



Volume 2010 No. 21

Comfortable Words

December 22, 2010

THE ANTICIPATION OF ADVENT

The anticipation of Advent is nearly complete. The celebration of the greatest gift of Love - the birth of our Lord and Savior - is almost here.

As a community of faith we are called to share and reflect that Love - to our Lord - and to all around us. Our parish family has been busy doing just that in so many ways: Presents for Foster Children, Paper Products and Canned Goods for Good Shepherd Kitchen, Allied Churches, Christmas Trees, crafts - and offering wonderful Advent and Christmas worship services.

Careful and prayerful thought and planning have gone into every aspect of our Advent and Christmas Services. People have given so generously of time, talents, voices, and hands to ensure things came together (and at the right time).

Heartfelt thanks go to our Acolytes, Altar Guild, Choir, Christmas Decorating Committee, Flower Guild, Greeters, Lay Readers and Ushers - and all those who volunteered.

Our staff at Holy Comforter is remarkable (during the entire church year) - and without David, Elizabeth, Ginny, John and Laurie - we would be lost.

A final special thanks to our Interim Rector, Pam - who has generously and unceasingly given us love, warmth, humor, compassion - and sound theology. It is truly a blessing to have her as our Shepherd!

Merry Christmas!

Humbly,
Barbara Jones
Worship Committee Chair

Sunday Morning Opportunities for All Ages ~ 9:30 – 10:15.

Adult Classes/Groups:

Coffee & Talk: An informal time of fellowship in the Parlor.

Sunday Morning Matters: — begins at 9:30 a.m. and meets in the library. See below for details.

Children & Youth:

Preschool – 5th grade classrooms are all on the ground floor.

Ages three – 2nd grade meet each Sunday morning with 10 minutes of singing in the St. Nicholas classroom on the ground floor. Children will then be directed to their appropriate classes. Grades 3rd – 5th begin Sunday school in their classroom. *Children's Chapel* begins each morning at 10:30 for the first half of the service (K-5th grade).

The Nursery is available downstairs during Sunday School and the 10:30 worship hour. Children five and under are welcome.

Journey to Adulthood Program: Rite 13, J2A & Y.A.C. meet on the 3rd floor.



Christian Formation

Adults: Sunday Morning Matters

Winter Term: The Witness of the “Black Church” in America

In preparation for the Service of Repentance and Reconciliation at the 2011 Diocesan Convention and under the suggestion of The Rt. Rev. Bishop Marble, Sunday Morning Matters will focus on race and the Episcopal Church by focusing on the Witness of the Black Church in America. We will examine and learn from the Christian witness of black Christians who endured slavery and the aftermath of slavery (to the present day). By focusing on the witness of black Christians, we hope to learn more about a faithful community of Christians who experienced God's liberating presences in the very depths of situational despair.

In addition to Sunday School, there will also be an evening program where the film, "Traces of our Trade: A Story from the Deep North" is viewed and discussed.

Sunday, January 2: "An Experiment of Love"

After reading a brief essay by Martin Luther King, Jr., we will discuss the reading and introduce the series in this first meeting. This article will be emailed to members of Sunday Morning Matters to read before January 2. Kathy Hykes will facilitate this conversation, held in the library at 9:30 a.m.

Continued on facing page . .

Tuesday, January 4: "Traces of our Trade: A Story from the Deep North"

The Rev. Randall Keeney, Chair of the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Committee will lead us through a night of reflection concerning the documentary film, "Traces of our Trade: A Story from the Deep North." This film is about filmmaker Katrina Browne's discovery that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. Browne and her family trace their family's history and gain a new perspective on the black and white divide. This documentary will be shown in the library at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 9: A Theological and Historical Perspective through the life of Pauli Murray Amey Adkins – an Episcopal PhD student from Duke University and an expert in racial reconciliation- will lead Sunday School for two consecutive Sundays. During this first Sunday School, she will led us through a theological and historical perspective of the "black church" through the legacy of Pauli Murray. Pauli's grandmother, a slave, was baptized at Chapel of the Cross, an Episcopal parish, in nearby Chapel Hill, NC. Her great-grandfather was a lawyer, son of a UNC trustee. However, in spite of her powerful inheritance, she was denied admission to the University on the grounds of race and denied admission to the priesthood on the grounds of gender. Her story is a powerful narrative of both our North Carolina and church histories, as her resilience and commitment to justice later bore groundbreaking fruit: Pauli became the first African-American woman ordained to the priesthood, and returned to Chapel of the Cross to celebrate her first Eucharist. 2011 marks the 100th anniversary of her birth.

Sunday, January 16: Resistance and Liberation through Song and Prayer

Amey Adkins will continue to lead the discussion about the the legacy of the "black church" in America, as well as the Civil Rights Movement. We will do so by interactively listening to a selection of songs and prayers that reflect voices from African-American Christians who experienced slavery and segregation, yet maintained a miraculous faith in Jesus. We will discuss how these songs were not only used to strengthen a community in times of turmoil and oppression, but also how they witnessed to and changed the hearts of many white Christians of the time. Lastly, there will be a brief discussion connecting the civil rights and race-related issues of the last few decades with contemporary issues in the United States and abroad today.

January 23: Civil Rights-What Now? One person's response.

A guest speaker from the Rubta House (an intentional new monastic community in Durham) will share how their decision to join the Rubta House is their Christian response to the history of racism within the church and US.

January 30- 2011 NC Diocesan Convention Review by Holy Comforter Delegates

The delegates to the NC Diocesan Convention will review the events at the convention including the Service of Repentance and Reconciliation.

NOTES FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Last week, the Vestry had its last meeting of the year where we said farewell to our retiring Vestry members Betty Brown, Gary Schilke, Bob Hykes and yours truly as well as our retiring Treasurer Don Stanford. I would like to thank each one of them for their service to Holy Comforter and for a job well done!

I am also pleased to announce the 2011 Vestry officers who were elected at the end of that meeting. The positions elected were Janie Sellers as Senior Warden, Frank Harris as Junior Warden, Bob Stewart as Assistant Junior Warden, Pete Glidewell as Assistant Treasurer, Mikki Harper as Clerk, Paula Boyd as Treasurer and Richard Parker as Recording Secretary.

As 2010 comes to a close, I would like to thank each and every one of you for all you do to make this place an extension of Christ in this world. Through your welcoming inclusiveness and your ministering to the less fortunate, you make Holy Comforter a beacon which is an example to all. Stay tuned for an exciting new year where we will welcome a new Rector and celebrate our Centennial!

On a personal note, I would also like to thank you for all of the support and encouragement you have given me these past two years. The job of Senior Warden is made much easier when accompanied by a congregation filled with strong leadership and people willing to do the hard work when called upon. Holy Comforter has all of these things in abundance!

Yours in Christ, Scott
Scott Turner - fsturner@aol.com
336-226-2099 home - 336-436-8029 work - 336-212-0125 cell
Holy Comforter on the web: [www.holycomforterburlington.org].
Holy Comforter on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=58594233752].

YEAR-END GIVING

In order for contributions to be reflected on 2010 giving statements, gifts must be post-marked or received on/before December 31, 2010. David Vaughan will be in the Parish Office on Friday, December 31 from 10:00 in the morning until 2:00 in the afternoon to receive year-end contributions.

Pete Glidewell, Asst. Treasurer

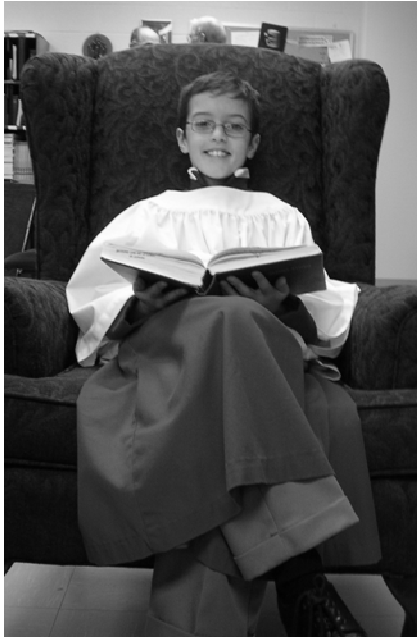
To the Holy Comforter Episcopal Church family:

Food For The Poor wishes to thank you for the welcome you extended to Father Moulton on his recent visit to your parish.

On behalf of our less fortunate brothers and sisters of Latin America and the Caribbean, we thank you for having shared in their lives. They, and you, are blessed by your generosity.

**In Christ,
The Food For The Poor Family**

MEET OUR CHORISTERS



Ten year old **Michael Steed** is a busy 4th grader at Smith Elementary where he participates in Battle of the Books, newspaper, and plays violin in the orchestra. After the bell rings he studies piano, gymnastics, and plays soccer with the Wildcats. Michael is often found reading, constructing with Lego, and looks forward to becoming the first human to walk on Mars.

Anna Steed is a proud 2nd grade student at Smith Elementary where she particularly enjoys reading and math. This active seven year old also studies piano and jazz dance. In her free time she enjoys reading, drawing, swimming, and playing pretend with her brothers.
- Julie Steed

Laurie Ryan's note: Anna, Michael, and their brother Ryan had perfect attendance in their second year in the choir.

CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .

Myrtice Alexander who is retiring after 30 years as a volunteer at Alamance Regional Hospital.

Richard Parker for being named Kiwanis Club's Man of the Year.

Holy Comforter is proud of both of you.

Ginny Allison

**One final plea
Time and Talent Search 2010**

As this great year draws to a close, the Vestry would like to encourage you once again to find a new way to volunteer your time and talent to Holy Comforter. In an effort to help you prayerfully consider what you might have a desire and a talent to contribute, I have compiled a list of areas that have vacancies that need to be filled. I have also included a brief description of what might be involved.

Altar Guild members - about one hour one Sat. or Sun. a month to prepare for the Worship services. Instruction is very clear and well organized.

Altar Guild / Special Brass - 3 - 4 times a year for about one hour to polish the Brass. Men are encouraged and invited to participate as the items are heavy.

Adult Choir members - rehearse Wed. nights sing for second service on Sundays and for special services.

Treble Choir - open to all children with treble voices who can read. They rehearse each Wednesday from 4:30 - 5:15 during the school year and sing in the second service every four weeks or so.

Chairperson(s) for Stewardship Education committee - lead committee to establish events promoting Stewardship local, community and global. Assist with Time and Talent Search for Annual Pledge review.

Sons of God Liaison - Meet with representatives of the Sons of God a group that is currently worshipping in St. Athanasius. Maintain a line of communication.

Women's Shelter Liaison - Meet with representatives to provide communication for establishing and maintaining mutual understanding and cooperating

Loaves and Fishes Liaison - Meet with representatives to provide communication for establishing and maintaining mutual understanding and cooperating. Assist with food drives as needed.

Health Screenings - Assist as needed with providing literature, setting up, or other specific assignments on the day of the screenings.

New Rector Welcoming committee members & Chair - offer assistance to the new Rector and his/her family in their move to Alamance County. Help them transition to their new position.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers - need two additional volunteers to deliver the sacraments to the home bound.

Lay Readers - two additional lay readers are needed. Read one or more of the scriptures at one service approximately once a month or less.

Please mark your Annual Pledge review form or you may contact me directly at mikki.harper@gmail.com.

Submitted by Mikki Harper, Stewardship Committee Chairperson

Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North



“Filmmaker Katrina Browne discovers that her New England ancestors were the largest slave-trading family in U.S. history. She and nine cousins retrace the Triangle Trade and gain powerful new perspectives on the black/white divide.”



Filmmaker Katrina Browne

Tuesday, January 4, 2011

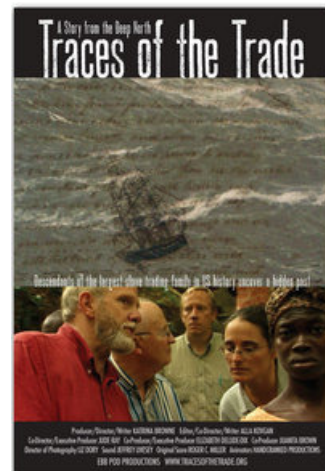
In preparation for the Service of Repentance and Reconciliation at our 2011 Diocesan Convention and under the suggestion of The Rt. Rev. Bishop Marble, Holy Comforter will show the film “Traces of the Trade,” and will participate in a guided discussion based on the documentary.

The Rev. Randall Keeney, Chair of the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Committee and Vicar of St. Barnabas Church, will lead a discussion about race and the Episcopal church following the screening of “Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North.”

The content of the film and discussion is disturbing and is recommended for mature participants.

The documentary will begin promptly at **7:00pm in the library**. Light snacks and refreshments will be served at 6:45pm.

Admission to this event is free.





Episcopal Church Women of Holy Comforter

PECANS !!! There are some still available to be sold after services on Sundays, or call Harriet Whitley: 227-0060, Nancy Smith: 449-5585, Susan Ryan: 226-2561. Pecan halves or pieces are be available in 1 lb bags. They are also on sale at MidCarolina Bank.



THANK YOU EVERYONE for the outstanding donations of “Paperbags for Paper Goods and Nonperishable Foods:” Once again, the Holy Comforter family has made a difference in contributing to the local food pantries! Thank you to Kathie & Wayne Longbrake for coordinating this generous effort!

- Next Meeting: Monday, Jan 10th 10:00am will be installation of Officers. Location to be announced. Shara Partin will begin our Spring series on Biblical Horticulture: Trees in the Bible (*see below*). Come join us!!
Nancy Smith, President - 449-5585

The ECW programs for winter/spring 2011 will use Genesis 2:8 as a theme.

- "And the Lord God planted a garden ... and there He placed the man." Each session will highlight plants named in the Bible and focus on the references, use, and cultivation in Biblical times and their symbolism for us.
- Jan. 10 -- Trees -- Shara Partin
- Feb. 14 -- Herbs -- The Rev. Dr. Frank Heller and Jennell Harris
- Mar. 14 -- Fruits -- Kathie Longbrake
- Apr. 11 -- Flowers --Juli Hauser

The gathering begins at 10 and the program about 10:30. We hope all women who are interested in gardening and life in Biblical times will come and join in the program.

Shara Partin

St. Martha's Guild News

St. Martha's receives a thank you note:

Let the prayer shawl ladies known my shawl has been getting lots of use this month. Several of my deceased family members including my little sister, Marsha, and my fiancee, Bob, have birthdays this month. The shawl has helped me to comfort me.

Love, Helen Davidson

REMINDER: St. Martha's Guild will meet on Monday, January 10 at 6:00 in the Church Parlor.

Arlene Veix & Juli Hauser

"My cup runneth over"

I have been showered with so much love, concern support and prayers since my accident. My heart is full of gratitude for all the many ways this wonderful parish and her people have rallied around me. I have had countless precious chauffeurs, errand runners, launderers, cooks, visitors, get well cards and meals that have me feel truly blessed. I am slowly making progress and it is because of your faithful prayers and support. It has been a real challenge for this usually extremely independent sort of a priest to be totally dependent on so many people. God has taught me to be more willing to accept help and to be sincerely grateful when it is offered.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you have done!

Pam+

**Summarization of Vestry Minutes
Monday November 15, 2010**

Guest Presentation: Diana Wallace and Gregg Lee

- Diana and Gregg presented their proposal for the Parlor renovation
- Painting has been completed and paid for
- displayed suggested fabrics from Sunbrella by Glen Raven Fabrics
- Projected cost \$10,000 to \$15,000
- Requested that funds be included in the 2011 budget
- Vestry requested that the committee wait until after the Annual Pledge review to begin soliciting donations

Staff Reports

Staff Reviews: Barbara Simpson, Chair of Personnel Committee

Barbara discussed the results of the reviews done for each of the staff members by Pam Webb. She then outlined the recommendations for the upcoming budget year

Interim Rector: Pam Webb

- Reported on evening worship with Rev. Naim Ateek at First Presbyterian Nov. 3
- All Saints with Tally Bandy, beautiful Mozart Mass and blessing of the Altar vases as well as a baptism
- Annual Meeting went well and appreciation shown for the lunch afterwards
- Reviewed the Advent and Christmas calendar
- Reported on many Outreach education opportunities both in Adult Education and from the pulpit
- Joe Wolyniak will be seeking a nomination for Holy Orders
- Explained the format for the Christmas Pageant
- Worship committee decided not to move the Altar for this Advent season

Minister of Music: Laurie Ryan

- Reported that the Treble choir was up and running - Vestry commented on lovely performance just given
- Very pleasing All Saints service
- Laurie is actively recruiting new Choir members

Administrative Division reports:

Financial Report: Stig Egede-Nissen

- At this point, hopeful that we will end the year in the black as we are ahead \$2500 in the budget
- Utilities were up \$2000 on the year but Personnel was \$4000 less due to vacancies
- APR: amount pledged to date \$279,300 with 115 pledges returned; 228 cards still outstanding
- The safe is in need of some repairs
- Scott Turner announced that the ECW had made a \$1000 gift towards reducing the mortgage debt and a \$500 gift for Parlor renovations
- Reelin' in the Years proceeds: \$5000 to purchase an ark for Heifer Project and \$1800 towards the J2A pilgrimage

Personnel: Janie Sellers

John Roulet has agreed to fill the position vacated by Steven House

Program Division reports:

Mission and Outreach: Bill Ratcliff

Betty Brown has created a very informative matrix for each of the areas in Outreach - giving valuable information about each endeavor

Continued on page 10

Summarization of Vestry Minutes Continued from page 9

Christian Formation, Worship, & Stewardship Education: Mikki Harper

- Adult Christian Formation is finishing series on Outreach and will plan their Advent/Christmas series next
- Children's Education begins the Winter term with new teachers Nov. 28
- Lots of Youth activities are upcoming both outreach and social
- Worship committee would like to set the Worship services to 8:00 and 10:30 year round - no more changing for Summer. The Vestry after discussing decided to informally poll the Parishioners and make a decision at the next meeting
- Stewardship Education is continuing with specifically targeted articles in Comfortable Words and announcements in Church to go hand in hand with the Annual Pledge review

Parish Life: Stig Egede-Nissen

- St. Martha's Guild gave 4 prayer shawls this month and commenced their Advent sales
- Sunshine Committee provided one meal this month
- Stig thanked Kate Crawford for all her work in arranging for the lunch at Annual Meeting

Warden's Reports:

Junior Warden: Gary Schilke

- Reported the progress on the Parlor renovation
- Bob Stewart reported that the handicap stall in the Great Hall has been finished
- Bob also thanked Robbie and Kate Wheatly for all their hard work in the Parlor

Senior Warden: Scott Turner

- Acceptance of the Columbarium has been done and move will be forth coming
- Vestry approved the use of the Sanctuary for a wedding of members of First Baptist
- Vestry approved request by local photographer to photograph the outside of the Church
- Scott explained the format for the Dec. Vestry meeting

Search Committee: Bob Hykes

Committee has narrowed candidate pool down to two. On site interviews and pulpit visits will take place next.

New Business

Kate Crawford reminded everyone about the Greening of the Church Dec. 19. Bob Hykes encouraged the 2011 Vestry to pursue a new Pictorial Directory for the New Rector as well as the Centennial. He stated that Terri Kirchen has expressed an interest in coordinating this project.

As always, you are cordially invited to attend a Vestry meeting, which is held on the third Monday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. The complete minutes are available for your perusal in the church office.

Respectfully submitted by Mikki R. Harper, Clerk to the Vestry

**The First Sunday After Christmas
Lessons for December 26, 2010**

	First Lesson	Isaiah 63:7-9
	Psalm	148
	Second Lesson	Hebrews 2:10-18
	The Gospel	Matthew 2:13-23
LAYREADERS	8:15	Paula Boyd (Lessons & Psalm) Curt Odem (Creed, Prayers & Chalice)
	10:30	Lessons & Carols Kelly Autry, Bella Exum, McKenzie Love, Whitt Sellers, Annie Weatherly, Elise Weatherly
CHILDREN'S CHAPEL		Jessica Atkinson
ACOLYTES	8:15	Richard Parker (C/CS)
	10:30	Whitt Sellers (C/CS)
ALTAR GUILD		Janie Sellers, Rene Burgess, Ruth Holmes, Beth Glidewell, Molly Exum, Betty Brown, Elizabeth Hansen
FLOWER GUILD		Patsy Isley, Jennell Harris, Margaret Egede-Nissen
USHERS	8:15	Darrell Smith
	10:30	Rich Teska, Terry Autry
GREETERS		Marian Accles, Betsy Baldwin
VESTRY ON DUTY		Scott Turner
COUNTERS		Pete Glidewell, Stig Egede-Nissen
COFFEE		TBA
NURSERY		Ginny Allison, Lisha Akers, Marianne Harrington

PRAYER REQUESTS

For all people involved in conflict and war especially our own Armed Forces: Scott Sroka, Jack Earley, Brian Webb
Helen Fuller Olive "Butch" Oberle, friend of Mildred Nowell
Debi Veix Margie Wagner
Rick, friend of Elizabeth Costello Joan & Fred Heckman, friends of Mari Day
Suzie Renee
Lois Bender, Arlene Veix's sister Burns Blackwell, nephew of Tish & Joe Murray
Tony Murray, Joe Murray's cousin Christy Gaines, Juli Hauser's daughter
Marilyn Pollio, friend of Nancy Pickens Pam Webb
Casey Bosley, friend of Susan Kern Kristy Lehman, Sue Schilke's daughter-in-law
Stephen Feamster, friend of Sandra Ford Grace Whittington, friend of Pam Webb
Dan Seiler Jill Allen, friend of Debi Veix
Jane Carpenter David Bryant, Luanne Driver's nephew

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Norwood Snyder, friend of Jessie Beddingfield
Roy Mabe, friend of Cathy & Susan Sanford & Haley Wilson
Linda Payne, friend of Sandra Ford

Calendar for Dec. 24-Jan.13

24 FRI.

Office closes at noon
5:00 Traditional Holy Eucharist
10:30 Traditional Holy Eucharist

25 SAT.

10:00 Family Holy Eucharist

26 SUN.

8:15 Holy Eucharist II
9:30 Choir
10:30 Lessons & Carols

27 MON.

Office Closed

28 TUES.

Office Opens at 1 p.m.

29 WED.

NO Healing Eucharist Service
45:30 Basketball

31 FRI.

10 - 2 Office Open

2 SUN.

8:15 Holy Eucharist II
9:30 Choir
9:30 Christian Ed.
10:30 Holy Eucharist II
Un-green the Church

4 TUES.

10:30 Bible Study
6:00 Standing Property Committee
6:30 Traces of the Trade

5 WED.

11:00 Healing Eucharist Service
5:30 Basketball

6 THURS.

6:11:00 Service at Twin Lakes
7:15 EFM
7:30 Church Ladies

7 FRI. to 9 SUN. Vestry Retreat

9 SUN.

9:30 Choir
9:30 Christian Ed.
10:30 Holy Eucharist II

10 MON.

9:00 Deadline for Comfy Words
10:00 ECW
6:00 St. Martha's Guild
7:00 Finance Committee

12 WED.

11:00 Healing Eucharist
4:30 Treble Choir
5:30 Basketball
7:30 Adult Choir

13 THURS.

7:30 EDGE Discussion Group

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Elizabeth Costello
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The Rev. Rod Reinecke, Rector Emeritus
The Rev. Ralph Macy, Priest Associate
The Rev. Robert Walker, Lutheran Pastor Associate
Jeannette I. Hassell, Minister of Music Emerita
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John Fitch, Sexton

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
Secretary 8 a.m.–12 p.m. & 1 – 5 p.m.
At other times voice mail is available for messages.
It also provides emergency phone numbers.