still incomplete. As of 12-27-09 we have 6 floods and need 14 more 90 watt soft white flood to be able to change them all out at the same time. Gifts of regulars or 3 way CFLS will also be put to good use. Please place you gifts in the large basket in the Parish Hall.

CFL Savings Facts and Figures

One ENERGYSTAR compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) will save about \$30.00 over its life time. It uses 75% less energy and lasts about 10 times longer than an incandescent bulb.

With our lean budget every penny counts. If you know of other ways we can make small changes, please let me know. Together we will make a difference.

Jean Pugh
Creation Keepers Coordinator

God only asks us to do our best —

Then He will take over and finish the rest...

So when you are tired, discouraged, and blue,

There’s always one door that is open to us

And that is the door to the house of prayer,

And you’ll find God waiting to meet you there.

*The Beloved Poetry of
Helen Steiner Rice page 66*



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

2010 VESTRY
 Dennis Duncan
 Randi Guido
 Noble Shaw
 David Holmes
 Jana Brown
 Louise Freeman
 Diedre Page
 Cheryl Rothschild
 Paul Swanson

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