FROM THE RECTOR:

Dear Ones,

I thought I’d share with you some of the highlights of the Vestry Retreat we held on 16 January.

We started gathering at 9:00AM and continued our wake-up with coffee and some Krispy Kreme doughnuts, courtesy of James Christiansen. During this gathering time we talked about why each of us was here. Some were born here, some married into Saint John’s, some found it on their own.

Because worship and prayer are central to who we are, we began our work-time together with Morning Prayer. Returning to the living room, we talked about what it means to be a leader, how leadership is exercised, and so on. We were generally agreed on all of these: the Vestry represents the members of the parish; they act for the parish, making decisions based on what they believe is the best course of action; they stay in-touch with the parish and make themselves available to members of the parish. At the conclusion of this conversation, we took a short break.

When we reconvened, we talked about the state of the parish, that is, what’s going on and not going on. When they saw the topic I had listed, they thought they were going to listen to me. It was, instead, a good, lively conversation. We continue to decline in size, in spite of the addition of new members and even some babies! Our lack of young adults was mentioned more than once by more than one person. I think the general feeling is that we continue to teeter on the brink of viability, and that means something has to change.

We moved to the church and celebrated the Eucharist together; everyone was in the chancel or choir loft. It was kind of cozy! Time for lunch, and then it was back to work.

The afternoon topic was “How should the vestry be organized?” Might sound like a silly question, but it wasn’t. For the past two years, we’ve had nine committees, each with a liaison from the vestry; sometimes the liaison was the entire committee. It wasn’t working, so after talking it through, we arrived at the following:

**Administration:** combining the Finance, PR/Communications, Personnel, Facilities and Policy & Procedure aspects of the parish. (Christiansen, Duke, Gass, McLean, Sundie)

**Outreach:** All of our external projects and funding, combining the efforts of Outreach, Evangelism, Parish Life, UTO and ERD at Saint John’s. (Buckley, Christiansen, McLean, Waites)

**Parish Life:** Concentrating on needs and activities within the parish, including pastoral care, activities & events, evangelism, ushers, welcoming, DoK, ECW, Men of the Church, EYC, and campus ministry. (Buckley, Johnston)

**Stewardship:** Left by itself, because of the need for each of us to keep our stewardship of what God has given us forefront in our hearts and minds. (The Whole Vestry!)

(Continued on page 2)
I have to tell you, I am quite excited by the cohesiveness of this group, its willingness to embrace change and try something new. If it doesn’t work, we’ll try something else.

Change comes to us all, whether we welcome it or not. Bullen Dolli, the Bishop of Lui (in Sudan) said, “Change – or change will change you!” It is part of who we are and it is a part of growing. If we aren’t changing, we aren’t growing.

I encourage you to find where you fit with one or more of these groups. You belong there; it’s your parish!

– Thomas

VESTRY SUMMARY

On Saturday, 16 January, the Vestry of Saint John’s met as part of its retreat. Minutes of the 8 December meeting were approved. The new committee structure was adopted. Father Heard reminded the members to complete their Commitment Campaign follow-up calls. The proposed budget for 2010 was distributed for review. The vestry decided to hold a special meeting on Sunday, 24 January after church to finalize the budget and elect Vestry officers.

The Vestry met at 11:30 on 24 January to consider the budget for 2010 and elect officers. The new officers are:

- Senior Warden: Cindy Gass
- Junior Warden: James Christiansen
- Treasurer: Connie McLean
- Clerk: Eugene Johnston

The proposed budget was adopted. For 2010, we expect an increase in expenses of $2,800 and a decrease in income of $12,600, yielding a deficit of $44,700. This deficit is $15,500 greater than last year.

The Vestry asks each parishioner to prayerfully consider a 1% increase in their pledge. If we all pitch in, we can make up our income decrease and neutralize the deficit growth. When you’ve decided to adjust your pledge, please call Lella at the church on Tuesdays or Thursdays and let her know your increased pledge amount.

RESPONSE TO HAITIAN EARTHQUAKE

The Episcopal Diocese of Haiti has set up 21 refugee camps caring for 23,000 people. Episcopal Relief & Development has sent emergency food, water and medical supplies and is working with the Episcopal Diocese of Dominican Republic to get more aid where it is needed.

It is important to support our fellow Episcopalians with prayer and financial assistance. Below is a prayer for Haiti that was in a service held at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.

A Prayer for Haiti and Her People

Gracious God, we lift our voice in prayer with all the people of the world.

Surround Haiti and her people with your loving embrace that they may be: supported by the world in the work of rescue and recovery; comforted as they grieve; strengthened as they bury their dead; healed as they tend their wounds; restored in faith and the hope of things unseen; and transformed through newness of life.

Make us instruments of divine charity, of mercy, of hope, and of new possibility. Give us eyes to see, ears to hear, the will to act, and a discerning and generous heart that we may serve you and those who suffer in whatever way we are able.

In and through the power of your Holy Name, we pray. Amen.

To assist those suffering in the wake of this disaster, you can make a donation to Episcopal Relief & Development’s Haiti fund at www.er-d.org or call 1-800-334-7626, ext. 5129. Gifts can be mailed to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058. Please write “Haiti” in the memo of all checks.

– Eugene Johnston
The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ at the Temple

We celebrate this day on the 2nd of February. Also called “The Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin” and “Candlemas”, this celebration reminds us that each Jewish first-born was to be dedicated to God, in remembrance of Israel’s deliverance from Egypt. This event was the catalyst for Simeon and Anna to recognize Jesus’ true identity.

Anskar, Bishop of Scandanavia

Born in Corbie, France in 801, he answered the call of the king of Denmark for Christian missionaries in 826 and established a school and a mission. He was called to Sweden in 829 to do similar work. Anskar was consecrated Archbishop of Hamburg in 831 and continued his work among the Scandinavians. It took over 100 years for his work to bear fruit. We will commemorate Anskar’s life and work at our Wednesday Said Mass on 3 February.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent and is a fast day. It gets its name from the practice of the imposition of ashes, made from the palm branches from the previous year. We hold the ashes to be sacramental (not a Sacrament), which serve as reminders of our repentance or turning from old ways to the Lord. In ancient times, dusting with ashes was one way for a penitent to express sorrow and regret for sins and faults.

We will hold the Ash Wednesday liturgy twice on 17 February. The first will be a Said service at 10:00AM and the second a Sung service at 6:00PM. Throughout the day, the church will be open for prayer.

Saint Matthias

After Judas’ death, the disciples met and decided that they must replace him. They met, prayed and finally chose Matthias as the new twelfth disciple. We know nothing more of Matthias, where his mission field was, what he was like, or where he came from. We commemorate his life on Wednesday, 24 February at a Said Mass at 10:00AM.

LENTEN ACTIVITIES

We mark the beginning of Lent with our Ash Wednesday services at 10:00AM and 6:00PM on 17 February (see the Holy Days article above for more about Ash Wednesday). Lent is a season of repentance and introspection, a time when we can grow more fully into our relationship with God.

You’ve heard of ‘giving up’ something for Lent – a practice of self-denial to heighten awareness of desire and dependence. There is also a tradition ‘taking on’ something – adding some practice to your life during Lent. It might be something like spending 20 minutes in prayer every day, reading Morning and/or Evening Prayer every day. One of the other traditions of Lent is holding Fridays as a day of special devotion, often making it a fast day.

At Saint John’s, beginning on Ash Wednesday, we will offer Evening Prayer at 5:30PM on weekdays. On Fridays, Stations of the Cross will begin at 6:00PM. Who knows, some of us might gather after Stations to break our fasts together!
### Lectionary and Rota for February 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Lectors</th>
<th>Eucharistic Visitor</th>
<th>Teellers</th>
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**Lessons**
- C Lent 2
  - Phil 3:1-4:1
  - Gen 1:1-12,17:18
  - Psalm 72
  - Deut. 10:13-17

- C Lent 1
  - Luke 1:4-13
  - Rom. 10:8b-11
  - Ps. 91:1-2, 9-16
  - Deut. 26:1-11

**Living Liturgy**
- C Epiphany 5
  - John 12:44-50
  - Exod 34:6-7
  - Gen 15:1-18
  - Phil 2:5-11

**Greeters**
- Paula & Bob Ross
- Irene & Butch Yeager
- Connie McLean
- Connie & Bob Anderson

**Lectors**
- Kathe Gieseler
- Ron Waites
- Paula Ross

**Eucharistic Minister**
- Butch Yeager
- Ron Brown

**Eucharistic Visitor**
- Paula Ross
- Eugene Johnston

**Vestry Tellers**
- Eugene Johnston
- Connie Anderson
- Ron Waites
- Paula Ross

**Altar Guild**
- Betty & George Taylor
- Jennifer Tarantola
- Connie Anderson
- Marie Brown

**Vestry**
- Eugene Johnston
- Connie Anderson
- Ron Waites
- Paula Ross
- Mary Sheffield
- Paula Ross

**Intercessor**
- Pat Fulford
- Eugene Johnston
- Connie Anderson
- Ron Waites

**Greeters**
- Paula Ross
- Eugene Johnston
- Ron Waites
- Ron Brown

**Intercessor**
- Paul Wines
- Karen Gieseler
- Paula Ross
- Eugene Johnston
- Connie Anderson
- Ron Waites
- Paula Ross

**Lessons**
- C Lent 1
  - Luke 1:4-13
  - Rom. 10:8b-11
  - Ps. 91:1-2, 9-16
  - Deut. 26:1-11

- C Epiphany 5
  - John 12:44-50
  - Exod 34:6-7
  - Gen 15:1-18
  - Phil 2:5-11

- C Epiphany 4
  - John 12:44-50
  - Exod 34:6-7
  - Gen 15:1-18
  - Phil 2:5-11

- C Epiphany 3
  - Deut. 5:21-30
  - Ps. 103:7-9
  - Exod 20:17-20

- C Epiphany 2
  - Luke 6:1-16
  - John 4:48-54
  - Gen 15:1-18
  - Phil 2:5-11

- C Epiphany 1
  - Luke 2:2-3
  - John 1:1-13
  - Gen 15:1-18
  - Phil 2:5-11

- C Epiphany 0
  - John 1:13-15
  - Gen 15:1-18
  - Phil 2:5-11
## February 2010 at Saint John’s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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</table>
| MP=Morning Prayer  
HE=Holy Eucharist  
EP=Evening Prayer | 1  
8:30A MP  
11:30A Loaves & Fish  
5:30P EfM | 2 The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
8:30A MP  
Clergy Quiet Day | 3 Anskar of Scandanavia  
8:30A MP  
10A HE+Unction  
11A ECW  
7P Choir | 4  
8:30A MP | 5  
8:30A MP | 6  
|
| 7  
Epiphany 5  
9A Christian Ed  
10A HE | 8  
8:30A MP | 9  
8:30A MP | 10  
8:30A MP  
10A HE  
7P Choir | 11  
8:30A MP | 12  
8:30A MP | 13  
|
| 14  
Ash Wednesday  
820A Breakfast  
9A Christian Ed  
10A HE | 15  
8:30A MP  
5:30P EfM | 16  
8:30A MP | 17 Ash Wednesday  
8:30A MP  
10A HE  
5:30P EP  
6P HE  
7P Choir | 18  
8:30A MP  
5:30P EP | 19  
8:30A MP  
5:30P EP  
6P Stations | 20  
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| 21  
Lent 1  
9A Christian Ed  
10A HE  
5P Evensong | 22  
8:30A MP  
5:30P EP  
5:30P EfM | 23  
8:30A MP  
5:30P EP | 24 Saint Matthias  
8:30A MP  
10A HE  
5:30P EP  
7P Choir | 25  
8:30A MP  
5:30P EP | 26  
8:30A MP  
5:30P EP  
6P Stations | 27  
|
| 28  
Lent 2  
9A Christian Ed  
10A HE | | | | | | |

**Notes:**
- MP=Morning Prayer
- HE=Holy Eucharist
- EP=Evening Prayer
- Rector Vacation
The ECW met on January 13, 2010.

A lengthy discussion was held on the need for a President for the ECW. It was the consensus of opinion that the ECW could operate without an elected president. The responsibility of conducting the meeting will rotate each month. Pat Thomas will chair the February meeting.

Paula Ross discussed things that the ECW does. They clean out the upstairs rooms, keep the tablecloths clean, take care of kitchen linens, clean the kitchen, and keep the ECW room orderly. The ladies volunteered to be responsible for certain duties: Betty Taylor - linens; Audrey Garner and Thelma Lomers - Book Nook and ECW room; Laverne Foster - kitchen; Paula Ross and Irene Yeager - Food (Caring Committee).

-Audrey Garner

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**May God Bless You on Your Birthday**

Geri Moulton 02/01  Bill Southall 02/12
Bob Sheffield 02/05  Betty Dunn 02/15
Jason Connell 02/06  Thomas Heard 02/15
Jane Tate Moore 02/08  Debbie Ollhoft 02/15
Mary Sheffield 02/08

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**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Bessie & Bill Southall 02/18
Jennifer & Samuel Tarantole 02/23

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**COURTYARD NOTES**

With more than 12 straight below freezing nights, the courtyard isn’t looking too hot. All of the annuals have ‘bitten the dust’. I really hated to see the impatiens go because they were so pretty, but they’re gone now. The perennials are really bad, but hopefully they will revive come spring. I’m keeping my fingers crossed!

Before the end of the year, the Church received a very nice donation earmarked for the courtyard. Thank you so much! (You know who you are.) We are in the budget, but it has to go a long way, so by the end of the year the courtyard expenses are over budget. If anyone feels inclined to make a donation toward the courtyard expenses, it would be greatly appreciated. Stay warm everyone!

Happy Gardening...
Joyce Lee
For healing grace and continued strength, we pray for our members:
Mary Sheffield, Irene Yeager,
Audrey Meador, Alice Schabinski,
Bessie Southall, Bill Southall, Leah Betts,
Stephen Lee, Shannon Newberry,
Ashley Garris, Gloria Lee

For our Homebound:
Alice Cieutat, Mae Dunn, Will Elam,
Corinne Faust, Gwen Johnson,
Violet Kosko, Vevia Lund, Angela McGuire,
Audrey Meador, Jane Tate Moore,
Betty Plash, Dot & Chick Wohlert

For victims of war and their families, and members of our Armed Forces and their families:
Steven Garris, Jeffery Yeager,
Ellis Eugene Garner, Eric Mattoon,
Cheryl Garner

For our Friends and Family:
Nevaeh Hall, Morgan Kwan, Bill Staley,
Vernon Faulk, Hazel Barr, Vieva Steele,
Bill Boller, David Yeager, Mark Stiber,
Robbie Hinson, Anne Brabner,
Marian Yearby, Tucker Stuckey, Phebe Lee,
Julie Hinton, Helen Baker, Joe Stroeker,
Gracie Stroeker, JoAnn Alioto,
Shirley Mayson, Rodene Nestman,
Michelle Walker, Jim Owens, Maddie West

**ELSEWHERE IN THE DIOCESE**

*If you are taking part in the Stations of the Cross at St. John’s during Lent, consider breaking your fast with the Redeemer fish fry:*

**Friday Fish Fries in Lent**
Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, located at 7125 Hitt Road, will be hosting a fish fry every Friday in Lent. Join us in the Parish Hall for a plate of fried fish, grits, coleslaw and hush puppies. Dinners will be $7.00 each ($5 kids under 12), and will be served every Friday from 5:30– 7:30 p.m., February 19 - March 26.
Come Worship With Us!
Monday—Friday:
8:30AM Morning Prayer

Sunday:
9:00AM Adult and Youth Christian Formation
10:00AM Holy Eucharist

Wednesday:
10:00AM Holy Eucharist; Healing on the 1st Wednesday of the month.

Other Feasts and Holy Days are observed throughout the year; see our website for the latest schedule.

Parish Office
Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Telephone: 251-479-5474
Fax: 251-473-1230
www.stjohnsmobile.org

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Saint John’s: The Episcopal Church in Midtown Mobile
Grounded in shared sacramental life and moving into the world to be the hands of Our Lord.