From the Rector:

**What Does the Future Look Like?**

January and February have been busy months for your clergy and vestry. At our annual retreat we agreed to update *The Course*, a long-range compilation of the ten most important priorities for our mission and ministry. In acknowledgement of continuing economic uncertainties, your vestry also committed us to following a spending plan similar to last year’s. We thank you for your faithful and steady financial support. The goals and objectives, for all our commissions, continue to be on how we can best serve God’s people in this place and around the world.

The first week in February, I, along with our Deacon and lay delegates, attended the 127th convention of the Diocese of East Carolina in New Bern. I encourage you all to go to St. Philip’s web site at www.stphilipschurch.org for an easy link to our diocesan web site where you’ll find highlights of the two and a half day convention. Elsewhere in this issue of the *Philippian* you’ll also find reflections from your delegates to the convention, Mike Burke, Tina Berne, Rose Dahill and Frank Darzano. They welcome your questions.

As a part of my own, ongoing, reflection on the agenda and programs at convention, I want to share with you four topics that we will have an opportunity to dialogue about over the course of the next year. The first has to do with the theme for our convention – *Reconciliation: A Future with Forgiveness*. Our keynote speaker, Katrina Browne, shared with us her powerful documentary, *Traces of the Trade*, ‘dealing with the slave trade in the United States and its lasting effects down to our own day.’ It was Katrina’s discovery as a young adult of her ancestor’s involvement in the slave trade that led her to make this film. It is my intent to acquire a copy of Katrina’s documentary and provide an appropriate time and date for us to view it and then engage in a conversation on where it might lead us.

The second topic is one that will also provide us with some time for reflection and conversation. At our diocesan convention we passed a resolution ‘strongly encouraging’ the churches of the Diocese of East Carolina to engage in a study of the final draft of the Anglican Communion Covenant. The ‘Covenant’ is a proposed covenant, and the culmination of six
years of work on the part of representatives from around the Anglican Communion. All 38 Provinces of the Anglican Communion are now in the process of evaluating its contents and proposal for a more formal structure in our relationship with one another. Your vestry and clergy have read the document, engaging in a conversation concerning its contents at our retreat. The document, including its historical background, is available for your reading at the Anglican Communion website, the link for which you will find on St. Philip’s web site. A date for our conversation on the proposed covenant will be published in the next few months. This is important because St. Philip’s delegates have been asked to ‘come prepared to discuss and act on the Anglican Communion Covenant’ at our 128th Diocesan Convention next February.

The third and fourth topics of interest are related.

The third has to do with the presentation at convention of a film titled, *Voices of Witness Africa*. A film in which Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual and Transgendered persons from all over Africa were interviewed with respect to their Christian beliefs, fears and the challenges of living in a part of the world which is inherently dangerous for them. It is a powerful film, one that expresses an experience that most people are unaware of. We will offer this film for viewing and for discussion.

The fourth topic has to do with our Bishop’s stated commitment in his convention address to follow the path outlined by The General Convention of The Episcopal Church in pursuing ways that provide for a ‘generous pastoral response’ that meets the needs of members in a same-gender union. While the Bishop clearly established a direction for the diocese he made no changes to his 1997 policy that states that ‘no priest of this diocese has my permission to bless a same-gender union.’ In pointing us in this direction the Bishop made several promises to us as to the process. Given the length of his comments I refer you to article VIII of his convention address, found by going to St. Philip’s web site.

So, what does the future look like? Well, we all have perspectives. From my perspective, the future, while it may appear to be unsettling to some, is pretty much the same as it was in the months and years following Jesus’ death and resurrection – full of anticipation, promise, hope and the attendant challenges of living in a world that is far too often antithetical to mission and ministry in Christ’s name and for God’s purposes. As your rector I promise you our focus will remain on that mission and ministry Christ calls us to. That hasn’t changed, and it never will. We’ll deal with the rest through prayerful discernment, open hearts and a reminder of what our baptismal covenant commits us to – loving one another as Christ loves us.

Quoting Augustine, the 4/5th century Bishop of Hippo, our new Assisting Bishop, Santosh Marray, said to us in his opening comments at convention – “The times are troubled! The times are bad! This is what humans say. But we are our times. If only we would live properly, our times would be good. Such as we are, such are our times.”

God bless you and remember you are loved.

Fr. Barry+
Dear Fellow Philippian:

I write to you with an invitation. On Sunday, March 21st, at 9:15AM (between morning services) I will host an information session for our next Newcomers/Confirmation Class. Anyone who has recently joined St. Philip’s, has not yet been confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, or is simply interested in brushing up on who they are as Anglicans/Episcopalians, is invited to attend.

Understanding what it means to be a member, at least officially, can sometimes be confusing, so here’s a brief explanation that I hope will be helpful.

The Canons of the Episcopal Church state: ‘It is expected that all adult members of this Church, after appropriate instruction, will have made a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and will have been confirmed or received by a Bishop of this Church ... Those who have previously made a mature public commitment in another Church may be received, not confirmed.’

The Episcopal Church recognizes all who have been baptized with water, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as members of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Those whose baptisms have been registered in the Episcopal Church are considered baptized members. However, as stated above, the expectation is that you will be confirmed and/or received at some later date. The foundation for that expectation is baptismal. In our Catechism we say that the ministry of lay persons ‘...is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.’

That last line is important. The Canons of the Episcopal Church also require any baptized member who desires to be elected to the Vestry of their local church, or to participate as a Pastoral Leader, Worship Leader, Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, or Catechist, to have been confirmed and/or received in the Church.

I look forward to seeing you on March 21st. God bless you and remember you are loved.

Fr. Barry
2010 Lent, Holy Week & Easter Worship Schedule

March 3rd - Chapel of the Cross
   6PM - Healing Service - with Holy Communion
   Soup & Bread Supper - Millennium Development Goal Speaker—
   Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

March 10th - Chapel of the Cross
   6PM - Healing Service - with Holy Communion
   Soup & Bread Supper - Millennium Development Goal Speaker -
   Reduce Child Mortality

March 17th - Chapel of the Cross
   6PM - Healing Service - with Holy Communion
   Soup & Bread Supper - Millennium Development Goal Speaker -
   Improve Maternal Health

March 24th - Chapel of the Cross
   6PM - Healing Service - with Holy Communion
   Soup & Bread Supper - Millennium Development Goal Speaker—
   Develop a Global Partnership for Development

March 28th - Palm Sunday
   8AM - Holy Communion with Liturgy of the Palms
   10:30AM - Holy Communion with Liturgy of the Palms

March 29th and 30th - Monday and Tuesday
   7AM - Chapel of the Cross - Morning Prayer
   6PM - Chapel of the Cross - Evening Prayer
March 31st - Wednesday – Choral Tenebrae Service  
7PM – St. Philip’s Church

April 1st – Maundy Thursday  
7PM – St. Philip’s Church  
Footwashing & Stripping of the Altar  
8PM – 8AM Friday – Overnight Vigil in Chapel of the Cross

April 2nd – Good Friday  
7PM – St. Philip’s Church

April 3rd – Saturday  
7PM – The Great Vigil of Easter - Chapel of the Cross

April 4th – Easter Day  
7:45AM – St. Philip’s Church  
9AM – St. Philip’s Church  
11AM – St. Philip’s Church

A nursery will be provided during Holy Week on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evening. The nursery will be available on Easter Day for the 9AM and 11AM services.

The Daughters of the King will be organizing the Maundy Thursday Vigil, April 1st in the Chapel of the Cross. After the Maundy Thursday service the elements are taken to the Chapel where they remain overnight. At least two people each hour will keep vigil through the night. You are encouraged to fill one hour of the time slots, 8:00 PM to 8:00 AM on Good Friday. There will be a sign up poster on the bulletin board in the bathroom hallway in the Sanctuary two weeks prior to April 1st. You may bring meditative materials or just sit quietly. This is a silent vigil. Please consider this opportunity to be a part of a very spiritual and meaningful experience of Holy Week.
Southport, Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship Community Lenten Services

The Southport Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship will sponsor services each Wednesday during the first six weeks of Lent. Services begin at noon, and host churches serve a light lunch afterward. The Lenten worship schedule is as follows:

**March 3, 2010**
The Sanctuary of Southport (Church of God)
*Speaker-Reverend Deborah Vanderford*

**March 10, 2010**
First Baptist Church of Oak Island
*Speaker-Reverend Ray Murray*

**March 17, 2010**
St. James AME Zion Church, Southport
*Speaker-Reverend Charlie Carter*

**March 24, 2010**
Southport Presbyterian Church
*Speaker-Reverend David Williams*
Reflections on the Diocesan Convention

Below are the reflections of our four lay delegates to the Diocesan Convention that together offer a full picture of three days of deliberation, reflection, and liturgy. For a complete summary, including the full text of resolutions, sermons and addresses, the budget, photos and more go to http://isite153826.web07.intellisite.com/489470.ihtml. (Ed.)

Tina Berne

I found my three days attending the convention a rewarding experience and would likely enjoy attending another convention in the future.

Ironically, the best part of the experience for me was spending an extended period of time with other members of the St. Philip’s community and the camaraderie that developed. I came to better know and appreciate both St. Philip’s and the Episcopal Church, and to see both from different perspectives and how we responded differently to a variety of issues. I also enjoyed the opportunity to meet delegates from other parishes, and have rewarding conversations with delegates from Fayetteville and Lumberton. Although the business part of the convention could become tedious at times I was struck by the courtesy with which delegates listened to each other ever though many had obvious strong convictions.

What sticks with me most is the film, Traces of the Trade, a film about the slave trade, and the sermon by its producer, Katrina Browne. She began her sermon by singing unaccompanied the song, “Rivers of Babylon,” a powerful message in the context of the slave trade, a moment I shall not soon forget. I came to realize, too, that we all carry below the surface remnants of the racism we like to think we have overcome.

Mike Burke

As a relatively new member of Episcopal Church, my participation as a delegate to the Diocesan Convention was my first real “Episcopal experience” outside of St. Philip’s. As a result I found myself as much observer as participant, watching, listening, engaging in conversation. I’m sure the novelty of my experience has shaped my reflections.

I must acknowledge immediately that the experience reinforced my thanks to the Lord for having led me to the Episcopal Church as well as to St. Philip’s. (Also to hope God’s future plans for me include a minimum of protracted business meetings.) My general impression of the convention was of a people who are content with themselves, with their church, and with each other, a people with whom I am content to be. There was an openness to difference and inclusion—in both persons and in values—as well as a deep and confident faith. Absent were the angry passions, the pretentiousness, the bitterness and cynicism one sometimes finds in large gatherings. Although some issues were controversial it seemed more important to find common ground than to win—or at least to postpone decisions awaiting greater discernment and a meeting of minds. Quakers with structure, I thought to myself. (This was tough for a guy who likes to win the debate!) And, finally, I was overwhelmed by the grandeur and the glory of the full multi-sensory Anglican traditional liturgy.
What I am sure will stay with me for a long time, however, were the events surrounding the convention theme, “Reconciliation: A Future with Forgiveness.” In film, in homilies, in liturgy, and in remarkable presentations by Katrina Browne, who had discovered as a young adult her own ancestors had dominated the slave trade in New England. “We gather,” the Service of Repentance opened, “to repent, to apologize for our complicity in the injury done by the institution of slavery and its racist and economic aftermath.” As the language proceeded to enumerate the full nature of this complicity it became clear few can claim innocence. Expectations based on race. Private jokes tinged with racism in social gatherings. Indifference to the discrimination that remains as a legacy of the past, to name but a few. Silence is not an option.

What I found truly remarkable was the candid unconditional acknowledgement of past sin on the part of the church. As individuals we have trouble apologizing for minor transgressions. Institutions almost never apologize. To accept responsibility for something as horrific as slavery is almost beyond comprehension. How much easier to blame the times (“Things were different then”), to blame others (“I never owned slaves”), or ignorance (“I didn’t know it was that bad”)

The intense presentations inspired in me a variety of reactions. First was a “Not my issue! My ancestors were starving in Ireland at the time.” Not so fast. If I have no problem claiming the good of America that preceded my ancestors’ arrival I must claim the bad as part of my heritage as well. Surely I am a beneficiary of the wealth created by slavery, as is every American, and clearly I have participated in the silence.

So where does that leave us, I asked myself. We can’t undo the past, and it doesn’t accomplish anything to wallow in guilt. But neither can we just move on. Perhaps, as Katrina Browne suggested, we should take what the contemporaries of her ancestors should have done and apply it to our own world. First, refuse to go through life in denial, blind to the injustices around us even as we benefit from others’ oppression. And second, when injustice does invade our consciousness, refuse to explain it away with a “That’s the way things are.” For, as Fr. Barry reminded me on the way home in a different context, the ways things are are not necessarily God’s way.

I am grateful to you, the St. Philip’s congregation, to the Vestry, and to Fr. Barry for offering me this opportunity.

**Frank Darzano**

This was the third Diocesan Convention I have attended. The first two were very matter of fact affairs with very straightforward safe business. What I mean by this is while controversy raged at our National Convention and at the Lambeth Conference over sexuality issues our Diocesan Delegates chose not to enter into that discussion. This year things changed with the introduction of a resolution supporting The Archbishop of Canterbury’s call to have the election of Mary Glasspool (a lesbian in a committed relationship) as a Suffragan Bishop by the Diocese of Los Angeles rejected by diocesan bishops and diocesan standing committees of the United States. When I first saw this resolution I thought we were in for protracted acrimonious debate, but it did not turn out that way. After only a few speakers pro and con the vote was taken. The resolution to support the Archbishop was defeated. Although I am comfortable with my vote for the defeat of this resolution I feel strongly that the Anglican Communion must find a common ground on the issue of gay and lesbian per-
sons in the life and ministry of the Episcopal Church or we are headed toward extinction as a Church.

A second resolution that I thought would create some controversy was one in support of the Episcopal Church’s position opposing the death penalty. The discussion on this matter only generated a few speakers and the resolution passed. This is an issue about which we must provide more information to our membership. Maybe as a Church this is an issue on which we should stay neutral.

The theme of the convention was “Reconciliation: A future with Forgiveness”. We saw a film entitled *Traces of the Trade in the Deep North* a powerful documentary dealing with the slave trade in the United States and its lasting effects to the present day. An important part of the film’s message was a call for repentance, apology, and racial reconciliation to atone for past transgressions. I hope we get a chance to show the film at St. Philip’s, as I would like to hear some other opinions as I give mine.

**Rose Dahill**

Reflection, reconnecting, fun, nourishing, friendships, reconciliation, important are just a few words that come to mind when I think about this, my first diocesan convention.

The convention opened with a welcome and an excellent film Voices of Witness: Africa. That evening at the opening Eucharist at Christ Church, it was wonderful to be in the midst of so many who love our Episcopal church and are committed to helping shape its future. It was a very moving, traditional service. The following day business meetings and hearings, a most interesting process. I thought there would be more heated debate than there was and a total of nine resolutions were voted on. One resolution states that at next year’s convention delegates will discuss the Anglican covenant

It was not all business. The film Traces of the Trade was thought provoking. It calls for racial reconciliation. What does this mean, you might ask. I look forward to a showing and discussion of this film at St. Philip’s.

So much food for thought, plus the fact that I had the opportunity to connect and reconnect with priests from my home state of Connecticut. Fr. Hank Burdick, recently new to our diocese, whom I had not seen since I had attended church in Branford, CT where he was the assistant priest 23 years ago. I also connected with a priest who was chaplain to my husband John’s fire department in Wallingford, CT. Fr. Mal Roberts is now Vicar at a church in New Bern. What I have thought about these encounters is that we often leave life long impressions on others and we might not know about it for years, if ever. How wonderful to have the opportunity to tell someone years later what a lasting, positive impression they had on you. It all fell under the reconciliation theme for me.

I have to admit I did leave for the convention with some mixed feelings but am very glad I had the opportunity to attend. As Bishop Santosh said "We are on the move with God!" I say Thanks be to God.
Among the Trash Dump Kids

Development is not only about the progress of technical programs and statistics, and it is not just about economic policy maneuvering so that people "have" more. Street children around the world are among the most vulnerable of populations, and perhaps no other group can more strongly evoke the fact that our baptismal covenant calls us to action. I was overjoyed to see the Episcopal Church engaged in helping these children not only have more, but become more as they struggle to survive.

Our awareness of this work began when a good friend of ours, Fr. Noel Bordador, a young Episcopal priest from New York City went home to his native Philippines last Christmas on a sabbatical of sorts for several months. While home, he went back to Fairview Episcopal Resurrection Church and its Chapel of the Transfiguration, not far from the Quezon City/Manila area. Fr. Noel wrote touchingly of his visit to the Chapel, which serves street children who search all day through the trash to survive. He wrote of an upcoming event in which 70 of these children would be baptized around Christmas of 2009. The Chapel is striving to meet both the nutritional, education, and spiritual needs of these children. Below is a clipping from Fr. Noel's Facebook note from last May, when he had first visited the Chapel and its young parishioners.

Jake

Fairview Episcopal Resurrection Church- The Church of the Poor:  
A Note from Fr. Noel Bordador

When I visited this parish late last year, I asked to be made a parishioner, and they welcomed me as their "honorary" parishioner.

The parish itself sits as a squatter. The parishioners of this church are themselves "homeless" and landless and so they squat in an unoccupied land owned by the government. The government at one time promised to work with the "squatters" and the church in obtaining the land for themselves...until the developers came in and started to bribe the government. As always, the poor suffer from the greed to of the rich and the church and the parishioners stand to lose. Without legal rights, bulldozers could come in and destroy the church and the squatters' home.

The founder of this parish is Father Rex Reyes, an indigenous (Igorot) priest, who is the head of the National Council of Churches of the Philippines. Vocal in his defense of the poor and the rights of the indigenous, he has been branded as "leftist," intimating to me when I met with him in New York that he could be politically assassinated anytime. The cur-
rent priest-in-charge is a worker priest, Father Jericho Natividad. Since the parish cannot afford a priest, Padi Jericho works in a full-time secular job and volunteers his time as a priest.

Despite the poverty of the church and the squatters, they set up a mission chapel, the Chapel of the Transfiguration, a few miles away from the parish, located in a trash dumpsite. The mission focuses mainly on the kids who live in the dumpsite. They do not go to school but work all day picking up trash from the huge trash landfill.

I visited the dumpsite and the chapel with Padi Jericho and the youth worker/catechist, Benny Mendoza, who comes with other youth catechists to the dumpsite chapel to conduct Sunday School. On the way there, I could not help but notice the presence of the military near the dumpsite. Two soldiers were there with their rifles- at a checkpoint. They were surely friendly enough to let our vehicles pass. Was it because they saw me in my clericals? Later my dad told me that indeed the leftist rebels hide among the people. The military were there to suppress any indication of treasonous activities, and in the process, the poor citizens are caught in the middle of the conflict between the rebels and the military.

I had the privilege to celebrate Mass with the kids and when I asked Benny privately how the kids were able to read and write when they did not go to school, Benny said the youth catechists of Sunday School taught the kids to read, write and sing the hymns. When I entered the chapel, the kids stood and sang to me a hymn I learned when I was in the third grade and it went like this (translation): "No one lives unto himself. No one ought to die for himself. All of us must live for one another. God has gathered all of us together to live our lives for one another..." I felt like I had been kissed by God.

Padi Jericho, Benny and the youth catechists would all go to the dumpsite by taking a bus that would leave them a few miles away from the dumpsite. They would then wait for a garbage truck to come by and would hitch a ride at the back of the trash truck to get to the inner parts of the landfill. All for the love of the poor, the kids and Christ.

In 2005, I went to Assisi and saw the "Little Portion" chapel, the tiny hovel where Saint Francis lived, and as you enter you see the words on the doorsteps "Hic locus sanctus est." I heard the same letters are inscribed in the manger place where the poor child Jesus was born.

I kissed the ground of that dumpsite chapel for indeed, "HIC LOCUS SANCTUS EST"- THIS PLACE IS HOLY.
WORKING WITH PEOPLE
A Lenten Forum based on the Millennium Development Goals

Join the conversation with those who have first-hand experience and expertise with the challenges and hopes of global development

Wednesday evenings during Lent after the Healing Service and meal (about 7:00 PM)
Childcare is provided from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

February 24: MDG #2 Achieve Universal Primary Education for Children
More than 100 million children are not in school today, and 70% of them are girls. Yet, educated children have better access to economic opportunities, are less vulnerable to disease and contribute more to society. Martha & Gene Myers will address issues of education based on their son, Eric’s work with the Peace Corp in Uganda as well as educational issues faced locally.

March 3: MDG #3 Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
Women have an enormous impact on the well-being of their families and societies - yet often, many never realize their potential. Empowered women die less often during child birth, develop healthier and better educated children, and become leaders in their own communities. Dr. Michael Burke will present advantages created for the whole through gender equality.

March 10: MDG #4 Reduce Child Mortality
Every three seconds a child under the age of five dies. The majority of these tragic deaths are preventable through a combination of clean water, sanitation, improved nutrition and medical treatment. Members of the Brunswick County Infant Mortality Task Force will present information concerning the problem of infant mortality in our own area.

March 17: MDG #5 Improve Maternal Health
Every year more than 500,000 women die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth. In some parts of the world, expectant mothers are as likely to die in childbirth as they are to live to see their baby. Members of the Brunswick County Maternity Care Coordination Program will address issues faced by residents of Brunswick County and what services are in place to help.

March 24: MDG #8 Create a Global Partnership for Development
The success of the MDGs depends on all of us: rich and poor alike, our churches, our corporate institutions, and our governments. A fair trading system, increased international aid, and debt relief for developing countries will help us realize the Goals. Jacob Pfohl will use his years of experience in international development in helping us understand how we all benefit in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
Politics and Religion

Growing up, I was always taught that a proper young lady avoided discussing politics and religion. We all have an opinion on these topics and we should not inflict our opinion on those around us. These are two areas of life are taken very seriously and individually; after all, who is to say that my opinion is any more right than yours.

As a social studies teacher I had to learn the fine line between teaching about various religions and belief systems and preaching about religion and beliefs. The impact religion plays on cultural development has to be addressed. To leave the role of religion out of the colonization and development of the Americas is impossible; however, as a teacher, one cannot place a moral value on the role of religion.

This Lenten season once again we will take a more in-depth look at the Millennium Development Goals. Since these goals were created by the United Nations, and supported by most of the countries in the UN, they certainly have political implications. I was asked to explain why we continue to study political issues during Lent instead of religious issues. My friends, the answer is very simple. We do this because we are baptized members of the body of Christ. Political issues have religious implications and vice versa. It is the role of the church to inform and educate its members about issues that affect the body of Christ.

When asked about mixing politics and religion, I started to think about this article. My first thoughts were not of the MDGs but of the mid-term election season which is gearing up. My parents were often political opposites and determining how to vote was one of those issues which often separated them. My father voted for a party. My mother voted for the person. Sometimes they voted similarly and often they voted for opponents. I have found over the years that I have blended these two practices. I have key issues which are important to me so I learn what I can about each candidate. Based on that information, I decide for whom to vote. As it turns out, I do often vote a straight party ticket but it is a candidate by candidate decision.

So I offer you this little tidbit, religion and politics may remain topics not discussed by polite people in mixed company but they certainly do impact each other. I’m not saying politics should be preached from the pulpits on Sunday morning but as baptized Christians, we have a responsibility to apply our religious beliefs when making political decisions. I direct your attention to the top of page 305 of the Book of Common Prayer. “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?” Hopefully each of you knows the response for this question.

Millie
We will continue to collect new or gently used shoes throughout Lent. Please include $1.00 per pair to help cover shipping cost. Cash donations are also being accepted to help with shipping cost.
From the Deacon

This month we will focus on Carillon Sunday services. As most of you know Carillon is an assisted living facility with an Alzheimer’s unit. The Interchurch Fellowship has been providing Sunday services at both Dosher and Ocean Trail for many years. They felt that they could not take on another facility and Carillon was left with no Sunday services. After talking with the activity director there it was decided that St. Philip’s would offer a Sunday service on the 4th Sunday of each month. I have led those services with the help of several members of the congregation. Susan Colby has been providing music for us and Bill Fairley, Bill Wheeler and Don Hill led when I was unable to be there. Bill Fairley has been leading services on the second Sunday of each month for a couple of years now. Often those who attend the service tell us how much they appreciate our being there and how much they miss having a Sunday service those Sunday’s we are not there. I believe the time has come for us to offer services each Sunday. I have spoken with the activity director and we are now on their schedule for each Sunday morning at 9:30. The service is normally thirty minutes, during which we sing three hymns, read one of the lessons appointed for that day, read a Psalm, have a short homily and pray. Everyone who participates in these services has stated that we get more out of them than we give. The residents are so gracious we all look forward to being with them. This is a plea for more members of St. Philip’s to join us as we provide these services. You don’t have to commit to every Sunday but whatever time you can offer is always appreciated. We have timed the service so whether you attend the 8 o’clock or the 10:30 service you can do both your regular St. Philip’s service and the Carillon service.

HELP WANTED ** NEWCOMER’S SOCIALS

The Outreach and Evangelism program needs a new leader for our Newcomer’s Socials. It’s a rewarding job, with no pressure and light work. We have two Newcomer’s Socials each year, hosted by a fellow parishioner. You are needed to coordinate this important program. Please contact Bill Meiners at 253-9642, to offer your Time and Talent.
I was raised in the Southern Baptist church where one was expected to attend worship Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday night prayer meetings. Sunday morning worship service music included a call to worship, an opening hymn, a mid-service hymn where the offering was collected, the doxology, a choir anthem, a concluding hymn, and a choral benediction which was generally an Amen of the “fold” variety. Evening worship was much the same with the exception of about one Sunday per quarter. On these Sunday evenings, hymn requests from congregants, would replace the sermon. As a child, I did not realize that this was probably a welcome relief for the preacher, who was relieved of the burden of preparing and delivering another sermon.

The choir director, who was the vocal leader, would stand up front during the time reserved for the sermon and call on members who raised their hands. As I recall, children were not recognized for requests, but this did not bother me, as I enjoyed any opportunity for singing. Over the years I came to know which hymns were favorites of specific church members because they would request the same hymns. I know my father’s favorite was “Love Lifted Me” and he must have had a predilection for “Faith of Our Fathers,” as he would whistle that tune whenever situations became a bit irritating. Perhaps that was his way of counting to ten.

I have had the opportunity to peruse the Baptist Hymnal of my youth and I can say there are numerous hymns that I never heard in all my years of attendance. One such hymn is “For All the Saints,” an Episcopalian standard for All Saints Day. In fact, when I thumb through the hymnal I realize that the number of hymns used in worship was but a small portion of the musical offerings.

Today I would be inclined to ask those church members why hymns were their favorites and hope to receive an answer more profound than just “because” or “I don’t know.”

Now on to why I have shared this with you. During the long season of Pentecost we will sing some of the hymns that mean the most to you. Please list your favorites on the insert included. You may make selections from the Hymnal 1982, LEVAS, or WLP, and we will include as many as possible. Include the first line of the hymn and the number. If the selection is from LEVAS or WLP please indicate as well.

For those of you so inclined, I would not mind your sharing why the hymn or hymns you choose are favorites.

Debbie
It’s good to be back in Southport after a wonderful and exciting exploration trip to Antarctica aboard a Norwegian icebreaker! It was a life changing experience to see some of the wonders of God’s world I had only dreamed of before. Carol and I left Wilmington on January 19th to fly to Buenos Aires where we spent 4 days. Then on to Ushuaia, the world’s southernmost city for another day before boarding the icebreaker Polar Star for the 12 day cruise to the Antarctic Peninsula.

After crossing the Drake Passage, off Cape Horn, for two days we were in the South Shetland Islands and ready to make our first landing. However, the water was too rough for the Zoabis so we had to wait until the next day a little further south for our first shore experience.

The whales, penguins, seals, and seabirds were nothing short of breathtaking. Believe it or not the icebergs and the clean air were awe-inspiring. Listening to the centuries old air escaping underwater from the icebergs was amazing.

Now that our Southport snowman is completed, it’s time to get back to the computer and reality. There is a lot going on at St. Philip’s and you will find much more information here in the Philippian, including reports from the Delegates to the Diocesan Convention and reports from each of the SWEPS Ministries.

There is a Vestry Forum planned for Saturday, March 13 in the morning, which I encourage you to attend. The topic for this forum is Vocations. We are still in great need of parishioners to work as members of Vestry, Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, Lectors or Lay Readers, Ushers, Greeters, Acolytes, Altar Guild members, and in the many other areas that make our worship services meaningful and beautiful. If you personally have an interest in, or can think of anyone else who would be good in such a role, please attend this Vestry Forum to find out more about each ministry. Or you can contact, Fr. Barry, Deacon Henrietta, or me directly.

The Vestry will also be discussing the Stephen Ministry Program as a way to address the pastoral needs of our community. There have already been two open meetings to explain and discuss this wonderful program. If you or anyone you know might be interested in this pastoral ministry, particularly in helping to organize and lead it, please contact Fr. Barry or me. We will need at least two leaders in addition to Fr. Barry and they will be thoroughly and professionally trained. There will also be a need for many other Stephen Ministers, who will also receive local training.

As you can see we have much to do as well as much to be thankful for. I look forward to working with you in the days to come.

Yours in Christ,

Mo Beers
WORSHIP COMMITTEE CORNER

Advent, Christmas, Epiphany . . . fleeting memories of the seasons and the moments shared. By the time this is read, we will be in the season of Lent, a more subdued season that includes commemoration of our Lord’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem, his subsequent betrayal, trial, and execution. During this season there are several opportunities to participate in the worship services in addition to those on the recurring calendar. The choir will lead services of Evensong on February 21st at 6:30 PM and Tenebrae on March 31st at 7:00 PM. Holy Week (March 28 through April 3) includes opportunities throughout the week, listed in the calendar (p. 4).

February has been St. Philip’s opportunity to lead the Sunday worship services at the Dosher Nursing Facility. It is worth noting that, for the four Sundays of February we, as a congregation, have had 27 volunteers (a better word might be disciples) sharing in the worship experience with those who are unable to make it to regular church services.

Similar to the Dosher Nursing Facility opportunity, St. Philip’s holds a service at the Carillon Housing Facility on Leonard Street twice each month. We are, however, the only congregation that holds services at that facility. It is our desire to expand this service to every week and as such, your help and support is being requested. Please contact Henrietta Williams or me if you are able to participate and/or have any questions.

One of the challenges in participating in the worship services is to not take for granted the gifts given to enhance our experience. Obviously, the structure (and some of the interior furnishings) were realized through the capital building campaign and associated mortgage. However, many of the items used (altar linens, vestments, flags, stained-glass window, chairs, organ, piano, others) were gifts by individuals and groups. Some of the gifts given may be viewed in the Memorial Book, located in the Bell Tower Narthex immediately adjacent to the Dry Street entrance. This is mentioned because it came to my attention (through discussions) that some were not aware of the Memorial Book.

A verse from the book of Matthew tells us “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions relating to the opportunity to share in any of our worship opportunities. My e-mail address is jcr52@ee.rr.com.

Peace, always.
John Reinsburrow
Stewardship Corner –

The St Philips Endowment Fund was created in 2009 and a brochure explaining its operation can be found in each Narthex. The brochure contains detailed information on a number of ways you can contribute to this fund.

Stewardship is not always about money but it is in this case! If St Philip’s is to grow in facilities and personnel, funds are needed to support both areas. The earnings from an endowment fund will contribute to these needed areas.

Please pick up a copy of the information on the Endowment Fund in the Narthex and learn how you can participate in supporting this important program. We hope you will give prayerful consideration to joining with others in giving a gift that endures.

Jerry Simpson & Bill Bittenbender

MARCH LECTIONARIES

**March 7th**
Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 63:1-8
1 Corinthians 10:1-13

**March 14th**
Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21

**March 21st**
Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

**March 28th**
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Christian Education Calendar March 2010

Monday, March 1st
5:30 PM - Acolyte Gathering (Parish Hall)

Wednesday, March 3rd
10:00 AM – Bible Study (Parish Hall)
7:00 PM - Lenten Forum (Parish Hall)

Sunday, March 7th
9:15 AM - Christian Education for adults and children
10:30 AM - Youth Sunday – Youth lectors, Ushers & Greeters, Children’s sermon

Wednesday, March 10th
10:00 AM – Bible Study (Parish Hall)
7:00 PM - Lenten Forum (Parish Hall)

Sunday, March 14th
9:15 AM - Christian Education for adults and children
10:30 AM - Children’s Chapel during the 10:30 Service

Wednesday, March 17th
10:00 AM – Bible Study (Parish Hall)
7:00 PM - Lenten Forum (Parish Hall)

Friday, March 19th
6:30 PM - Movie Night – The Game Plan (Choir Room)

Sunday, March 21st
9:15 AM - Christian Education for adults and children
5:30 PM - Middle & High School Youth group (Parish Hall)

Wednesday, March 24th
10:00 AM – Bible Study (Parish Hall)
7:00 PM - Lenten Forum (Parish Hall)

Sunday, March 28th
9:15 AM - Christian Education for adults and children
Rector’s Forum Topics

We continue our study on Sunday morning with a series of short 12-15 minute DVD’s dealing with contemporary, every day life, issues for Christians.

Unlike past generations, we now live in a world where we can generally get anything we want, from anywhere in the world, whenever we want it. Still, our lives, and the challenges we face, are not that much different than those of our ancestors. What is different, is our time. We want spiritual direction, but it has to be real for us in our new, technological world - and available when we need it. The DVD’s we will watch, and then share our response to, are part of a new ‘emerging church’ approach to the challenges inherent in finding God relevant and present in our 21st century lives.

All classes will meet in the Parish Hall at 9:15AM unless otherwise indicated.

Sunday, February 28th
“Store”

Sunday, March 7th
No class, Rector on Vacation

Sunday, March 14th
“Today”

Sunday, March 21st
“Name”

Sunday, March 28th
“Open”

Report Month: January, 2010

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Wayne John, Finance Officer
BAZAAR BUZZ

We know it's early, but please write BAZAAR on your calendar for October 2nd!

We had a wonderful planning meeting in January and have some great ideas in place for the upcoming Bazaar.

There will be a STAMPING WORKSHOP on Saturday, April 24th from 9:30 until noon in the Parish Hall.

The workshop will be presented by Jan Trivett. To further our fellowship we would like to have lunch after the workshop at Baked With Love.

If you are interested in attending this workshop and perhaps lunch, please RSVP to Jan at jttrivett@bellsouth.net or 457-5881.

Please keep watching the bulletins and Philippian for upcoming workshops. If you would like to be included in emails concerning the bazaar, please contact Cathie Courtnage at ccourtnage@ec.rr.com.

WANTED: Adults with Sense of Adventure

Maundy Thursday is traditionally the night on which Jesus and his disciples went into the garden at Gethsemane. To keep with the tradition of Jesus asking His disciples to keep watch, every Maundy Thursday we hold a vigil in the Chapel of the Cross. The Middle and High school youth have taken a little different approach to this call: We remain in the Church following Maundy Thursday service and watch movies all night. (We do take a break to spend an hour in the Chapel) We need adventurous adults to volunteer to stay with the youth. Since they certainly have more energy than us, adults can volunteer for shifts during the night. Please contact Millie at 457-5643 or millie@stphilipschurch.org if you are willing to help with this activity.

Blood Drive April 11th

Our next Blood Drive at St. Philips will take place on Sunday, April 11th, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM. Please mark your calendars and plan to give if you can.
Bishop Simon Makundi Retirement

This note is addressed to parishioners who befriended Bishop Simon Makundi and his wife, Martha, during their memorable visit to St. Philip’s the weekend of Nov. 4-5, 2006. Fr. Barry and Vonceal Kubler were the generous hosts for their stay in Southport.

Since 1991, Bishop Simon has headed the Anglican Diocese of Mt. Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. He will retire this June. During his term, the Diocese has grown to the extent that it is now being divided into two parts, so that their mission to spread the word of the Lord and his gospel may be better carried on in the years to come. Through difficult times and controversies, Bishop Simon has been a good friend to the Episcopal Church of the USA and a frequent traveler to this country. His wife, Martha, was responsible for successfully developing an active Mothers’ Union and for the spread of Nursery schools in the Diocese. She is a forceful personality in her own right. Our parish made a two year commitment to them to furnish kitchen equipment for a hostel built to house young Maasai women seeking an education in the capital of Arusha.

In honor of the Bishop's retirement, it would be appropriate for us, as a Parish, to send the Makundis a gift. It has been suggested that a contribution towards the completion of their retirement home would be welcome. This home is in its final stages of construction. A project is underway that will provide biogas for Martha's renowned cooking, using waste products from her cattle. Can we help her accomplish this? $1,000 would do it. If you feel moved to contribute to this gift, please send in your check and mark it for the Makundi Fund. We will have a card for you to sign closer to the date.

*Bwana asifiwe* (“Go with God” in Swahili).

Barbara Reed

Do You Enjoy Knitting?

St. Philip’s prayer shawl ministry group meets at 10:00 AM on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in the Parish Hall. The gathering is open to all, but if it doesn't fit your schedule or you are unable to attend, you can still participate. You can knit or crochet shawls and drop them at the church office. Shawls should be of washable material and approximately 17 to 22 inches wide and 50 to 70 inches long.

While making this shawl may seem like a small gesture, this special ministry repeatedly receives messages that wearing or holding their prayer shawl make the recipient feel calm, peaceful and strengthened. Please join in to reach out to people in times of need. Knit one, purl one, comfort one.

For additional information please contact Evelyn King (278-3220) or Danice Paxton (253-5230).
FELLOWSHIP ON WHEELS

A ROAD TRIP TO HISTORIC NEW BERN, NC, ON SATURDAY, APRIL 17

INCLUDED IN THE TRIP ARE THESE “DON’T MISS” ACTIVITIES:

*** A GUIDED TOUR OF CHRIST CHURCH ***
(ONE OF THE OLDEST EPISCOPAL CHURCHES IN NC)

*** 3-HOUR GUIDED TOUR OF TRYON PALACE ***
(FIRST GOVERNOR’S MANSION IN COLONIAL NC)

*** 90 MINUTE TROLLEY TOUR OF HISTORIC NEW BERN ***
(WITH NARRATION)

*** BRADHAM’S PHARMACY -- BIRTHPLACE OF PEPSI COLA ***

AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!!

AND BEST OF ALL, YOU DON’T HAVE TO DRIVE SINCE BUS TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM NEW BERN WILL BE PROVIDED, DEPARTING FROM SOUTHPORT AT 7 AM AND RETURNING AT 7 PM (SAME DAY)

ALL THIS AND UNLIMITED FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR ONLY $50 PER PERSON. SPACE IS LIMITED SO SIGN UP RIGHT AWAY. MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO SAINT PHILIP’S CHURCH, ANNOTATE IT WITH “NEW BERN TOUR,” AND PLACE YOUR CHECK IN THE COLLECTION PLATE, OR DELIVER IT TO NATASHA AT THE OFFICE, OR MAIL IT TO THE OFFICE AT P. O. BOX 10476, SOUTHPORT, NC 28461

QUESTIONS? CALL ELSIE HINKHOUSE, 278-1695, OR BILL ZELL, 457-9032
NFL star Joe Kingman (Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson) is in his prime: He's rich, famous and one of the world's most eligible bachelors. There's nothing that can throw him off his game. Nothing, that is, except for the emergence of the 7-year-old daughter (Madison Pettis) he never knew he had. Now, with his team gunning for a title, Joe must find a way to balance crushing gridiron action with bedtime stories and ballet classes.

Popcorn and drinks will be available.
2010 Order Form  
St. Philip’s Name Badges

Last spring a New Members Planning Ministry was formed to better “welcome and involve new members”. This ministry has proposed that we all wear name badges—to introduce ourselves to new members and to strengthen the bonds among established members of the St. Philip’s family.

We encourage everyone, including our youth, to participate in this project by ordering and wearing name badges. In 2010, we intend to order badges on a quarterly basis.

NAME BADGE ORDER FORM

- Badges will be engraved as listed on order form. Please print clearly.
- Choose either magnetic or pin back.
- $9 per badge. Make checks payable to St. Philip’s church (annotate for name badge on check)
- Submit order form and payment no later than Wednesday 31 March by
  • Dropping in collection plate, or
  • Bringing to the church office, the Parkhill House, 108 Dry Street
- Questions? Call Lorraine Richardson (754-8138)
  Thank you for your participation

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ELECTRONIC OR PRINT?
We would like to offer families the opportunity to save the church paper, printing and postage costs by signing up to receive the newsletter online. All new members will automatically be set up for this if we have your email address on file. You'll receive a monthly email with a link to the Philippian on our website when the newsletter is published. Even as a PDF, the newsletter file size can be fairly large due to graphics, so just sending the link will be more efficient. All you need to view the new newsletter is the free Adobe Acrobat Reader. You may download a free version of Adobe by visiting www.get.adobe.com/reader/.

If you would like to sign up for our electronic version of the Philippian, send an email to info@stphilipschurch.org or fill out the form below and return it to the parish office. By opting for the online edition you will also have access to graphics in their original color and to live links to web and email addresses.

Name:____________________________________

Email Address:____________________________________

WATCH NIGHT MOVIES
Youth 6th – 12th grade are invited to a Watch Night party at St. Philip’s Episcopal Church Thursday the 1st of April, 2010 following the Maundy Thursday worship service. The festivities will be inside the church and will include watching seasonally appropriate movies, popcorn and other snacks and will include a one hour vigil in the Chapel of the Cross. We will also be packing the shoes collected for Sole4Souls during the night. All youth must be picked up from the church at 8:00 AM Friday, April 2nd. You are welcome to bring friends; extra copies of necessary forms are available from Millie. RSVP to Millie at 457-5643 or email millie@stphilipschurch.org by Monday March 29th.

*Adults who are willing to help chaperone this group do not have to spend the entire night and can volunteer by contacting Millie. In the event enough chaperones are not available we will have to cancel the event. *
Church Organization
Assisting Bishop: The Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray
Rector:  The Rev. Barry P. Kubler
Parish Secretary: Natasha Tatum
Deacon: Henrietta Williams
Director of Christian Education: Millie Hart
Organist/Choirmaster: Debbie Skillman
Sexton: George Ball
Communications Coordinator Lyn Sutton
Episcopal Relief & Development Representative: Jacob Pfohl

Vestry
Senior Warden: Mo Beers  Clerk: Gene Myers
Junior Warden: Tom Trivett  Finance Officer: Wayne John
2008-2010: Neal Sage, Sharon Sands, Jerry Simpson, Bill Zell
2009-2011: Mo Beers, Linda Brinson, Bill Meiners, John Reinsburrow
2010-2012: Tina Berne, Bill Bittenbender, Bryden Manning, Tom Trivett

Philippian Editorial Staff
Mike & Kathy Burke, Vonceal Kubler
Email: thephilippian@bellsouth.net

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Southport, NC 28461
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