



St. John's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2007
Annual Report

2827 Wheat Street • Columbia, South Carolina 29205 • 803-799-4767

Membership Statistics

Membership

Baptized Members: 1148
Confirmed Communicants: 687
Family Units: 506
Marriages: 4

Additions this year
Transfer In: 41
Baptisms: Under 16 yrs.: 16
Baptisms. 16 yrs. & older: 1
Confirmed/Receive: 22
Restored from Inactive Status: 1

Losses for the year
Loss by death: 3
Removed to Inactive Status: 11
Removed by Transfer: 23

Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that as we conclude 2007, St John's financial condition is sound. We will likely finish 2007 with a small surplus due primarily to the fact that we haven't yet filled the youth minister position for which full annual salary and benefits were allocated. However, there are challenges as we begin 2008. Most notably, we will begin servicing the debt connected with the renovation of Heyward Hall without the benefit of further Fulfilling the Promise campaign contributions as those offerings end this year. The debt service on that loan, currently \$11,200 per month, will be reduced in January but will nevertheless represent a considerable drain on our resources in 2008 and beyond.

The 2008 budgeting process is not complete at the time of this writing. Nevertheless, it is likely that when all non-discretionary and essential items are funded, there will be far less pledged income available for discretionary spending than is desired. Thus, we will be obliged to include provisional spending in the budget that is conditioned upon our receiving additional pledges. A far higher percentage of our members must make a pledge, and do so in a timely manner, if we are to avoid this dilemma which, unfortunately, has become an annual occurrence.

I am confident that your vestry is adequately informed regarding the financial decisions it must make and this is due in large part to the work that our parish Finance Committee does. The committee, chaired by Mike Miller, has worked diligently to provide very good reports to the vestry this year and stands ready to provide wise counsel when needed.

Finally, I would like to recognize the fine job that our Financial Administrator, Barbara Catoe, continues to do for St. John's. She has been very supportive of me in my role this year we are fortunate to have her dedication and fidelity.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ McCoy
Treasurer

Wardens' Report

Our specific goals for 2007 were to complete a Long Range Plan for St. John's, to continue emphasis on stewardship, and to begin the planning process for a church expansion/renovation project. We are happy to report that excellent progress has been made in each of these areas.

The strategic planning process, which began in January 2007, culminated with the presentation of a Long Range Plan for St John's at the annual meeting in December 2007. This plan incorporates the input of vestry members, clergy, staff, and parishioners, and will serve as a strategic road map as St. John's continues to grow and serve members of the community. A key feature of the plan was a reorganization of the parish ministry committee structure to ensure that each of the strategies, goals and objectives of the Long Range Plan could be achieved in a systematic fashion that better engages larger numbers of parishioners. Under this new committee structure, St. John's now offers expanded opportunities for all lay members to participate in the life of the church while allowing the clergy to focus more time, energy, and talent on teaching, preaching, and pastoral care.

Our emphasis on stewardship this year continued to focus on ways to increase the number of our parishioners who annually pledge to St. John's and the results have been positive. Bob Graham and Lee Rambo's inspired

leadership of our stewardship program has been creative and diligent. While we have made progress this year, we still have a challenge ahead of us in reaching our ultimate goal of having all parishioners annually pledging support of St. John's. Only through greater numbers of pledging will we as a parish be able to fully realize our potential in areas such as outreach and ministry.

Under the insightful leadership of John Boylston, chair of St. John's Dream Team, we have taken a solid and prayerful step toward determining the future of our sanctuary. Suffering from outdated systems and long-needed maintenance, this venerable structure will require significant rehabilitation within the near future. The Dream Team's establishment involved assembling gifted lay persons and clergy who have worked tirelessly to secure an architectural firm that will create an assessment and scope of work for both rehabilitating the sanctuary and enlarging it to fulfill the vision of St. John's earliest members. At this time the committee is in its initial discussion of what a future capital campaign would entail.

We continued our search for a Director of Youth Ministries in 2007, but unfortunately have not identified the right person to accept this call. Janine Lewis continues to do an admirable job leading the search for this position, and we are hopeful that the right candidate will be identified in the near future. Our sincere thanks go out to all of the adult leaders and volunteers who have given so much of their time, energy, and love to our youth in order to sustain this vital ministry.

We are grateful for the leadership and support of the clergy, vestry, staff, and all of the parishioners who have worked so hard for the good of St. John's in 2007. It has been an honor to serve as your wardens this year and we look forward to realizing great things here at St. John's in the future.

Davis Bourne, Senior Warden

John Sherrer, Junior Warden

Rector's Report

Dear Friends at St. John's,

2007 has been an exciting year of planning for the future. Most of the work the Vestry and I have been doing since our Retreat last January has focused on and around our new Long Range Plan – the final edition of which is being unveiled and presented today, thanks to the help and input of so many of you.

This year we have designed a “corporate-” or “resource-sized” parish model for leadership and organization, assigning every ministry of the parish community to one of 14 Committees. Each Committee is headed by a Chair person, a Vestry member, and a Staff member; each Committee is populated by a number of church members who, in turn, oversee and assist the various ministries affiliated with that Committee's area of work.

This organizational structure is going to produce at least two positive results: one will be the sharing of ministry leadership with more and more people in the coming years; and the other will be stopping the bottlenecks at the rector's door for every decision, freeing me to do the work of pastoring and teaching, and getting away from having my hand in absolutely everything – we're just too big for that. I ask that each member show a willingness to work within the new system – help us make it work for you and for your ministry interests.

Let me say my “thank-you's,” as ever, to my staff for their assistance in ministry this past year: Rachel, Barbara, and Nancy keep us straight in the office and in print; Mike and his team keep our buildings and grounds in great shape, and looking terrific; Anna feeds us, and facilitates fellowship at parish meals; Mary Jo is a huge help to me with our various children's ministries and with the nursery and Sunday School program; Celia and all her angels offer beautiful music and assist us so well in our worship. I'm also delighted to welcome Dorian Del Priore to our staff as Director of Youth Ministries – looking forward to a great year with him on board! Thanks, as always, to my reverend Associate Mary Moore for sharing with me the duties of priesting in this place. Also my thanks to the Vestry of St. John's, especially the five out-going members Davis Bourne, John Sherrer, Brandon Templeton, Mary Dallas Moore, and Sallie Reynolds.

I also want to say a big, general “thank-you” to the whole parish for letting me serve and lead as rector another year in this wonderful place. I’m still ‘riding the wave,’ and loving it, after 8½ years with you!

Of all the wonderful things going on in this place, there is one thing I’d really like to see change in the year ahead, and that’s church attendance. I know about 25% in the pews on Sunday isn’t too far off the national average, but if I’m bluntly honest, it can be really discouraging to look out at worship and wonder where everybody is. I hope, as a congregation, we will find a renewed sense of belonging and purpose in worshiping together on the Lord’s Day. Will you all work on that with me in 2008? Committing to being here, and bringing others along with you – both long-time members and visitors and newcomers?

I want to end by saying how excited I am about the response to our talking and teaching on Stewardship in recent years. Faithful giving helps the church and its outreach of course, but more than that it helps the giver. Faithful stewardship makes us true stewards of God’s resources, and not just last-minute donors who don’t mind parting with what we consider to be left-over, unassigned resources of our own. If you haven’t done so already, please join me in making a sacrificial pledge to the work of St. John’s in the year ahead.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, and give you his peace.

J. Fletcher Montgomery
Rector

Long Range Plan 2007 Progress Report

As leaders and stewards of St. John's in 2007, the members of the Vestry have undertaken a process of proactive planning for the future life and ministries of our Parish.

This process examines our current state, where we want to be, and how we are going to get there. It involves envisioning our preferred future and then producing a flexible plan or road map towards accomplishment. It allows proactive thinking beyond our current activities and traditions; it deals with change positively, and it sets priorities reflective of all aspects of the life of St. John's and our ministries.

Beginning at its annual retreat in January 2007, the Vestry and Clergy, along with Belton Ziegler and Linda Price acting as facilitators, carried out a series of visioning and planning exercises. At this retreat a new Mission Statement and a Statement of Core Values were created and adopted. Fourteen individual ministry teams were organized and they, in turn, began to examine each ministry and program at St. John's:

- What does St. John's currently do well and what things ought to be improved?
- Are we content to follow our current path, or should we decide on other routes in some instances?
- About which trends and influences on the Parish's future should we be most concerned?
- How should we respond to our Diocese's challenge to mission and the specific goals for stewardship and membership growth that the Diocese has targeted?
- What are our local priorities for the future?

Goals were set to establish a standard of excellence, ensure that all future programs and activities benefit and include as many parishioners as possible, further the mission and ministries of St. John's, and project a clear and polished image of St. John's to others who are not part of our faith community.

In a series of open forums, and through comments *via* the website, parishioners have been able to share their thoughts and ideas about St. John's strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities. The Vestry and Clergy, using the gathered information, began to draft a Long Range Plan for St. John's. Objectives and strategies for each ministry team were written. These included:

- Clarify and define the ministry teams, their roles and target groups.
- Get problem-solving accomplished at the appropriate level.
- Use our resources efficiently and effectively.
- Develop policies and procedures.
- Gain commitment from the wider Parish, and facilitate our working together towards our common goals.

While an initial draft of the Long Range Plan (LRP) draft was presented to the congregation on Palm Sunday 2007, the Vestry and Clergy continued expanding their work to incorporate the knowledge, perspectives, and experiences of the members of the newly-formed ministry teams. A one-sentence statement of purpose was written for each of the ministries. The teams identified critical issues and internal and external influences and their effect on the accomplishment of their ministry's goals and purposes. The individual strategies of each ministry were put into specific, innovative, and manageable actions, with target dates for completion as well as evaluation standards. An expanded LRP was presented to the congregation at Pentecost 2007.

Now in December 2007, our twelve months of prayer, listening, studying, visioning, and planning have come together in this final product. It represents a real and tangible vision for St. John's. The work of carrying out the LRP is intended to be shared by the whole congregation, always faithful to the Gospel, and relevant to the lives of God's people. To ensure the successful fulfillment of the LRP, all the members of our faith community must be active participants, sharing in the work of the Plan by giving sacrificially of their time, talent, and treasure. To this end we pray that God's holy name will be glorified, and that our congregation will continue to grow in its embracing of Christ's Great Commission.

Anne Miller, LRP Coordinator
St. John's Vestry 2007

Worship Ministry Team

Vestry Member:

Beth Blakeslee

Commissioned Chair:

Rodger Stroup

Staff Member:

Celia Bane

Clergy (ex officio)

Goal: Provide excellent worship both traditional and progressive.

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: The goal of the Worship Committee is to provide excellent and reverent Episcopal worship in a refurbished and expanded sanctuary, intentionally welcoming all people and integrating them into active ministry at St. John's. Our worship should be Christ centered, grounded in spirit, scripture and the sacraments, and should equip us for service.

In January the Vestry realigned the Parish's committee structure, creating the Worship Committee to oversee all aspect of worship. Included under this umbrella are acolytes, altar flowers, altar guild, choirs/music, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, weddings, baptisms, funerals, seasonal decorations and special services. The committee identified several important items that required immediate attention and others that will be addressed in the coming year (see the applicable section of the long range plan).

A high priority for the committee was recruiting an acolyte master. In August Marion Swain accepted the position of acolyte master and established a training program for veteran and new acolytes.

Working with the Communication Committee we helped to revise the format of the bulletin for each Sunday service. During the fall the Communication Committee presented the bulletin in several different formats and solicited comments and suggestions from members of the Parish.

In 2007 16 children and 1 adult were received into the Church through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Each newly baptized child received a banner with his or her name on it. Margaret Axson, Claudia Baker, Kelly Burkett, Sara Burnett, Darcy Hartin and Julianne Hurst sew the banners. Stacy Collins, Melissa Hurst, Catherine Lockhart and Anne Miller cut and affix the letters. Cope Fralick does hand lettering on all certificates.

Laura Williams is exploring creating a formal funeral committee to assist Parish members. She has contacted other churches soliciting information that will be helpful in developing the committee.

The Men of St. John's coordinate the ushers. They are currently searching for someone to take the place of the individual who has held this position for several years.

The wedding committee is available to assist with planning and coordinating weddings at St. John's. The altar flowers, seasonal decorations and special services committees continue to provide their ongoing functions.

Submitted By: Rodger Stroup

Acolytes

The Corps of Acolytes at St. John's has continued to serve the liturgical needs of the parish well in 2007. While we have lost several to graduation, other ministries, or by request, we have also added new servers to the roster. The roster currently lists fifty-one (51) acolytes. There have been several important events affecting this ministry in 2007.

In September and October, several Acolyte 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.

Also, I am in the process of producing a Parish Customary for Servers, or Acolyte Manual, for use in illustrating and instructing the various duties for servers in this parish. This Customary should be ready for use by the end of the year.

The parish currently owns and employs a total of nine (9) cassock-albs for use in vesting servers for service. These vestments are well-worn and aging. Thus, we are in the process of procuring a complete set of new vestments, in varying height ranges, for Acolyte use in order to provide a dignified and fitting appearance for our servers. The Men of St. John's have graciously offered to assist in underwriting this expense. These new vestments should also be ready for use by the end of the year.

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 in all regular 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 thankful for the many dedicated youth that make this ministry possible!

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Marion Swain, Sr.
Acolyte Master

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 enthusiastic instrumental groups are Selah (our guitar group) and the Handbell Team, both of which participate in worship regularly. The Chancel Choir and Chamber Singers rehearse together weekly. The Chancel Choir usually sings at the 11:15 service, rotating once a month with the Chamber Singers, who specialize in singing unaccompanied early American and English/Anglican music. The Men's Choir and the Women's Choir (mostly Chancel Choir members) divide forces from time to time to provide both a choir for the 9:00 am service and an opportunity to sing music more adapted to single-gender voices. Two Royal School of Church Music training groups have been meeting this year to provide private training in music and singing for our regular choir members.

Three junior choirs currently meet weekly, involving about 50 registered singers: Cherubs (3 years of age and younger) with USC music education student Lindsey Brown, Carol Choir (ages 4-6) with USC music student Rachel Runge, and St. John's Singers (grades 2 and up) with Celia Tolar-Bane. Many choir parents have provided invaluable regular assistance with the children, including filling in as leader when a teacher is absent. The age grouping and curriculum of our junior choirs is adapted to the group which registers each fall in order to foster both learning and enjoyment. In the Carol Choir, the language of music and artistic expression are taught in an atmosphere of active fun. The St. John's Singers, with Head Choristers Mary Margaret Collins and Austin Lewis, are divided into a girls' team and a boys' team. They learn the basics of music reading and sit in the choir stalls when they sing in church on the first Sunday of each month, in order to be active corporate worship leaders. Royal School of Church Music materials are used and regular evaluations by choristers who choose to participate lead to the awarding of medals for various levels of achievement.

We have had some valuable additions to our Chancel Choir and Chamber Singers this year while some others who have sung with us previously have moved away or are able to do so this year. The Chancel Choir has 18 regular participants this fall as well as a few who join us for special events from time to time, and we still need more singers. Volunteers are welcome to join at any time. Events of note have been Evensong service on

Sunday afternoon at Still Hopes Episcopal Retirement Community, Easter Vigil and Easter Day celebrations, with the exciting participation of trumpeters Dick Goodwin and Charles Polk; Epiphany's traditional Feast of Light; the addition of the contributions of many other fine instrumentalists to our worship from time to time (flute, solo guitar, trombone, trumpets, viola), including regular appearance by the USC Trombone Quartet, and music at Vacation Bible School (led by St. John's youth). Guest conductors have been Roger Keane and Ryan Tinker. Excellent soloists, both Choral Scholars and St. John's parishioners, have rounded out the musical offerings during worship this year.

Celia Tolar-Bane
November 1, 2007

Musical Instruments

Organ: This instrument is the focal point and foundation for the music that is so vital to our chosen form of traditional Episcopal/Anglican worship. We spent several months and had a good bit of work done on the organ in 2006 trying to resolve the electrical problem that was causing the organ to make occasional unexpected and frightening sounds. During Christmas Eve morning organ practice, when all the work had been completed and the problem was believed to be resolved, the horrifying noise happened again. With no other solutions in view, the organ maintenance team disconnected completely the rear section of the organ (over the doors onto Wheat Street). It will not be played again until the organ is remodeled or replaced, and we are working with about 60-70% organ capacity at this point. The remaining front (chancel area) organ continues to deteriorate and parts are being replaced as they fail when possible. Some things can not be repaired and can only be replaced with extensive remodeling of the organ. Regular maintenance includes semi-annual tuning and additional visits by technicians as ever more frequent breakdowns occur.

Music Room piano: The lovely 1979 Steinway grand piano in the Music Room was chosen because of its extreme dependability and longevity. Over its lifetime, it requires significant maintenance (replacement of parts as they deteriorate, as with the organ), but over the period of 50 years that it may be expected to last, our costs will be much lower than with lesser-quality instruments, and St. John's will continue to have an instrument of which they may be justifiably proud. In line with our parish's new long-range goal of providing high quality and varied music programs, this piano is used for choir practices, for concerts to which the community are invited, as for practice by piano students who are members of the parish. One of our goals is to make full use of the music room by offering regular chamber music concerts that would make a name for St. John's among the larger community churches, attract new members, and provide ministry opportunities. Both our excellent acoustic and our excellent piano make this possible.

Harpsichord: We have used the harpsichord in worship this year primarily for solo work or for accompanying soft voices or instruments. It must be fully tuned each time it is played, and it takes about an hour. Professional tuning costs \$75 per visit, but I am able to do the tuning myself.

Handbells: These very valuable and lovely instruments are used in worship from time to time, especially at Christmas. What a blessing it is to have such fine instruments available, and people to play them! (More ringers are currently needed. No musical experience necessary—we train!)

Celia Tolar-Bane
November 1, 2007

Servant Ministry Team

Vestry Member:
Bonnie Montgomery

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

Highlights: Servant Ministries Team (formerly known as the Outreach Committee)

Angela Daniel, Chair
Fran Marshall
Katherine McCormick
Bonnie Montgomery, Vestry Liaison
Cliff Moore

William Rambo
Mary Moore Roberson+
Dana Turner
Faxie Watt

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 plan to find ways in the coming year to educate parishioners about opportunities to serve these entities in ways beyond making contributions. This past year, we dispersed funds to Cooperative Ministries (restricted to direct services), to HomeWorks, to Kairos Prison Ministries, to the Giving Tree (here at St. John’s), and to Helping Hands (an after school program at Hand Middle School), in addition to generous funds that the parish committed to Chapoteau, Haiti. 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.

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.

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.

Submitted by Angela Daniel

Newcomers Ministry Team

Vestry Member:
Nancy Duvall

Commissioned Chair:
Catherine & Jason Lockhart

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:

This year we have worked hard to renew and revamp the Newcomer's committee. Our highlights include a largely attended Newcomer's reception at the end of the summer. Photographs of new families have been placed on the stairwell bulletin board and profiles of some new families have been included in the Messenger. The friendship pads continue to be an effective way of identifying visitors and those who need more information about St. John's. Letters of welcome are sent to all new visitors. Personal contact has been made with all new families. We have also seen that most of the new members for 2007 have already become actively involved in one or more of St. John's ministries. Replacement nametags were provided for parish members in September.

New Members of St. John's since January 1, 2007:

Traci Goins, Tammi Richardson & Jay Pickney, Logan & Merdith Doty, Michael & Jennifer Van Houten, Rebecca Wright, Robert Goings, Rachel & Alex Pertile, Jordan & Michael Mancini, Phyllis Gee, Busbee Family William Barksdale, Nicholas & Erin Pressley, Joanne Tate, Elizabeth Knight, Chris & Jenifer Mason, Richard Von Hollen & Julia Avin, Craig & Areli Keeney, Wendi & Steve Spratt, Chris & Walker Smith, Dale Ness, John Phillips & Fran Fisher, Elizabeth & Toby Ward

Submitted By: Catherine Lockhart

Christian Formation-Children

Vestry Member:
Brandon Templeton

Commissioned Chair:
Meg Stanley

Staff Member:
Mary Jo Pendarvis

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

Ministry areas: Sunday school, Wednesday evening program, special events for children and adults, Vacation Bible School, teacher recruitment, training, and support

Highlights: Children's Committee-- Another great year for the Children's Ministry with increased participation by our little ones. The committee is currently made up of a dozen dedicated individuals with various interests for St. John's Children - New Borns, Nursery, Sunday School, Children's Chapel, Events and Vacation Bible School. The intent of the committee continues to be to address the spiritual needs of children and families at St. John's through these subcommittees. Parents of newborns are provided a bag with information on Children's Ministry and opportunities to be involved at St. John's. The health policies written for the nursery and Sunday School appear to have been received well by parents and assisted in preventing unnecessary spread of germs in our facilities. Sunday School teachers were honored at a dinner in May where we presented them a small token of appreciation. Most teachers from last year continue their service in 2007 and several new were added to the classrooms that have become more crowded than the past. Another fun VBS in June 2007 at St. John's very own Avalanche Ranch. There was great participation by both children and adults which made the week a big success. Children learned about the love, grace and power of God through scripture, singing, stories, crafts, games and even snack! Welcome Back Sunday was held on September 9 where an information sheet on the Children's Ministry was distributed. On December 2, the Advent Festival will take place and this committee will provide devotional and activities for young children. On Christmas Eve, the children of St. John's will participate in a Christmas Pageant titled " The Christmas Present" at 4pm. This will take the place of recent years singing prior to the 4:30pm service.

Submitted By: Meg Stanley - Committee Chair

Christian Formation-Youth

Vestry Member:
Mary Dallas Moore

Commissioned Chair:
Sarah Meacham & Katherine
Templeton

Staff Member:
Fletcher Montgomery

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

Ministry areas: staff search p/t youth minister, EYC, youth confirmation, Jr. and Sr. Sunday school, youth basketball, Happening

Highlights:

Youth Sunday School: The Middle School Girls Sunday School Class is made up of girls in grades 6-8. This group is active not only in the classroom but also in the community. In addition to gathering on Sunday mornings for food, socializing, and studying God's word in their lives, this group was involved in various service projects last year. They put together a Thanksgiving basket for Isaiah, our church sexton, raised money and purchased Christmas presents for children from the church giving tree, and collected art supplies for the children who attend the Children's Garden Day Care. (teachers- Susan Graham, Sarah Meacham, and Katherine Templeton)

The Middle School Boys Sunday School Class is made of boys in grades 6-8. This class will meet each Sunday during the Sunday school hour and will incorporate Bible Study, discussions, and fellowship! It is always exciting and unpredictable. (teachers- Steve McMillan and Brandon Templeton)

The Senior High Sunday School Class is a mix some Bible Study with some discussion about current events and the occasional outing to Bojangle's or Krispy Kreme!(teachers- John Boylston and Rebecca Dillard)

Youth Confirmation Classes: The Confirmation Class is led by Eddie Williams, Bobby Hurst and Cliff Moore. We will use the Book of Common Prayer as our guide, with particular emphasis on the Catechism. In further preparation for Confirmation, candidates will also participate as a group in church and service projects. The instructors will guide each of the candidates in their selection of a sponsor to stand with him/her as he/she is confirmed.

Youth Mission Trips: The youth had a single day work sessions in October of 2007 and plans for another one in April of 2008. Multiple day events are planned for December 2007 between Christmas and New Years in Columbia for senior high, June 2008 in Augusta, Georgia for our junior high program, and July 2008 on John's Island for the senior high group. Additionally, our youth will cook a meal for other youth on mission trips in Columbia during the months of December 2007 and June 2008. All of our planned activities are performed through Home Works of America, Inc. (www.homeworksofamerica.org).

Acolytes: The scheduling of acolytes is currently handled by a volunteer from the parish (Robin Campbell) and the new acolyte master is Marion Swain. He coordinates training and scheduling of acolytes. Acolytes are scheduled for all 3 services and are an important part of our worship services.

EYC: EYC will be held every Sunday from 5-7 pm and supper will be served. Below are special events that were planned for the Fall Semester. Come each week and bring friends for fun and fellowship!

September 9/8 All Girls Overnighter 6pm – 8 am @ St. John's, 9/9 Annual EYC Kick- Off Party – Meet @ Hollywood Park from 5-7pm, 9/16 5–5:30 pm Parent Meeting in Barr Center Library, EYC from 5-7pm 9/23 Pool Party at King's Grant Pool from 5-7pm, 9/30 EYC from 5-7pm, October 10/7 Canoe Trip – Time and Place TBA, 10/14 Fair Day! We will leave from the Church – Time TBA, 10/21 EYC 5-7 pm - Planning for "Trunk-or-Treat", 10/28 "Trunk or Treat" and Spooky Supper – Time TBA November, 11/4 EYC/Groucho's Fundraiser – 5-8pm, 11/11 Congaree Swamp Hike – Bring picnic supper!- Time TBA, 11/18 Harvest Eve, 11/25 No meeting – Thanksgiving weekend, December 12/2 Advent Festival, 12/9 EYC from 5-7pm (volunteer work), 12/16 Youth Christmas Party and Caroling

EYC Leaders: Paula Bowers artshacklady@sc.rr.com
Emily Boatwright emilys7@yahoo.com
Alan Boatwright grouchosbrr@yahoo.com
Bryant Blakeslee, Jr bblakeslee@gmail.com
Lisa & Travis Faulds travislisa@bellsouth.net
Larry Woodrum hwfalarry@sc.rr.com
Eileen Schell eschell@sc.rr.com
Gordon Schell gschell@sc.rr.com
Cliff Moore cmoore@ellislawhorne.com

Diocesan News: The Diocesan Liaison and Outreach Coordinator (Gordon Schell) serves to promote Diocesan-wide activities, encourage youth and adult involvement in these events and coordinate registration if required.

Upcoming events for youth were: September 28-30, 2007, Junior High Fall Retreat, Camp Gravatt, October 20-21, 2007, Senior High Fall Rally - Camp Gravatt, November 2-4, 2007, Happening #58 (10-12 grade), Bishop Gravatt Center, February 8-10, 2008, Diocesan Youth Leadership Training Conference (Sr. High, 9-12 grade) Camp Bob Kanuga Registration Deadline: January 25, 2008 March 7-9 , 2008 Happening #59 (10-12 grade) Bishop Gravatt Center Registration Deadline: February 22, 2008 April 25-27, 2008 Junior High New Beginnings Camp Gravatt Registration Deadline: April 11, 2008 Parents and other adults can get involved, too! Whenever we send youth from our congregation to a Diocesan event they must to be accompanied by an adult at least 22 years of age who has completed Diocesan Safe Church Training. One adult is expected for each group of 1-5 youth.

Submitted By: Katherine Templeton

Christian Formation-Adults

Vestry Member:

John Sherrer

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 is working 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 discussed and adopted several goals and objectives. First among these is developing programming earlier than in the past. If we are to offer excellent programming for our members and visitors, we must allow sufficient time to recruit speakers, obtain materials, and develop class curriculums. The committee's goal is to develop programming six months or more in advance of the time it will be offered. As of the date of this report, classes are already planned for the winter and spring of 2008 with an additional class already under discussion for the fall of 2008.

A second goal revolves around Christian formation at three levels with classes offered 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 their participants can benefit from more in-depth study of a particular subject of interest.

Finally, a third goal is increased participation by all ages, especially the 18-30 year old age group. By offering quality classes at three levels this fall, we believe that attendance at Sunday school has increased over attendance in previous years. In addition, Wednesday night programming took on a more relaxed and fun approach, looking at movie clips and discussing the Christian message that comes through in each. The committee intends to continue this approach in 2008.

In addition to the regular Sunday school and Wednesday night offerings, the Adult Christian Formation Committee plans to offer members of St. John's an opportunity for Christian formation through a weekend speaker. We are also discussing forming covenant groups.

To meet our goals as outlined above, the committee labored over and submitted a robust budget which if fully funded would allow us to pay a small stipend to those that 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.

The Adult Christian Formation Committee includes Davis Bourne, Mary Wallace Coleman, Cope Fralick, Bob Graham, Julie Lumpkin, Bruce Marshall, Anne Miller, John Sherrer, Margaret Todd and Dana Turner, Chair. Rev. Fletcher Montgomery serves as our clergy member.

Administration Ministry Team

Vestry Member:

Davis Bourne

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 goal of the Administration team was to establish an effective organizational structure to implement, manage and support the ministries and activities of St. John's. It has been a busy year as we have reviewed the current organizational structure, existing job descriptions and policies and procedures.

With input from the staff, the committee worked with the Rector to develop job descriptions for every staff member. A standard format was used for all, detailing key responsibilities, education, and experience, number of employees supervised, qualifications, special training and salary range.

An evaluation template will be created from each job description by April 2008. The new form will standardize the evaluation process and allow for a more formalized, objective evaluation.

The Administration committee also provided support and guidance to the Youth Search Committee in regards to a salary range for the youth minister.

In addition to finalizing job descriptions and evaluations, the committee plans to facilitate leadership training and informational sessions for future leadership opportunities.

Submitted by: Jackie Boylston

Stewardship Ministry Team

Vestry Member:

Lee Rambo

Commissioned Chair:

Bob Graham

Staff Member:

Barbara Catoe

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

Ministry areas: stewardship kickoff event/stewardship season/pledging

Highlights: Stewardship was a focus for the entire year here at St. John's. For the first time in over a decade we were able to increase the number of pledges and the total dollars two years in a row. Our focus has been on what God teaches us about giving. We had monthly teachings mailed to every household on what God through his word in scripture tells us about money, giving, and where our focus should be. We had our second annual stewardship campaign breakfast and announced our theme of "Moving Toward The Tithe". Bishop Charles Duvall did a great job of delivering the message of how God calls us to tithe and our responsibility to tithe. Reminders of the three steps to a tithe were placed throughout the church and mailed to every household. As last year, our fall drive was centered around fellowship groups in the church with an internal competition between those groups.

Our total pledge income is estimated to exceed \$ 900,000 for the first time in the history of the church after breaking the \$ 800,000 barrier for the first time last year. The committee members were Lee Rambo, Mary Sherrer, Julian Horst, Steve McMillan, and Mike Komar.

Submitted by: Bob Graham

Parish Events

Vestry Member:
Sallie Reynolds

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 2006) A light breakfast was provided for all during the 2006 Annual Meeting. It was a nice addition to the meeting. Vestry elections for 2007 took place. The gym was full with close to 300 parishioners.

Palm Sunday This year petite fores were served down stairs in the Heyward Hall atrium 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, May 15 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 as it was held on the patio right outside the Church.

Gravatt Day Gravatt Day 2007 was a bit rainy and therefore the Eucharist was celebrated inside Collet Dining Hall on the Summer Camp side of The Bishop Gravatt Center. After the service, those who attended enjoyed a fried chicken / pot luck lunch and explored the camp. Several parishioners enjoyed swimming and fishing on the conference side lake. It turned into a beautiful day_

Pentecost Lunch Following a special service where newly ordained Rev. Joseph Smith delivered the homily, lunch was served in the gym. Nearly 200 people enjoyed a lunch of ham, macaroni and cheese, green beans, slaw, and banana pudding.

Welcome Back Sunday With the help of the female EYC members, Caramel French Toast was prepared on the Saturday night before Welcome Back Sunday. The gym was set up with table clothes and flowers and made a festive setting for a hot breakfast served family style. Caramel French Toast was served with sausage, fruit, coffee, and juice to close to 250 people. A breads table was set up for those needing something less sweet. Each place setting had a calendar list of all important dates on the St. John's calendar. More information about individual ministries at St. John's could be found on the information table in the foyer of the Barr Center.

Wednesday Night Dinners Wednesday Night Dinners were a great success in the Fall of 2007. Wonderful food prepared by Anna Legare was enjoyed by 40-80 people each Wednesday night during the Fall program. A varied menu and wonderful desserts kept everyone coming back each week.

Submitted By: Christine Koutrakos

The 12th Night Party Following the Feast of Lights the annual 12th Night party was held in the Barr Center Gym. The party hosts were Carin Rikard, Samuel Miller and Sarah Adams. Catherine Collins was the reigning King and Perry Lynn Wright was the investor. This year a new custom was added to the party preparations. The royal court gathered in the kitchen under the direction of Anna Legare. The King's cakes were homemade and decorated by the court. A wonderful feast of Mediterranean chicken, hummus, olive tapenade, feta dip, spinach puffs, apples and of course pretzels and cheese puffs were prepared and served. The party began with the trumpet announcement of the Kings and their cakes. Perry Lynn shared have she had invested her coin to nearly \$70.00, the money was given to a local charity. All enjoyed delicious food and great fellowship. The quest was on to find the 3 almonds, coin, and ring to determine the royal court for the next year. Submitted by: Anne Miller

Keenagers Highlights: Keenagers continues to meet on the third Tuesday of the month. Susan Milton will be the leader through May 2008. Sam and Janet Roberts continue as our treasurers and Mary Moore continues

as our priest liaison. We have a faithful and consistent attendance of about 35. In September, Mary Bryan and Tom Kohlsaas offered a program on their travels to Azerbaijan. In October, Barbara Mullen offered a program on "The Power of One". In November Mike Lee offered a program on "Sheltering the Homeless". We invite all parishioners to join us. Again, we thank Anna and Isaiah for our wonderful lunches. Submitted By: Joan Savage

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:

As a result of the Long Range Planning that was formalized at the vestry retreat in January at Kanuga, a committee to begin looking at the renovation and expansion of the sanctuary structure was formed. The committee was formed with the stated LRP goal of "expanding the sanctuary to better accommodate a growing parish." The committee members 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.

Monthly meetings were held to begin the work of determining what type of work effort would be undertaken. It was quickly evident that significant infrastructure issues such as the HVAC system and the roof would need to be addressed as part of an overall program of expansion. Congregational forums were held in March to gauge the feeling of the parish with regard to initiating a major construction effort on the campus. While there were questions regarding the details, the overwhelming sentiment was that the sanctuary needed to be updated and enlarged and now was the time to begin that work.

The spring was spent refining a preliminary program from which an architect could begin the work of developing a design. In July, interviews were conducted with four architecture firms over the course of two days. The interviews were held at the respective firm's office and while all were highly capable, after some deliberation by the committee the Garvin Design Group was selected. The selection was presented to the vestry and a request was made to enter into negotiations with Garvin. The vestry has approved funds to begin conceptual design and the committee has reviewed Garvin's contract proposal for a conceptual design which will allow the committee to better determine the overall cost of the project and produce drawings which will be useful in a capital campaign.

The committee expects to finalize Garvin's contract by the middle of November with the expectation that work will begin immediately. The conceptual design will be complete in the spring of 2008. Concurrently, the committee will work with Robert Wiltshire who is a fundraising consultant and who was instrumental in the Heyward Hall Capital Campaign. Robert is familiar with our parish, our treasurer and finance committee and with what this parish wants to accomplish.

The Church Renovation Committee appreciates your continued prayers, support, and input as this major undertaking for our parish continues.

Submitted by: John Boylston

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: Eucharistic visitors, Agape, hospital and homebound visitors, prayer book and email list, coordination of committee ministries with clergy

Highlights:

The six lay ministries that fall under St. John's Pastoral Care have been very active this year. Our primary goal is to coordinate these ministries to work together and with St. John's other ministries to provide pastoral care to the members of our congregation.

"Love in Action" (our visitation committee) has 18 active members visit on a regular basis at least 25 of our parishioners who are either home bound, in nursing homes or 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.

Our Community of Hope, a pastoral care ministry, is laity who are trained through the teachings of the Benedictine Rule for pastoral care. Four of our members have gone through this training, equipping them to use their pastoral skills to minister where their spiritual gifts are best suited. They give comfort and care to those in need. These four people 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, and other crisis in their lives. We provide a listening ear and spiritual presence. Margaret Todd is our Community of Hope leader.

Our 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. We have worked on making our system easier to access, especially the e-mail and phone system.

Agape and Newborn Agape are under the past leadership of Colleen Robinson and now Margaret Buchanan for the adult program. Katherine Templeton previously was leader of Newborn Agape and now Catherine Gabrielli is our present leader. This ministry is always ready to provide a meal to those members whom are sick, a death in the family or new birth to a family. These meals could not be prepared without the generosity of the women of the church. Many times a meal is prepared and delivered without the knowledge of the Agape leader. This is done by member to member; friend to friend.

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

Pastoral Care ministries are always in need of new people. We could do so much more to the glory of God.

Submitted by: Virginia Vincent.

Communications Ministry Team

Vestry Member:

Tuck Williams

Commissioned Chair:

Ashley Landess

Staff Member:

Rachel Cross

Goal: To establish effective internal and external communication methods to support the ministries of St. John's by appropriate media means.

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

Highlights:

The communications committee hopes to further spread the message and works of St. John's to both the parish community and to the Columbia area. We first compiled a manual of all the publications, including the complete production process for each. We plan to have copies of that available at the parish meeting. The committee also worked with parish staff to re-design the church bulletin to make it more user-friendly for both members and visitors. The committee set up an internal structure to work with other committees and members who want our input or who need the communications committee to help them get out the word about the activities of their ministries. The committee is also in the process of working with other church members to design and maintain church bulletin boards.

The work of the communications committee in 2007 was to examine the process by which we produced and distributed our publications, and then to refine that process to improve the way our church members get information about St. John's. We hope that in 2008 we can explore ways to take the Christian message, and how St. John's participates in the work of Christ, out more into the to the Columbia community.

Submitted by: Ashley Landess

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.

2007 progress includes:

- Improved the monthly financial reporting to the vestry, including summary analysis and comparison to budget
- Anticipated financial issues and concerns and made recommendations to the vestry
- Developed a proposed 2008 budget to be presented to the Vestry for debate and approval
- Partnered with other ministry teams to ensure the proper use of St. John financial resources
- Participated in, and submitted Finance Ministry Team goals for, Long Range Plan being developed for St. John's

Submitted by: Mike Miller

Properties Ministry Team

Vestry Member:
Hoyt Burnett

Commissioned Chair:
Shayne Miller

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

Highlights:

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

We established our committee with the primary goal to be an advocate for the St. John's staff, clergy, and vestry so that the staff will have the resources to provide a functional and beautiful campus for parishioners to worship, learn, and commune in fellowship. We set a monthly meeting date of the second Thursday of the month at 4:30 prior to the monthly vestry meetings. The first item our committee did was to get familiar with the grounds and facilities. Mike established a procedure for reporting monthly and yearly maintenance items to the committee. Mike arranged for a full staff meeting so that our committee could meet and discuss everyone's role for the property's maintenance. We established a procedure for any gifts given to the church. In preparation for the 2008 budget we had two meetings devoted to analyzing the maintenance needs for the upcoming year based on three categories: safety, required maintenance, and wish list projects. Mike and the properties committee researched several items to determine their feasibility and cost of projects. We ranked each item on a basis of priority and Mike added the estimated costs to his various budget requests. We also came up with a 5-year plan that we will monitor periodically, so that the finance committee can have an idea of any major upcoming costs, such as new roof, hot water heaters, etc. We have not had any dealings with the church renovation committee as of yet, but as the architectural plans start to materialize, we anticipate having some coordination meetings with them in early 2008. The smooth operation of the maintenance of our church grounds could not be achieved without Mike's experience, guidance, and organizational skills. Our committee established a great working relationship with Mike and his staff and look forward to accomplishing lots in the upcoming year.

Submitted by: Hoyt Burnett

Other

ECW – Episcopal Church Women

All baptized women are members of St. John's ECW. 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's/ St. Bridgett's, St. Mary's / 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 Kirios, cooking meals for the agape freezer, fall fling, the Bishops reception and letters for our college students were just some of the ministries.

During 2007, the ECW board met once a month as did the guilds and the entire branch came together in the Spring and late Fall for branch dinners. A lovely spring branch dinner was hosted at the home of Susan Carpenter. A delightful dinner was enjoyed in the yard and around the pool. Shine --- Inspirational Home Accents --- provided a home show with items for purchase. The fall branch dinner was a relaxing dinner on the river at New Orleans River Front Restaurant. Regina Ratterree, President of the UTO national committee was the evening's speaker.

The ECW gave outreach and in reach monies to the Diocesan Seminarian Fund, Bishop's Discretionary Fund, National Cathedral, Bena Dial Scholarship Fund, Church Women United, Diocesan world, national, and local mission projects, Rector's Discretionary Fund, Associate Rector's Fund, and our Diocesan pledge. Over 100 migrant worker bags were made, assembled and given to Church Women United. The spring United Thank Offering collected \$1,196.96.

The women of St. John's ECW served in many spiritual and social ministries in the parish during 2007. In as much as the women served so to 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 in the parish, community, Diocese, nation, and world.

Submitted by: Anne Miller

St. John's, Shandon Annual Parish Meeting

December 10, 2006

The Reverend Fletcher Montgomery called to order the annual parish meeting of St. John's Episcopal Church on Sunday, December 10, 2006. He opened the meeting with a prayer and directed the members to the 2006 Annual Report.

Dr. Robinson moved that the December 4, 2005, Annual Meeting Minutes be approved. The motion was seconded and carried. Alice Adams was appointed as clerk for the meeting.

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Russ McCoy, Larry Woodrum, Wade Sparks, Bobby Hurst, and Alice Adams, reported on the nominees for vestry. The nominees were the following: Anne Miller, Lee Rambo, Les Cotter, Tom Faulds, Virginia Vincent, Michael Burkett, Steve McMillan, John Boylston, and Eileen Schell. Fletcher Montgomery recognized the outgoing and remaining vestry members and expressed thanks to all members.

Reverend Montgomery called for nominations for vestry from the floor. A motion was made to close nominations to the nine listed on the ballot. The motion was seconded and carried. Fletcher reminded the members that all sixteen year old members were eligible to vote. The votes were gathered for counting.

The Reverend Fletcher Montgomery gave the Rector's Report. He thanked all for coming together at this important time. He described it as important because of elections of senior and junior wardens, diocesan delegate, and because of the challenges we face in the next three years. Our Bishop will be 68 next month, and thus, will retire in 4 years. General Convention meets in 2 ½ years. Margaret Axson and Ned Badget are delegates to the convention and provide an important service for our parish. Looking towards 2007, we are facing three challenges. First, we face staff development challenges, such as a new staff minister for our youth. Second, we face ongoing challenges in providing the best in our spiritual ministries. Third, stewardship remains a challenge. Presently, we received more pledges and more income than in our history. However, we carry debt on Heyward Hall and all ministries suffer when budget requests are denied. Pledges provide everything from books to heat, modest staff salaries, printing expenses, insurance, and more. Lee Rambo and her whole team worked diligently during our stewardship campaign. Fletcher encouraged the members to grow in faithfulness and giving. Additionally, the long range planning process will come to an end in the next couple of weeks. Long-range planners reported that there are signs of contentment in our parish. Fletcher asked for prayers for the coming years. He is also working on calling a "dream team" together to tackle the expansion of the new church and retiring the debt on Heyward Hall. The new church has been anticipated since 1926. Fletcher ended by stating that he has tried to be a faithful servant leader and remain loyal to church. He prays for real unity in the spirit. Fletcher also provided an overview of the budget and stewardship. The Budget Team met twice in November equipped with pledging in excess of \$800,000. More than half of our households are making pledges. He reported that the recreation of the thrift shop, different from its prior description, is being considered. We need a representative for Helping Hands Ministry to attend one meeting a month with area Shandon churches. Helping Hands advances lives of kids in the Shandon neighborhood. The Reverend reported that the speakers for Kanuga will be Sam Hunter and Belton Zeigler; both will discuss visioning, growth and how we follow Christ. Fletcher will be meeting with them to discuss Kanuga. The Bishop will visit the week after Easter, April 15th. Cliff Moore and Bobby Hurst are teaching the Confirmation Class and eighteen students are attending.

Davis Bourne stood to thank Fletcher Montgomery, Mary Moore Roberson, and all the staff for their work during the year. Laura Williams thanked the Giving Tree supporters. Fletcher requested volunteer(s) for clerk for the vestry meetings.

Fletcher Montgomery called for the election of one Diocesan Delegate and alternates for the Diocesan Convention. He reminded the members that Ned Badget and Margaret Axson served as delegates, and Lanie Epting served as an alternate. Last year, Russ McCoy attended as Warden. Robert Hemphill served as the parish's other alternate. Nominations from the floor were closed by motion. Fletcher called for the pink ballots. Nominees were Lanie Epting, Bruce Marshall, and Robbie Wilcox. A Motion was made that the parish elect the Senior and Junior Warden by acclamation. The motion was seconded and carried. Davis Bourne will serve as Senior Warden. John Sherrer will served as Junior Warden.

While waiting for election results, Fletcher explained why he believed the search for a new Bishop should begin. It takes approximately eighteen months to find a Bishop.

Elected vestry members were John Boylston, Lee Rambo, Eileen Schell, Les Cotter, and Anne Miller. Robbie Wilcox was elected as the Diocesan Delegate and will serve with Ned Badgett and Margaret Axson.

Fletcher Montgomery closed the meeting in prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice P. Adams, Clerk

**Annual Parish Meeting
December 9, 2007—10:15 a.m.
Barr Center**

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

Appointment of Clerk

Approval of December 10, 2006 Annual Meeting Minutes (Page 22)

Nominating Committee Report: Davis Bourne, John Sherrer, Mary Dallas Moore, Sallie Reynolds, and Brandon Templeton

*Election of five Vestry Members (Green ballot)

Mission and Ministry Reports

*Election of Senior and Junior Warden (White ballot)

*Election of one Diocesan Delegate and three alternates for the Diocesan Convention (Pink 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 Parish Meeting.