



Volume 2011 No. 1

Comfortable Words

January 12, 2011

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR 2011 VESTRY!

Over the January 7-9 weekend, we held our annual retreat at Twin Lakes. The Rev. Trawin Malone, Regional Priest for the Diocese, acted as facilitator. We spent time getting to know each other better and reflecting on the ministry of a vestry. We explored the nature of transitions in general and continued making plans for the rector transition that we are in the middle of experiencing at Holy Comforter. We reviewed goals for the various committees and groups in the parish and worked on building a budget. This continues to be a difficult period for a number of our members. At the same time, our needs and expectations are high. We made good progress on the budget but that work continues. We approved the following short term goals for the vestry.

- Celebrate the ministry of our interim rector, Pam Webb
- Welcome our new rector
- Celebrate our church's Centennial
- Complete the renovation of the parlor
- Support division and subdivision activities and goals, such as planning a family Lenten program (Christian Formation), refurbishing the office of the rector (Property), recruiting leadership for several local outreach projects (Outreach), developing a social media policy (Personnel), inventorying our fundraising appeals and developing a calendar to minimize conflicts and concurrent requests (Finance), Producing an updated Church Pictorial Directory (Parish Life)
- Promote stewardship of our parish's resources – time, talent, treasure – and our environmental resources
- Have a balanced budget
- Establish the means for repayment of our debt not covered by active pledges (approximately \$220,000)

We had a productive retreat and are excited about our ministry as the 2011 vestry. We thank you in advance for your prayers and support.

In Peace, Janie Sellers, Senior Warden

[See Page 7 for a Special Announcement!](#)

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

The Witness of the “Black Church” in America

Check out the upcoming Sunday School Topics and Services in the month of January.

A Service of Commemoration for MLK Jr.

In response to the interest shown at “Sunday Morning Matters,” and the showing of “Traces of the Trade,” last week, a service of Commemoration for Martin Luther King, Jr. is scheduled for Monday, January 17th at 7 pm in St. Athanasius Chapel. The service will use the Rite II Eucharist using prayers for Reconciliation and will provided an opportunity for laying on of hands and anointing for healing.

Confirmation Class

Thinking about being confirmed this year? On June 12th, 2011 Holy Comforter will have a confirmation service at 10:30 am. If you are interested in participating in the confirmation classes and discerning whether or not you feel called to be confirmed, contact Elizabeth Costello at ecostello@holycomforterburlington.org. Classes will begin after Easter.

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

Amey Adkins -an Episcopal PhD student from Duke University and racial reconciliation expert- will continue to lead the discussion about the legacy of the "black church" in America, as well as the Civil Rights Movement. The class 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. The group 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.

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Sunday, January 23: One Christian's Response

Sarah Jobe –a community member of the Rubta House (an intentional new monastic community in Durham, NC) an ordained Baptist minister- will discuss her own journey as a white, upper middle class woman growing up in Memphis TN, a highly racialized Southern city. In so doing, she will share some of her realizations of her own complicity in the systems of injustice and how she understands her commitment to live in an intentional Christian community in a historically African American neighborhood (Wall town Durham) to be one way of trying to resist those systems.

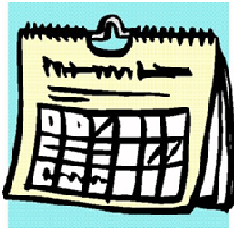
Children & Youth Happenings

Chancel Drama is Coming Soon!

The 3rd-5th grade Sunday School class has begun work on the next chancel drama to be presented on Sunday, May 15th. The children have chosen to present The Story of Elisha. This drama is based on II Kings, chapters 2-13. Here is a brief introduction to our story:

After the glorious kingdom of David and Solomon had been divided into southern Judah and northern Israel, Elijah became a prophet in Israel. Worship of Baal had been introduced by Queen Jezebel, but Elijah denounced these practices and tried to rid Israel of the priests of Baal. Our story begins with Elijah, an elderly and exhausted man. God calls him and tells him to choose Elisha as his successor. Mark your calendars to see “the rest of the story” of Elisha.

-Juli Hauser



J2A and YAC Spring Semester Schedule is coming soon!

A 2011 Spring Semester schedule has been created for YAC and J2A. The schedule has been emailed out to the parents of J2A and YAC youth to firm up dates. Look for the 2011 Spring Semester Schedule in the next comfy words!



Upcoming Rite 13 Ceremony

Are you in Rite 13? Interested in participating in the Rite 13 ceremony? Want to know more about this ceremony? Please contact Elizabeth Costello for more information at ecostello@holyccomforterburlington.org.

JOIN THE SONG

The **Treble Choir** and the **Adult Choir** would like to welcome new and former members this New Year.

The **Trebles** rehearse Wednesdays from 4:30-5:15 pm and is open to students who can read through age twelve. We have made much progress since beginning with three choristers three years ago and we can progress even further with more voices. The Choir sings in the 10:30 a.m. service every three to four weeks.

The **Adult Choir** rehearses Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. and sings weekly in the 10:30 a.m. service and for other seasonal services. Because of travel, professional commitments, and unforeseen circumstances it is rare that most members are present on any given Sunday or Wednesday, so we are actively seeking members to help us shore up all sections so that we may continue to sing SATB (Soprano Alto Tenor Bass) literature.

Please get in touch with **Laurie Ryan** for more information and encouragement.

Missing Baby Jesus

During the Christmas holidays, I set up a Nativity Scene that I purchased in Bethlehem in the hall outside the Parlor. At some time during the holidays, the small, olive wood baby Jesus was taken from the manger and not returned. Perhaps a small child slipped it into their pocket or it was otherwise misplaced. Would you please help us find the missing baby Jesus and return it to me? Not to worry if it isn't found, we have had a thoughtful offer from the minister at First Presbyterian Church to bring one home from a spring pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Pam Webb

OFFERING ENVELOPES – CONTRIBUTOR NUMBERS

2011 offering envelopes have been provided to all who requested them. (A few boxes have yet to be claimed and can be found on the table at the back of the church.) In order to use envelopes already in stock in the Parish Office, some contributors' envelope numbers have changed for 2011. *If you did not request envelopes for 2011, you will be identified in our system by your name (rather than an "old" number). If you haven't had envelopes assigned to you, but wish to have them, please let me know.*

David Vaughan (227-4251)

Holy Comforter Blood Drive

The annual Holy Comforter Blood Drive is scheduled for **Monday, March 28, 2011**. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to be a blood donor.

Betty Brown

Mature Voice's January Meeting

Mature Voice will meet on January 27th (the 4th Thursday of the month) in the Great Hall, gathering at 11:30 and eating at 12:00. We will have a ham that was intended for our December meeting. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate this month and we will enjoy a big crowd. We look forward to seeing you there.

Gary and Juli Hauser

Allied Church's Honor Cards

205 Allied Church's Honor Cards were purchased by members of Holy Comforter this Christmas. This provided \$1025 for hot meals for the hungry and homeless of Alamance County. Thank you all.

If you would like to volunteer to serve meals, or work the Allied Churches' office as a receptionist, please call Ed or Rene Burgess at 222-9512.

From Rene Burgess

RECOGNITION RECEPTION

Come join us for a Recognition Reception in the Great Hall the first Sunday in February after the second service. We are recognizing **Kate Crawford, Dan Patterson, Bob Stewart, and Therrel and Marie Brown** for their outstanding service to the Holy Comforter parishioners and ministries.

See you all February 6.

Bill Ratcliffe

St. Martha's Guild News

St. Martha's Receives a Thank You Notes

Dear St. Martha's,

I am sitting here looking at my new "Rector Emeritus" comfort doll and am already deriving much comfort from it. It is a work of art and a wonderful likeness. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Rod Reinecke

Dear St. Martha's,

We are so grateful for the beautiful baptismal shawl made for Colan Jack and for that grand addition to his baptismal celebration. Thank you so much for the time and love put into the creation of the shawl and for the support in his Christian journey.

With love, thanks and many blessings,

Anna, Kevin and Colon Jack Blessington

Submitted by Arlene Veix & Juli Hauser

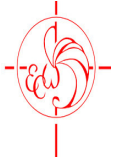
SERVICE AWARD

I take great pleasure in announcing the fourth quarter recipients of the Outstanding Service Award.

Eight years ago **Therrel and Marie Brown** started an unique service for families with autism. In the fall and spring each year families gather at the Brown farm to have a fun day featuring great food, pony rides, games, music and tractor rides. Therrel and Marie work through the Altamahaw-Ossipee Civitans and consequently everything is free. All you have to do is see the smiling, glowing faces of the autistic attendees to know what a wonderful and important ministry Therrel and Marie have founded and developed.

Therrel and Marie attend the early service at Holy Comforter and have been faithful members of our church for eight years. Congratulations Therrel and Marie. We are truly fortunate to have you as faithful members of our church family,

Respectfully submitted, Bill Ratcliffe



Episcopal Church Women of Holy Comforter

Come join us for fellowship and discussions about nature in the Bible this Spring. We meet in the Parlor, the 2nd Monday of the Month.

We are a giving group of women committed to Holy Comforter and the community ministries. All women of Holy Comforter are invited to share in Faith, Fellowship and Fun. We are entering into a period of transition, and welcome your participation in finding new direction.

Meetings are at 10:00 am in the Parlor. We would love to see YOU there!

Our next meeting is Monday, February 14th

Our new officers are: Coordinator: Nancy Smith; Co-coordinator: Shara Partin
Secretary: Peg Ladd; Treasurer: Jennell Harris.

Nancy Smith, Coordinator - 449-5585

A Year End Salute to Our Brass Polishers

Throughout this year, a dedicated team has gathered periodically to polish the brass used in our services. I would like to thank each of them. They are: **Chinkie Goodale, Sandra Ford, Ed & Rene Burgess, Bill Long, Marilyn Tyler, Gary Hauser, and Jean Hedrick**. Many blessings to you all for your hard work.

Juli Hauser

SERVICE TRIP TO MEXICO APRIL 2-9

Burlington-Alamance Sister Cities is seeking volunteers to help students of English at a university in San Luis Potosi, a lovely, safe, historic city 200 miles north of Mexico City. This will be the 6th such trip. Knowledge of Spanish is NOT required. Earlier Holy Comforter volunteers have included Ed & Rene Burgess, Ed & Lyn Sutton, Kim & Shara Partin, and Ben & Caroline Ansbacher. All were enthusiastic about the experience. For more information check the church office bulletin board, or call Ben at 336-226-8124.

Ben Ansbacher

"The Fellowship of Thy Saints" (BCP page 470)

I would like to strongly encourage the members of this parish to attend funeral or memorial services for members of Holy Comforter. We will attempt to notify you of upcoming services by email or, when possible, in the Sunday announcements. Some longtime members of our parish have died in the past year and, even though they may not have been as active recently because of age or illness, they had a long-time relationship with us. To honor them and also to support their families, it would be wonderful to have a good number of parishioners attend their funerals.

Pam Webb

January 12, 2011

Dear Parishioners,

Your Vestry is excited and pleased to announce joyfully that a call has been extended to Adam J. Shoemaker to become the next rector of the Church of the Holy Comforter. That call has now been gladly accepted! Adam will begin his ministry with us on the 1st of April, 2011.

The Search Committee voted unanimously to recommend Adam to the members of the combined 2010 & 2011 Vestry and, after meeting him, the Vestry's vote was also unanimous. From all of the exchanges we've had with Adam, his colleagues and his parishioners, we believe that Adam possesses the attributes and the abilities to bring energy to Holy Comforter and that he will provide spiritual meaning to our everyday lives.

The Holy Spirit is alive and well at Holy Comforter!

Adam is currently the Assistant Rector at Christ Church, in Andover, Massachusetts. He and his wife Courtney, who is also an ordained Episcopal priest, are very much looking forward to moving to Burlington to be part of our ministry! We plan to hold an Adult Forum on February 6th so that the combined Vestry and Search Committee members can present information about our new rector, answer questions about the search process, and discuss our plans and preparations to receive Adam and Courtney into our church family.

Please take every opportunity to thank members of the Search Committee for the many hours of prayerful preparation, work and travel they have experienced to present this individual to the Vestry.

We ask for your prayers for Adam and Courtney, for Christ Church - Andover who will be losing its wonderful assistant rector, and for the ongoing ministry of Holy Comforter. We are grateful for the prayers from each of you that have sustained us and this church throughout this process.

Yours in Christ,

Janie Sellers
Sr. Warden

Frank Harris
Jr. Warden

P.S. to Holy Comforter FaceBook users: Adam has a FaceBook presence, but would appreciate your holding off on friend requests until after he is with us in April. He is going to have a very busy couple of months saying goodbye to his current parish and preparing for the move to Burlington; we ask that you respect his wishes in this regard.

Epiphany 2
Lessons for January 16, 2011

First Lesson	Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm	40:1-12
Second Lesson	1 Corinthians 1:1-9
The Gospel	John 1:29-42

LAYREADERS	8:15	Linda Buff (Lessons & Psalm)
		Mikki Harper (Creed, Prayers & Chalice)
	10:30	Greg Deasey (First Lesson)
		Elizabeth Hansen (Second Lesson)
		Bob Walker (Creed, Prayers & Chalice)
		Hallie Hogan (Chalice)
CHILDREN'S CHAPEL ACOLYTES	8:15	Jan Kelly
	10:30	Richard Parker (C/CS)
		Raleigh Adams (C/CS)
		Elizabeth Adams, Andrew Stephenson (T)
		Jamie Robbins (Gospel Book)
ALTAR GUILD		Jean Tippett, Harriet Whitley, Shara Partin, Lisa Lawson, Carole Soliday, Linda Buff, Becky Cook, Judith Garmon
FLOWER GUILD		Janie Sellers, Kim Love, Tish Murray, Betsy Weatherly, Ann Sellers
USHERS	8:15	Dan Patterson
	10:30	Patty Scotten & Rich Morrison
GREETERS		Peggy Boswell & Margaret Egede-Nissen
VESTRY ON DUTY		Harriet Whitley
COUNTERS		Frank Harris & Elizabeth Hood
COFFEE		Mary Collins & Greg Deasey
NURSERY		Ginny Allison, Lisha Akers, Carrie Daniels

PRAYER REQUESTS

For all people involved in conflict and war especially our own Armed Forces:

Scott Sroka, Jack Earley, Brian Webb

Helen Fuller	Debi Veix
Rick, Elizabeth Costello family member	Joan & Fred Heckman, friends of Mari Day
Suzie	Dan Wagner, Veix family friend
Marilyn Pollio, friend of Nancy Pickens	Pam Webb
Kristy Lehman, Sue Schilke's daughter-in-law	Stephen Feamster, friend of Sandra Ford
Grace Whittington, friend of Pam Webb	Casey Bosley, friend of Susan Kern
Dan Seiler	David Bryant, Luanne Driver's nephew
Christopher Kallas, Michael Szigeti's nephew	Lily Mae Ramey, Paula & Pat Boyd's granddaughter
Kenny Kiser, Michael Szigeti's cousin	Ed Gahm, Michael Szigeti's cousin
Val Howard & Billie Wheeler, Sandra Ford's sisters	Marilyn Carpenter, friend of Laurie Ryan
Kevin Delaney, neighbor & friend of Boswell/Vellani family	

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Andrew Reavis, former parishioner of Pam Webb
Jane Carpenter

Calendar for Jan.14 - Jan. 27

14 FRI.

11:15 Good Shepherd Kitchen

16 SUN.

8:15 Holy Eucharist II

9:30 Choir

9:30 Christian Ed.

10:30 Holy Eucharist II

17 MON.

Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

7:00 Commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr.

18 TUES.

10:30 Bible Study

7:15 EFM

19 WED.

11:00 Healing Eucharist Service

4:30 Treble Choir

5:30 Basketball

7:30 Adult Choir

20 THURS.

7:00 Adult C. Ed. Committee

7:30 Church Ladies

21 FRI. & 22 SAT.

Diocesan Convention

23 SUN.

8:15 Holy Eucharist II

9:30 Choir

9:30 Christian Ed.

10:30 Holy Eucharist II

11:30 Centennial Committee

25 TUES.

7:15 EFM

26 WED.

11:00 Healing Eucharist Service

4:30 Treble Choir

5:30 Basketball

7:30 Adult Choir

27 THURS.

11:30 Mature Voice

7:30 EDGE Discussion Group

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Elizabeth Costello
e-mail: ecostello@holycmforterburlington.org
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.