



St. John's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2008
Annual Report

2827 Wheat Street • Columbia, South Carolina 29205 • 803-799-4767
www.stjohnscolumbia.org

Membership Statistics

Membership

Baptized Members: 1167
Confirmed Communicants: 674
Family Units: 500
Marriages: 4

Additions this year

Transfer In: 46
Baptisms: Under 16 yrs.: 31
Baptisms. 16 yrs. & older: 2
Confirmed/Receive: 14
Restored from Inactive Status: 2

Losses for the year

Loss by death: 9
Removed to Inactive Status: 24
Removed by Transfer: 37

Treasurer's Report

As we approach the end of 2008, I am reasonably confident that we will finish the year with a small surplus. This will require all of us to fully honor our pledges and the vestry and staff to exercise spending restraint wherever possible for the remainder of the year.

Our 2009 budgeting process will begin in mid-November and, as always, we will address the budget with a goal of fully funding all of our ministries. However, the current economic climate will likely cause us to have to make difficult decisions about funding in a number of areas. Inasmuch as the majority of our budget contains non-discretionary expenses, the remaining discretionary spending will have to be prioritized very thoughtfully.

The response to the Heyward Hall debt challenge totaled \$80,383 through October. These gifts are being used to pay the principal portion of our loan payment thus relieving the operating budget of that burden. We have also reduced the principal on our loan an additional \$29,641 beyond the required monthly principal payments with these gifts as well. The principal balance of our loan as of October 31, 2008 was \$407,132 which was \$93,762 lower than October 31, 2007. My hope is that we will continue to meet this debt challenge as this is, and has been, crucial in enabling us to manage this obligation.

The Finance Committee has been charged by the Vestry with carefully reviewing many of our expenses in order to ensure that we exercise the highest degree of stewardship of our resources. We will seek multiple bids for services where practical and defer elective spending when feasible.

I am pleased that our financial condition is sound despite the current economic upheaval. As we look forward to 2009 and beyond, we remain committed to provide the most effective financial management possible for our church.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ McCoy
Treasurer

From the Rector

Dear Friends at St. John's,

As I have written here in past years, my heart is grateful for the continuing opportunity to serve our Lord with you all here at St. John's. I'm grateful for the spirit of the place, for the love and the giving friendships that abound, and for the generosity of our members.

A couple of years ago the Vestry decided we needed a comprehensive plan for the organization, communication, and carrying-out of our ministries at St. John's. There may have been some stops and starts, a misunderstanding or two along the way; but I have believed in it, I think it's a good plan, and I'm invested in it with the Vestry, the Committee Chairs, and so many others who are involved in these ministries.

You should know three things about The Long Range Plan. First, it's a continuing, moving, growing, changing, 'living' document. Second, one aspect of it is structure – the "how," we are going to get things done. And third, it's also very specific and visionary as regards "what" is going to get done. This has produced fruit, and proven to be a good tool to keep us all on the same page within this community of faith.

Now, it's never far from my mind how much we depend on our program and support staff here at St. John's. Let me thank them here for their service to us all: Mary Moore, thank you for your pastoring, teaching, and preaching; Celia, thank you for leading our praises in music; Mary Jo, thank you for ministering to our children; Dorian, thank you for ministering to our young people; Mike, we have missed you while you've been away on military service, but we're grateful to you and your staff for keeping St. John's buildings and grounds looking so good; Barbara, thank you for 20 years of trustworthy and excellent financial management; Rachel, thank you for sharing your remarkable organizational skills with us, and your love for the church; Nancy, thank you for keeping our office running on time, and for greeting our weekday and telephone visitors; and Anna, thank you for keeping us well-fed with healthy and delicious meals.

I'm also grateful to those five who will be rotating off their Vestry service this year: Bonnie Montgomery, our fine Senior Warden; Nancy Duvall, helping guide our Newcomer ministry; Beth Blakeslee, coordinating our Worship and liturgical ministries; Hoyt Burnette, watching over our Properties and their good working order; and Tuck Williams, working with our Servant Ministry team. Thank you all for your years of excellent and dedicated service to St. John's!

Thanks, too, to my family – Sarah and our boys – for supporting me in this ministry from year to year. My thanks to you, the people of St. John's, too, for loving my family as you do. The Montgomeries feel so at-home here among you in this really special parish family.

May our new year together be bright and faithful. May it honor Christ. May many come to know him in this place.



J. Fletcher Montgomery, Rector

Wardens' Report

Our specific priorities for 2008 were to encourage spiritual growth, make servant ministry a natural part of our lives at St. John's, continue our emphasis on stewardship and facilitate the Long Range Plan implementation. With the support and participation of many parishioners we are happy to report significant programs in all of these areas.

Encouraging spiritual growth is the most vital priority we have at St. John's, and Christian formation is an integral piece of each of our spiritual journeys. We are pleased to note that Christian education opportunities are continuing to grow in breadth and depth for all age groups. Reflecting our growing and demographically changing congregation, children's programs have expanded rapidly in recent years. In particular, for the first time this year we have a Sunday School class for two year-olds and a greatly increased number of Sunday School teachers for the children. With the arrival early this year of Dorian Del Priore, our outstanding Director of Youth Ministries, St. John's youth are being offered a wide variety of opportunities to build community, do good works, and grow in faith. Sunday morning adult classes are designed to appeal to a variety of interests, and have been notably well-attended in recent months. In particular, there has been a renewed interest in increasing Bible literacy, specifically through a year-long guided Bible study Sunday School class. Wednesday evening programs are offered throughout the year, with last spring's Lenten series of speakers being especially well-received.

Under the capable leadership of Angela Daniel the Servant Ministry Committee has supported and encouraged efforts to make outreach an integral part of life at St. John's. Both by allocating budgeted funds to local, national and international outreach efforts and by showcasing local charities through the Harvest Eve dinner the Servant Ministry Committee is living out its mission to act as the body of Christ in the world.

The approach to stewardship this year has been a comprehensive one, highlighting the need to engage in all "3 T's" of stewardship: the giving of our time, talent, and treasure. Throughout the summer and early fall, various members of our parish spoke during worship services about different avenues for involvement at St. John's. The stewardship committee hosted a newly energized Ministry Fair on Welcome Back Sunday, during which Time and Talent surveys were distributed and filled out by 77 members of the congregation. In October, the focus shifted to "treasure" and various parishioners spoke in church about their experiences with Christian giving. Building on previous years' educational efforts and successes, our continued theme has been "Working Toward the Tithes". On October 26th, Pledge Sunday at St. John's, members of the congregation presented their pledge cards at the altar – 103 pledge cards were received on that Sunday alone. Our parish benefited immensely from the creative and diligent efforts of our stewardship chairs Brandon and Katherine Templeton.

Since the Long Range Plan was presented at the 2007 annual meeting we have had a full year of implementation of this plan. The Long Range Plan represents a blue print and mechanism for achieving our mission statement: Preparing you to accept God's grace, grow in faith and serve Christ in the world. We appreciate the work of committee chairs and members and vestry liaisons who have faithfully carried out the strategies, goals and objectives of the Long Range Plan. We believe that St. John's has achieved significant progress towards the full implementation of this plan.

We appreciate the hard work, support and encouragement of the clergy, staff and parishioners at St. John's this year. We value and are honored by the opportunity we have had to serve as your wardens.

Bonnie Montgomery, Senior Warden
Lee Rambo, Junior Warden

Administration Ministry Team

Vestry Member:
Bonnie Montgomery

Commissioned Chair:
Jackie Boylston

Staff Member:
Fletcher Montgomery

Goal: Establish an effective organizational structure to implement, manage and support the ministries and activities of St. John's

Ministry areas: Reviews, salaries, vestry and parishioner relations, searches and new hires, efficiency and effectiveness.

Highlights: The Administration team has completed job descriptions for every staff member, using a standard format. An evaluation template has also been created for every position to use during annual evaluations, allowing for a more objective, formalized evaluation process.

The Administration team is currently benchmarking salaries of current positions to ensure budgeted money is within the market range and consistent with job duties. This information is shared with the vestry annually to ensure money is allocated appropriately. Submitted by Jackie Boylston.

Worship Ministry Team

Vestry Member:
Beth Blakeslee

Commissioned Chair:
Rodger Stroup

Staff Member:
Celia Bane
Clergy (ex officio)

Goal: Provide meaningful worship.

Ministry areas: acolytes, altar flowers, altar guild, music and choir, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, ushers, weddings, baptisms, funerals, sound, decorations, Feast of Lights, special services

Highlights: During the past year the Worship Committee has created one new committee and assumed responsibility for the ushers. Laura Williams has organized a Funeral Committee that will work with the Clergy to provide assistance in planning funerals. For many years recruiting ushers was done by the Men of St. John's, but beginning in 2008 the ushers were assigned to the Worship Committee. We are pleased that Cogburn Gaillard agreed to chair this committee. The Baptism Committee reported that this year we Baptized 33 children and 2 adults. Other committees under Worship continue (Altar Flowers, Altar Guild, Lectors/Ems, sound) to do their usual excellent job of insuring that each service at St. John's runs smoothly. Submitted By: Rodger Stroup

Music Ministry In line with our parish's current long range planning, the goal of the music ministry of St. John's is to provide worthy music leadership that contributes to meaningful worship and to provide high quality and varied music programs. We seek to recruit and train as many individuals as possible as music leaders, volunteers and participants in various music groups for all ages. Our children's choirs (ages 6 and under,) led this fall by Sarah Bowers and Mary Margaret Collins, involve about 40 children in weekly music fun and learning. The St. John's Singers (grades 2 through middle school,) directed by Tamara Willing, USC music education major, lead worship on the first Sunday of each month and on other occasions. They look forward to hosting the Regional Treble Music Festival here at St. John's in March of 2009. (Two of our St. John's Singers, Austin Lewis and Clarissa Gold, participated in this event in Charlotte in March of this year.) Chamber Singers, Choral Scholars, Handbells (led this year by Polly Watts,) Men's and Women's Ensembles and Chancel Choir involve about 30 participants. Excellent soloists, both Choral Scholars and St. John's parishioners, have rounded out the musical offerings during worship this year. The music highlight of this year was the Chancel Choir's hosting of the Gloria Dei Cantores, a professional choir from Orleans, Massachusetts, for a workshop and a concert on October. Submitted by: Celia Tolar-Bane

Weddings St. John's wedding committee was formed to assist the clergy with weddings held at St. John's. The wedding director attends the rehearsal where she helps with the logistics and the day of the wedding to assist the wedding party. There were 4 St. John's weddings and we hosted 2 Trinity Cathedral weddings in 2008. Members: Nell Barr, Carol Fowles, Mary Ann Haselden, Margaret Cain, Ashley Jaillette and Melissa Hurst. Submitted By: Carol Fowles

Funerals A new committee has been created to offer hospitality to the grieving at the death of a parishioner. When a parishioner dies, a member of the committee will take to the family's home some breakfast food, a bag of emergency supplies (baggies, paper towels, etc.), and a booklet containing information ranging from general details about the funeral service to what specific details are needed to help plan the funeral when the clergy meets with the family. The Hospitality of the Grieving Committee will also host a visitation or a reception at St. Johns (in the dining room, multipurpose room, or the parlor) offering cookies and cheese crackers, along with tea, lemonade, and coffee. If the family members wish to offer more choices of refreshments, they may have it catered. Friends are also welcome to add to what we offer.

There are several servant opportunities offered by this ministry:

- * delivering the breakfast food, emergency bag, and booklet,
- * hosting the visitation or reception by setting up and replenishing the platters of cheese crackers and cookies, along with the napkins and cups for the drinks,
- * joining our cook days to make and freeze the refreshments and breakfast food.

The committee already has a great start with the 1000 cheese crackers made by the St. Teresa's Guild members at their September meeting. If this sounds like a ministry which you would like to serve, please contact Laura Williams, 787-2619, or Martha Stroup, 256-0426.

Posted on our website is the planning guide given to the family of the deceased. This information would be helpful to your family to have this information when planning your funeral.

The Hospitality of the Grieving Committee served four families in 2008. Being in the early planning stages, we were only able to provide the refreshments at the visitations.

We have two shelves in a freezer in the St. Johns' kitchen where we store the cheese straws and cookies. We also have a cabinet in the kitchen where we store our paper products for the receptions, the booklets, and emergency supply bags. We will have an organizational meeting before the end of the year. Submitted By: Laura Williams

Ushers Here at St. John's we had good participation through the year. Starting with Holy Week through Christmas when called upon the men of the church answered the call. In the upcoming year I would like to see more women and youth participate. I am open for any suggestions anyone may have. Submitted By: Cogburn Gaillard

Acolytes The Acolyte Ministry at St. John's continued to serve the liturgical needs of the parish well in 2008. While we lost several servers to graduation, other ministries, or by request, we have added 15 new acolytes to the roster. The roster currently lists fifty (50) acolytes.

In September, four annual training sessions were held in order to instruct new and current servers in their duties as directed by the clergy and customary of the parish, and to establish a common set of expectations and commitments to which the Acolytes are bound. These sessions were successful to that end, and each acolyte received a copy of our Customary for Servers, or Acolyte Manual, for use in illustrating and instructing the various duties for servers in this parish. The Acolyte Master also conducted several training sessions at various times with individuals or small groups as needed. Also, the use of a youth acolyte for the 7:45 am Sunday Eucharist was discontinued, as it was unnecessary and difficult to schedule. In turn, the Acolyte Master provided an expanded liturgical customary for our Lector/Chalice Bearer for the 7:45 liturgy so that the few duties that the acolyte had previously undertaken could be incorporated into the Lector's role. The Acolyte Master is available to assist the Lectors with training as needed with regard to 7:45 logistics.

Also, in this past year, the Acolyte Corps was able to be vested for service in a brand new set of 20 servers' albs in various sizes to properly fit all of our acolytes. These new vestments replaced the 9 worn out albs that had seen too many years of use. We are most grateful to the Men of St. John's who underwrote the cost of our new vestments!

An extra special thanks goes to Robin Campbell, who assists me with scheduling our acolytes and keeping track of various activity/family schedules and special requests; a job which is not nearly as easy as it would seem, and is very time consuming.

The Ministry of Acolytes at St. John's seeks to:

- + glorify God in all that we undertake
- + enhance the corporate worship of the parish
- + assist the sacred ministers at all principal and special liturgies of the year
- + educate our servers on the practical and symbolic roles of the Acolyte in our rich liturgical tradition of worship
- + provide a continued opportunity for our young people to be active and involved in the life of this parish

We are most thankful for the many dedicated youth that make this ministry possible, and I am very proud of the service they render to our Parish and our Lord! Respectfully submitted, Chas. Marion Swain, Sr., Acolyte Master

Servant Ministry Team

Vestry Member:
Tuck Williams

Commissioned Chair
Angela Daniel

Staff Member:
Mary Moore Roberson

Goal: Understanding servant ministry, growing in Christ and acting as the body of Christ in the world.

Ministry areas: Haiti, foreign missions, giving tree, local ministries: Cooperative Ministries, Hannah House, Kairos, Sister Care, UTO, ERD, work trips

Servant Ministries Committee

Angela Daniel, Chair
Fran Marshall
Katherine McCormick
Bonnie Montgomery

Cliff Moore
Mary Moore Roberson+
Dana Turner
Faxie Watt
Tuck Williams (Vestry Liaison)

Highlights: In the Spring of 2007, the group of parishioners named above took their first step towards a "mind-shift" in how parishioners of St. John's Episcopal Church view "outreach" -- by changing the name of the committee from Outreach to Servant Ministries. As we are called to serve Christ through service to others, it is the goal of the committee to bring "outreach" into the life of our parish, so that we no longer consider outreach to be something separate from or outside of "normal business," but a vital and natural part of who we are as the Body of Christ.

We met or spoke with representatives of various organizations or ministries, such as SisterCare, Harvest Hope, Cooperative Ministries, HomeWorks, and Kairos (to name a few), and took the opportunity at Welcome Back Sunday to educate parishioners about opportunities to serve these entities in ways beyond making contributions. The Servant Ministries Committee, along with the Youth of St. John's, sponsored Harvest Eve and highlighted many

of the organizations that we assist during the year. There were interactive stations for each organization so that parishioners could have a “hands on” opportunity to experience the kinds of services offered.

This past year, funds were dispersed to the following ministries in our community:

\$5,500 to Cooperative Ministries (restricted to direct services)

\$5,500 to HomeWorks

\$2,000 to Harvest Hope

\$1,500 to York Place

\$1,000 to Kairos Prison Ministries

\$ 635 to SisterCare

\$ 400 to Helping Hands (an after school program at Hand Middle School)

\$ 100 to Giving Tree

\$16,635

In addition, the Servant Ministries Committee determined that the 0.7% of St. John’s budget that is set aside for MDG projects (\$5,635) will be donated this year to the “Bread and Water Campaign” that has as its goal to build a new water delivery system for Cange, Haiti. The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina has been committed to helping the village of Cange for nearly 30 years. While we are totally committed to continued support for Partnership Cange, Haiti, and especially to Chapoteau, we hope to further educate our fellow parishioners about the Millennium Development Goals as they impact all those who live in extreme poverty. As our young people inspire all of us to roll up our sleeves and actually “do” mission work, we hope to encourage and sponsor more trips and local opportunities to place ourselves among those in need.

The Servant Ministries Committee recommended to the Vestry that St. John’s join other churches in supporting the Onesimus Project, aimed at supporting men in prison who are within two years of being released. The program will provide a Christian environment in which inmates can be encouraged, counseled, and prepared for rejoining society. It is our hope that interested parishioners will volunteer to be trained to help with this program and that, at some point, we will contribute financial support.

It is our intention to learn more about other ways that St. John’s can serve the local and global community and to share that information with our parish. We encourage those who are involved with service agencies or charities to come forward with information that may be helpful to others who wish to serve. St. John’s is a vibrant and caring parish, with more than enough love and resources to share. It is our goal to focus our efforts on sharing the Gospel and living the Gospel through service – acting as the Body of Christ in the World.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela M. Daniel, Chair

Newcomers Ministry Team

Vestry Member:
Nancy Duvall

Commissioned Chair:
Brant Hellwig

Staff Member:
Nancy Garvin

Goal: To attract, identify, welcome, inform, and integrate newcomers to the parish of St. John’s.

Ministry areas: friendship pads and letters of welcome, greeters, transfers, newcomers packets, nametags, follow-up and shepherding

Highlights: During the last year the Newcomers Committee has held two gatherings for newcomers, one in October at the church and one in April at a private home. Pictures were taken of newcomers and have been or will be displayed at various places in the church buildings. We thank John Walker for his help with this. Nametags have been made for those joining the church, and at my count, which may not be complete, 51 persons, or 34 family units have joined St. Johns since last January. Since many of these people come because they are invited by friends, these friends often serve as mentors to include the newcomers in church activities. In September we asked that all church members wear nametags. One of our goals is to set up a more organized mentor program. Profiles will be put in the Messenger during the coming year and we hope to follow up on newcomers from the last two years to see if they are still coming and have found a niche for deeper commitment and service. Submitted By: Nancy R. Duvall, vestry chair

Christian Formation-Children

Vestry Member:
Katie Gibson

Commissioned Chair:
Birley Wright

Staff Member:
Mary Jo Pendarvis

Goal: To educate and enhance the spiritual growth of children at St. John's.

Ministry Areas: Sunday School, Wednesday Night Program, Special Events for children and families, Vacation Bible School, and teacher recruitment, training, and support.

Highlights: The Committee continues to address the spiritual needs and growth of children and families at St. John's. The Children's Committee is made up of the following ministry areas: Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, Newborn, Nursery, Children's Chapel and Special Events. Vacation Bible School had a remarkable turn out this year. The "Power Lab" participants included children from St. Lawrence Place, children from the community, as well as children from St. John's. New this year was St. John's CAMP (Christian Action Mission Project) for rising third, fourth and fifth graders. The children participated in several service projects including the Washington Street Soup Kitchen, HOMEWORKS, and St. Lawrence Place. Also, Sunday School continues to grow and a wonderful new two year old Sunday School class is now offered. Several new teachers were recruited and trained for the 2008-09 year. Families with newborns continue to receive a special welcome bag that highlights the opportunities and activities for new babies and their families. In addition, Children's Chapel has a new format that is similar to the adult service. The children listen to a Bible story, recite the 23rd Psalm, say the Prayers of the People as well as other prayers and songs. The Children's Ministry continues to offer many special events such as the Mother-Daughter Tea, the Father Child Cook Out, the Advent Festival, Communion Classes and the special presentation of "The Christmas Present" on Christmas Eve. Throughout the year, it was wonderful to watch our children grow closer with Christ! Submitted By: Birley Wright and Katie Gibson

Christian Formation-Youth

Vestry Member:
Steve McMillan

Commissioned Chair:
Sarah Meacham

Staff Member:
Dorian Del Priore

Goal: To explore life in the way of Jesus and to empower all youth into ministry and spiritual growth.

Ministry Areas: EYC, youth confirmation, Jr. and Sr. Sunday School, youth missions, youth basketball, Diocesan events

Highlights:

Youth Sunday School: The Jr. High is split into two classes for Sunday School: Jr. High Girls and Jr. High Boys. Both classes explore scripture and how it is applicable to their lives today. They also participate in outreach/service projects such as the canned food drive for Harvest Hope that they are doing right now as a friendly competition between classes. Both classes are filled with fellowship, food, discussion, fun, prayer, and study. The titles of the primary curriculums for this year are: Becoming a Young Man of God, and Becoming a Young Woman of God. The teachers for the girls are: Susan Graham and Darcy Hartin. The teachers for the boys are: Brandon Templeton, Steve McMillan, and Michael Barker.

The Senior High class is comprised of 9th, 11th, and 12th graders. The teachers are John Boylston, Rebecca Dillard, and Sarah Meacham. The class utilizes two different curriculums: Core Truths and Every Picture Tells a Story. Core Truth is a study that dives into the basic core truths of Christianity and helps build a solid Biblical foundation and knowledge. Every Picture is a reflective lesson that utilizes pictures to help facilitate discussion about faith and spirituality.

Youth Confirmation: This class is a preparatory experience for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The class is led by Eileen Schell, Gordon Schell, and Paula Bowers. Utilizing a new resource, My Faith My Life, alongside the Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, we are studying all facets of our faith and our Church. The class will also participate in church and service projects to practice how we live out our faith. Each candidate is to select a sponsor to guide them through faith issues and stand with them as they are Confirmed.

EYC: This is our Sunday night youth group. We meet together every Sunday 5-7 pm and practice being church together as we explore what it means to live in the way of Jesus. This includes fun, games, fellowship, food, prayer, worship, art, messiness, silliness, service, mission, discussion, Bible studies, and so much more. We have a rotation of meeting types each month: a fun EYC called ReCreation, a service oriented EYC, EYC @ the Art Shack, and the gathering (fellowship, Bible study, discussion, and devotion). The goal is to experience Christ in community in a

variety of ways so that we come to know that Jesus is connected to all parts of our daily lives. We have a youth blog with updates, links, recaps of events, and a calendar: <http://stjohnscolumbiayouth.blogspot.com>

Our youth advisors are: Bryant Blakeslee, Jr., Paula and Rob Bowers, Kelli Fisher, Mary How, Cliff Moore, Steve and Anne Stuart McMillan, Scott Rankin, Sean Rankin, Ann Ruderman, and Janet Smith.

Youth Mission Trips: Our primary avenue for youth missions is through Home Works, an organization that provides home repairs to the elderly and the poor. These people usually don't have either the physical means or the financial means to make repairs on their homes. We give our time and resources to help improve their living conditions. This past summer our Jr. High mission was in Augusta, GA and we had two Sr. High trips: Johns Island, SC and Covington, LA. Overall, 50 people participated in our summer mission trips. We also participate in Home Works blitzes throughout the school year. We have a mission blog at: <http://stjohnshomeworks.blogspot.com>

Wednesday Night Program: We have a Wed. program during Lent in the Spring and another during the Fall. This past Spring, the youth learned about and practiced different contemplative prayer exercises. The fall program was titled Jesus in Your iPod: where faith and music collide. We shared our favorite music, discussed why we like it, and where Jesus and faith fit into the picture.

Other Events and Trips: Periodically, we participate in a variety of different trips and events. These are tied to EYC and the youth community as a whole. Some of these have been: white water rafting, a day at the beach, corn maze, pool party, Sr. High lunch gatherings, and other trips/gatherings/events.

Acolytes: Robin Campbell is our parish volunteer who handles scheduling the acolytes, and Marion Swain is our Acolyte Master. Marion coordinates the training of the acolytes, and he also attends each service to oversee and assist the acolytes in the performance of their duties.

Diocesan Youth News: We have had tremendous growth with our youth involvement in Diocesan Events. We had 8 youth attend the Jr. High New Beginnings in the Spring, 10 youth attended the Jr. High Fall Retreat, 8 youth attend 24 (Sr. High Retreat), and at least 3 youth will attend Happening #60. We have 3 people from St. John's on the Diocesan Youth Leadership Council: Catherine Collins, Eileen Schell, and Dorian Del Priore. St. John's is once again becoming a strong presence at Diocesan events.

Upcoming Events: Happening #60 at Gravatt – December 5-7, Sr. High Ski Trip – January 9-11, Diocesan Youth Leadership Training Conference at Camp Bob, Kanuga – February 6-8, Kanuga Parish Weekend – February 13-15, Happening #61 at Gravatt – March 20-22, Jr. High New Beginnings at Gravatt – April 24-26, a Jr. High parish trip/retreat (TBA), and Confirmation – April 26. These are in addition to regular EYC and other events.

Please check the blog to stay up to date on information. There is also a weekly youth update email. If you would like to receive it, please email Dorian (mmd@stjohnscolumbia.org) to get on the list.

Christian Formation-Adults

Vestry Member:
Michael Burkett

Commissioned Chair:
Dana Turner

Staff Member:
Fletcher Montgomery

Goal: To educate and empower all into ministry and spiritual growth.

Ministry areas: Adult Sunday school, Wednesday evening programming, Kanuga, adult confirmation, Bible studies, Cursillo, retreats, Alpha, Marriage Course, Crown, Renewal Ministries, Women's Retreat, seasonal programming

Highlights: The Adult Christian Formation Committee strives to bring the best possible adult Christian formation classes to St. John's Episcopal Church. The committee continues to work hard to build on the success of previous committees in planning and presenting good programming for Sunday school, Wednesday nights, and at other opportunities during the course of the year.

To accomplish our mission, "to educate and empower all into ministry and spiritual growth," the committee has met goals and objectives set in 2007. Specifically, the committee's goal was to develop programming six months or more in advance of the time it will be offered. By developing programming earlier, we have been able to recruit speakers, obtain materials, and develop class curriculums in a more thoughtful manner.

The committee also has continued to offer classes at three levels and for a longer period of time. The levels of training are intended to encourage participants to choose the class that best suits their personal spiritual journey. In addition, by offering these classes for a longer period of time, we feel the participants can benefit from more in-depth study of a particular subject of interest.

Throughout this year, there has also been increased participation by all ages. By offering quality classes at three levels this Fall, we believe that attendance at Sunday school has increased over attendance in previous years. Additionally, the committee added a class designed for regular attendees of the 7:45 a.m. service. Specifically, the committee is currently offering a class and breakfast on the second Sunday of each month immediately following the

service. Thus far, attendance has been good, and the committee will explore options to continue this opportunity in Fall 2009.

Similar to 2007, the committee requested a budget that would allow us to pay a small stipend to those who have expertise in a particular subject matter pertinent to the Christian formation of members of St. John's. It would also allow us to pay for training for facilitators and teachers of Christian formation classes. Finally, it would allow us to purchase professional Christian formation materials, enhancing the classes offered throughout the year.

Stewardship Ministry Team

Vestry Member:
Lee Rambo

Commissioned Chair:
Katherine and Brandon Templeton

Staff Member:
Barbara Catoe

Goal: Inspire members to give cheerfully of their time, talent, and treasure.

Ministry areas: Stewardship kickoff event at May Parish Luncheon/Stewardship season/Stewardship Speakers/Welcome Back Festival/Pledging

Highlights: The 2009 Stewardship theme was **Time, Talent, and Treasure** – the **3Ts**. Each one of us is blessed with all three of these. **Time** – we all have the same 24 hours a day, albeit with demanding jobs, children's dance/soccer practices, committee meetings, etc. **Talent** – In Corinthians 12, Paul writes about the different talents each of us is given by the Holy Spirit and different ways that God works in our lives – no one talent is superior to another and their purpose is to build up Christ's Body – the Church. **Treasure** – While we certainly all do not have the same amount of treasure, the amount we have is a gift from God and how we use this treasure represents our values and priorities.

We introduced our 2009 theme of the 3T's at a parish luncheon in May and in June began having parishioners speak during worship about the 3T's. Many thanks to those that presented and to all of you for listening. The majority of these 3T's speeches are on our website, so if you missed some, please listen to them. The stewardship committee hosted the Welcome Back Festival and focused on time and talent. We introduced our new *Opportunities to Serve Booklet* that lists all of the activities parishioners could get involved with. We also invited all of the various ministry teams to participate in a more in depth Ministry Fair. We had a tremendous response to the ministry fair as well as the Opportunities to Serve Booklet with over 90 individuals signing up to participate in various ministries here at St. John's.

Despite our economic issues, the initial pledges for 2009 have given us great optimism that through your commitment to working towards the tithe, St. John's financial needs will be met for 2009. If you are reading this and have not yet turned in a pledge card for 2009, it is not too late. St. John's needs all of its members to respond fully to God's grace by pledges of **Time, Talent and Treasure**.

Committee members: Alice Adams, Jason Adams, Margaret Buchanan, Barbara Catoe, Bob Graham, Scott, Jaillette, Pat O'Keefe, Lee Rambo, Lee Sheorn, Wade Sparks, David Williams.

Submitted by: Katherine and Brandon Templeton

Church Renovation Ministry Team

Vestry Member:
John Boylston

Commissioned Chair:
John Boylston

Staff Member:
Staff

Goal: Expand the sanctuary to better accommodate a growing parish.

Ministry areas: Feasibility study, Capital campaign, building and architecture committee, bids and construction, temporary relocation of worship, organ

Highlights:

The Church Renovation had a busy year that culminated in the presentations to the congregation on November 9, 2008. The members of the committee are as follows: John Boylston (chair), Angela Daniel, Cliff Moore, Jason Lockhart, David Lewis, Mary Wallace Coleman, Duvy Spruill, Rob Wilcox, Margaret Buchanan, and Larry Woodrum.

2008 began with the committee working very closely with the selected design team of Garvin Associates to refine the goals as defined by the committee and to translate them into a conceptual design. Meeting many times throughout the spring, the committee and the architects were able to arrive at a conceptual design that incorporated the items deemed important by the committee and by the congregation through forums held in the spring of the previous year. The design incorporates several often repeated needs such as better flow around the altar, a central and permanent location for the baptismal font, increased seating capacity, and renovation/repair of the heating and air conditioning system, electrical wiring, and substructure of the building.

Two presentations were made to the congregation on November 9 to present the conceptual drawings. It is important to understand that these drawings are conceptual in nature and are not set in stone. They are a beginning for a discussion about our church building that has been going on for over 75 years and will continue. Your comments and suggestions are wanted and needed. We will be setting up an e-mail address that will enable the congregation to send in suggestions and communicate with the committee. The PowerPoint presentation that was shown on November 9 is available for viewing on the St. John's website.

The next step in this process is to conduct a financial feasibility study. This study will help the committee and the vestry determine the proper time for moving forward with the project. Our sincere hope is that each of you continue to pray for God's guidance for St. John's and for the Church Renovation Committee.

Parish Events

Vestry Member:
Ann Ruderman

Commissioned Chair:
Christine Koutrakos

Staff Member:
Anna Legare

Goal: Execution of well coordinated and communicated events at or for St. John's

Ministry areas: Wednesday evening dinners, Keenager Luncheons, Parish luncheons, Gravatt Day, special weekends and events, annual meeting breakfast, annual basketball injuries,

Highlights:

Annual Meeting Breakfast (Dec 2007) A light breakfast was provided for all during the 2007 Annual Meeting. The lite breakfast allowed voting to move smoothly. Vestry elections for 2008 took place. The gym was full with close to 300 parishioners.

Palm Sunday This year petite fours were served on the patio during the Sunday school hour of Palm Sunday. The homemade petite fores, coffee, and juice were enjoyed by all the adults.

Bishop's Reception On Sunday, March 30th, the Bishop's Reception was held after the 11:15 service. Punch, food (donated by 3 guilds), and flowers made this a nice event. Many enjoyed the reception. Because of rain, it was held in the Dining Room of the Barr Center.

Gravatt Day Gravatt Day 2008 was a beautiful day. Eucharist was celebrated in The Chapel of the Holy Spirit (the outdoor chapel) on the Summer Camp side of The Bishop Gravatt Center. After the service, those who attended enjoyed a treat - BBQ and all the fixin's from Jim Quinn. Many parishioners enjoyed swimming, boating, and fishing in the lake.

Gravatt Overnight Option This year, 2008, was the first year the Gravatt overnight option was offered. Families who wanted a bit more time together at Gravatt stayed on the Camp side of the facility and camped the Saturday night before Gravatt Day. Several parishioners chose less rustic accommodation staying on the Conference side of the facility. Great food and fun was shared by all! It was a beautiful weekend with great memories made.

Pentecost Lunch St. Teresa's Guild coordinated a Pot Luck lunch served in the gym. Fried Chicken and biscuits were provided with everyone bringing something to share. The Pot Luck is back!

Welcome Back Sunday The Stewardship Ministry Team, Men of St. John's and Parish Events Ministry Team worked together to facilitate Welcome Back Sunday. With these groups working together Welcome Back Ministry Fair was a great success. Sausage biscuits with gravy were served family style along with bagels, danishes, coffee, juice, and milk. Families all ate together while everyone had the opportunity to see all that St. John's has to offer.

Wednesday Night Dinners Wednesday Night Dinners were a great success during Lent of 2008 with 130+ people eating dinner many weeks. The busy 2008 Fall brought many families back for wonderful food prepared by Anna Legare with the help of dedicated volunteers. A varied menu and wonderful desserts kept everyone coming back each week.

Submitted By: Christine Koutrakos

Pastoral Care Ministry Team

Vestry Member:
Eileen Schell

Commissioned Chair:
Virginia Vincent

Staff Member:
Mary Moore Roberson

Goal: To meet the pastoral needs of the members of St. John's.

Ministry areas: Altar Flower delivery, Agape Meal deliveries, Prayer Team, Love in Action, Community of Hope, Eucharistic Visitors.

Highlights: The lay ministries that fall under St. John's Pastoral Care continue to be very active. Our primary goal has been to coordinate these ministries to work together and also with St. John's other ministries to provide pastoral care to the members of our congregation.

Each week, the beautiful flower arrangements from the St. John's altar are delivered to parishioners. Nell Barr coordinates the schedule of people who receive the flowers and Lisa Wilcox coordinates the people who deliver.

The Prayer Team continues to be a special ministry to St. John's under the committed leadership of Ann Gregg. It consists of many members praying by request for healing of members and close family relatives in crisis. This ministry is now easier to access via either on our website or a phone call to the church office.

The Agape Ministry, under the leadership of Margaret Buchanan, is ready to provide a meal to those members who are sick or recently home from the hospital. Catherine Gabrielli leads the Newborn Agape ministry, which provides a meal and a gift when there is a new baby in the household. Agape meals are generously prepared by members of the church, and many times the meal is prepared and delivered member to member and friend to friend without the knowledge of the Agape leader.

Our visitation ministry, called "Love in Action," has 24 active members who visit, on a regular basis, at least 23 of our parishioners who are either home bound, in nursing homes, or in other special care facilities. They become an extended family of those members they communicate with--either by a visit, phone call, or cards and letters. Bob and Kit Turner are our leaders, and they have recently implemented an improved system for visitors to communicate back to the leaders.

Members of the Hospital Visitation team strive to supplement clergy visits when a parishioner is in the hospital. Community of Hope, a pastoral care ministry, consists of lay people who have been trained by the Diocese through the teachings of the Benedictine Rule for pastoral care. Four of our members have completed this training, and two more are presently being trained, equipping them to use their pastoral skills to minister where their spiritual gifts are best suited and to give comfort and care to those in need. These parishioners, at the invitation of our clergy, visit those members whom are in need of comfort from illness, grieving from the death of a loved one, or in other crisis. We provide a listening ear and spiritual presence. Margaret Todd is our Community of Hope leader.

The Eucharistic Visitors ministry is well administered by our clergy and Lynn Teague. Each Sunday, EVs take communion from the principal services to members of our parish who are in the hospital or ill at home.

Pastoral Care ministries continue to be in need of new people who are willing to share their gifts of time and talent for the glory of God. We appreciate the addition of the new people who were added after the Ministry Fair at Welcome Back Sunday in September. Submitted by: Virginia Vincent

Communications Ministry Team

Vestry Member:
Faxie Watt

Commissioned Chair:
OPEN

Staff Member:
Rachel Cross

Goal: To organize and oversee the communication functions of the parish to operate as effectively as possible.

Ministry areas: E-pistle, Messenger, bulletin, advertising, signs, mailings, reminder cards

Highlights: The goal of the Communications Ministry Team is to spread the message of Jesus Christ through the works at St. John's to both the parish and community. This spring we completed a survey of approximately 100 people regarding communications at St. John's. The overwhelming majority liked the E-istle and web site but preferred to receive most of the information about St. John's through announcements at church and the Messenger. We have developed the Guidelines for Mailings at St. John's which was made available to all the ministry team chairs and Vestry. We have had the Messenger layout and effectiveness assessed and will continue trying to make it more informative. We continually review the Bulletin to make certain it is concise and beneficial. We have looked at how we advertise in the community and ways to reach the most people.

St. John's has been commended for our E-pistle and web site. Our web masters are reviewing the web site and will soon present an even more proficient way to take the message of Christ and the ways St. John's participates in the works of Christ out into the community.

St. John's is a growing and vibrant Christian community. The Communications Ministry Team coordinates with all the other ministry teams to ensure the parish and the community are informed about the many various ministries available at St. John's. Submitted By: Faxie Watt

Finance Ministry Team

Vestry Member:
Les Cotter

Commissioned Chair:
Mike Miller

Staff Member:
Barbara Catoe

Goal: To assist and advise the vestry in all financial matters at St. John's.

Ministry areas: operating budget, planned giving, memorials, investments, audit and annual review, special building funds

Highlights: The Finance Ministry Team's goal is to assist and advise the Vestry concerning all financial matters at St. John's.

2008 progress includes:

- Improved financial controls over operating expenses
- Provided the vestry with enhanced monthly financial reporting and analysis
- Anticipated financial issues and concerns and made recommendations to the vestry
- Developed a proposed 2008 budget that was presented to the Vestry for debate and approval
- Partnered with other ministry teams to ensure the proper use of financial resources

Submitted by: Mike Miller

Properties Ministry Team

Vestry Member:
Hoyt Burnett

Commissioned Chair:
Margaret Woodrum

Staff Member:
Mike Williams

Goal: To be a liaison between the parishioners' facility needs and the St. Johns Staff.

Ministry areas: Memorial Garden, buildings and grounds maintenance, utilities, arts and architecture

Properties Committee Members: Hoyt Burnett, Margaret Woodrum, Bo Williams

Highlights:

2008 has been a busy year with several major church repairs and lots of special projects.

- We have redefined our mission statement as "To be good stewards of our facilities, both buildings and grounds, with timely maintenance, repairs, and new projects in order to meet staff, parishioners and outreach needs."
- We planted annual flowers in the spring and the fall, in front of the church, in the memorial garden and near the back door to Heyward Hall that is most often used as the entrance. We hosted a work day last March attended by mostly members of St. Teresa's Guild to weed, clean beds, prepare for the spring plantings and planted iris, daylilies, black-eyed susans and cosmos.
- We have started the process of preparing a training manual for the audio/visual equipment. It is coming along but cannot say when it will be finished. After we have some things in writing we plan to have a training day for all who need to know how to use it properly. That date has not been set yet. This project is just in the beginning stages.
- We have started the process of preparing a sign permit for the Episcopal Church directional sign at the corner of Devine Street and Holly Street. The City of Columbia requires that a permit be submitted to them and is reviewed by 10 agencies. The permit should be ready to submit by Thanksgiving and will take about 60 days to permit.
- We prepared a colorful display of the church grounds for the Welcome Back Festival and received several names of parishioners that would like to volunteer their time to the Properties Committee. Most of them will be contacted in 2009 about upcoming opportunities to serve.
- The apple tree has been permanently planted in the Biblical Garden and the sprinkler system is operational there as well.
- The Barr Center furniture has been reupholstered.
- The sanctuary interior wall has been repaired.
- The ceiling in the gym has been repaired.
- We have hired a contractor to modify the existing goals in the Barr Center gym so that they will be adjustable. Fundraising has just begun to cover this expense.

- There was a major repair to the Barr Center HVAC system in the summer of 2008. 2009 will present a new set of challenges as Mike Williams has been called to active duty and there will be a temporary Facilities Manager for all of 2009.

Other

ECW – Episcopal Church Women

All baptized women are members of St. John's Episcopal Church Women. The ECW is organized under the national church with "branches" in each parish. St. John's has an active branch with seven guilds: St. Anne's, St. Clare's, St. Teresa's, St. Monica/St. Bridgett's, St. Mary/St. Catherine's. Each guild has its own unique character shaped by the ages of the women in the guild and the service projects done. The women of St. John's ECW and the individual guilds were involved in many ministries within the parish. The Easter Egg hunt, the Chrismon tree, cookies for Kairos, cooking meals for the agape, Fall Fling, the Bishops reception, assembling toiletries bags for homeless, and helping host the Diocesan convention are just some of the ministries.

During 2008, the ECW board met quarterly, the guilds monthly and the entire branch came together for spring and fall branch dinners and a fund raiser for the new chapel at Camp Gravatt. The spring dinner was held at St. John's and the women of St. Lawrence place were the speakers. The fall dinner was held at the Congaree Grill with a speaker from York Place. The fall fund raiser was held at Ann Gregg's home and was successful in generating funds to make a \$1000.00 contribution to Camp Gravatt. Camp Gravatt will dedicate the alms basins of the new chapel to St. John's Church.

The ECW gave outreach and in reach monies to the Diocesan World, National, and local missions projects, the Bene Dial Scholarship, National Cathedral, Chrismon tree purchase, Rector and Associate Rector's Discretionary Fund, and the local knitting group to purchase yarn for charity projects. The fall United Thank Offering collected \$1546.63.

The women of St. John's served in many spiritual and social ministries in the parish during 2008. In as much as the women served so too were they cared for. Through worship, study, service and fellowship the ECW provided channels through which the women could strengthen their own spiritual lives, broaden their Christian prospective, and follow into service to the parish, community, diocese, nation and world. Submitted by: Mackie O'Keefe

Keenagers Activities 2007/2008 Keenagers is a group that meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 12:30 for lunch, artfully prepared by Anna and her helper elves and assisted by Isaiah, her right hand man; fellowship; and a short program. Most of the participants are retired but that is certainly not a requirement. We welcome anyone who wants to join us for a program that is of interest. Our programs are varied and are intended to entertain, to be informative, and to offer an opportunity for service. Many are presented by members of our own congregation. Since last November our offerings have included a visit from Minnie Pearl, a program on bee keeping and honey production, an introduction to the archeology of the desert Southwest, a primer in wine making and wine tasting, and a musical Christmas. Informational programs were presented on missing and exploited children, gangs in Columbia, women's prison in Columbia and emergency operations in South Carolina. This December we will host Spirit's Call, a gospel sextet from Irmo. In our service programs we bring items for the agency represented to use for the benefit of their clients. This fall we will be contributing items for inmates and staff at the women's prison and in January we will be providing items for the animals at the Carolina Wildlife Center. Contrary to popular belief, we are coed and we do not play bridge! Submitted by: Susan Milton

Men of St. John's

Men of St. John's are continuing to raise money as usual for various needs around the church. They made \$4000 at the shrimp fund raiser and hope to make \$6000 at auction that will all be given to Kanuga trip to lower fees for each person to attend the weekend. Submitted by Bob Reynolds

Tweenagers is a group of St. John's women between and around the ages of 40 to 60, all are welcomed. The group meets once a month, usually the third Thursday, in someone's home for food, fun, fellowship and a program provided by one of the group. Our programs have included a variety of topics this year, such as Egypt, Pastoral Care, Lambeth Conference, Becoming a Deacon, Hopi Indians, Environmental Stewardship and the History of St. John's Church. Submitted by: Cathy Bourne

St. John's, Shandon
Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2007

After an opening prayer the Reverend J. Fletcher Montgomery called the Annual Parish meeting of St. John's Episcopal Church to order at 10:25. Reverend Montgomery appointed Rodger Stroup as clerk for the meeting.

Bill Todd moved approval of the minutes of the 2006 annual meeting. Theodore Dubose, seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee (Davis Bourne, John Sherrer, Mary Dallas Moore, Sally Reynolds and Brandon Templeton) submitted their nominations for election to the Vestry. The committee nominees are Katie Gibson, Michael Burkett, Theodore DuBose, Steve McMillan, Ann Ruderman, Faxie Watt, Russell Wright, and Jamie LaBorde. Candidate for Senior Warden, Bonnie Montgomery, Junior Warden, Lee Rambo, Delegates to the Diocesan Convention Catherine Collins, Davis Bourne and Robert Turnbull. Reverend Montgomery called for any nominations for Vestry from the floor. Ruth Woodruff moved to close the nominations, seconded by Cliff Moore. The motion carried unanimously.

Reverend Montgomery introduced Dorian Del Priore as the new director of youth ministries.

Mission and Ministry Reports

Long Range Plan: Davis Bourne presented the final copy of the Long Range Plan (copy attached). The plan was three years in the making and reflects many hours of thought and discernment by the Vestry, committee members and many members of the Parish. A major feature is the reorganization of the Parish committee structure with clear goals, objectives and strategies for each committee.

Stewardship: Bob Graham reported on the stewardship campaign. For 2007 there are 296 pledging units for \$911,000, with an average of \$3.077 per pledging unit.

Treasurer's Report: Russ McCoy reported on the final results of the building campaign for the renovation and expansion of Heyward Hall. The capital campaign raised \$3,739,000 to date with \$50,000 in pledges outstanding. As of today we have an outstanding loan balance of \$484,087.

Church Renovation Committee: John Boylston reported that the committee has met monthly since last winter to review plans for the renovation and expansion of the Church. The committee has engaged the Garvin Design Group to provide the architectural expertise necessary for the committee to recommend to the Vestry a course of action for the future renovation and/or expansion of the Church.

Following the reports the results of the Vestry election were announced. The following were elected to three year terms on the Vestry: Katie Gibson, Michael Burkett, Steve McMillan, Ann Ruderman and Faxie Watt.

Reverend Montgomery asked if there were any nominations from the floor for senior warden or junior warden. Mr. Todd moved that the nominations be closed and that Bonnie Montgomery be elected as senior warden and Lee Rambo as junior warden by acclamation. Mr. Padgett seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Reverend Montgomery opened the floor for nominations as delegates to the Diocesan Convention. There were no nominations from the floor and the slate offered by the nominating committee was elected by acclamation.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rodger E. Stroup, Clerk.

**Annual Parish Meeting
December 7, 2008—10:15 a.m.
Barr Center**

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

Appointment of Clerk

Approval of December 9, 2007 Annual Meeting Minutes (Page 15)

Nominating Committee Report: Bonnie Montgomery, Tuck Williams, Nancy Duvall, Beth Blakeslee, and Hoyt Burnett

*Election of five Vestry Members (Pink ballot)

*Election of Senior and Junior Warden (White ballot)

*Election of one Diocesan Delegate and three alternates for the Diocesan Convention (Green ballot)

Other Reports

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

*Nominations may be made from the floor provided the person is eligible, is aware of the duties and commitment of time, and has agreed to serve if elected.

Any baptized member, registered in the parish, at least 16 years old, is eligible to vote. Proxy votes must be received by the Secretary to the Vestry prior to call to order of the meeting.