

The Trumpet



A monthly publication of the people of the
Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Cartersville, GA

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A MESSAGE FROM MOTHER MARY



It is fall and aren't we grateful! The temperatures are surely more comfortable and so are the air conditioning bills. Woolfie (short for Howlin' Wolf) and I are enjoying our cool morning and evening walks. And the walk home for lunch is such a pleasure under the North Georgia blue sky. I arrived late fall last year and as we round the seasonal calendar approaching that time again, I can tell you that there is a familiarity in the air. Cartersville is becoming our "home." Soon we will be having our second Advent Season together, but first there are a few more "firsts".

As I write this we are preparing for our Bane and Blessing event. It will be my "first" and I am looking forward to all the fun and festivities that go with the weekend. I pray it will be a roaring success for our Outreach and Food Pantry Ministries. In a couple of weeks we will say goodbye to our Organist/Choirmaster. I hope all of you plan to come to the reception for George Chesnut on October 2 following the 11 AM service. Let's send George off with our love and good wishes. The following week on October 9 we will have a service at Malbone. Consecration Sunday comes on October 23rd with one service for all at 10 AM. I hope everyone is planning to come. Soon thereafter in November will come All Saint's Sunday (11/6) followed by Bishop Whitmore's visit (11/13) which will include confirmation/reception/reaffirmation for youth and adults. Many events for all of us with some "firsts" for all of us.

One of the "firsts" for everyone is our Stewardship Campaign. This year's campaign will culminate in what is known as Consecration Sunday. There is more about that special day in another Trumpet column of this issue, but I seek to share a few comments with you about giving. In the extraordinary kingdom of heaven, God has made known through Jesus the Christ that abundant generosity is the "way." It is by giving that we receive. That is not just an old cliché but a divine truth...just ask anyone whose spiritual life you admire.

There is great spiritual hunger among many in our country. People who do not understand life in the spirit of God seek to fill that hunger with all sorts of things material. We pacify ourselves with food/drink/drugs; fill our closets with clothes and garages with vehicles. We rent storage space for all our stuff that no longer fits into our large homes. Even the poorest among us has more wealth than the poor of other countries, and yet we find there is something missing. When we are consumed with consuming we can't receive what God longs for us to have. It is by giving that our hearts, minds, and spirits open to receive only what God can give. Saint Augustine understood this when he said, "You have made us for yourself, Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." Another way to express this dependence on God is that each of us has a God-shaped hole in our heart. When we give to God for the sake of others, God fills that hole with abundant love and more...

The Stewardship Campaign and its organizers are taking a big leap of faith this year and we invite you to join us. We seek not to be budget focused and fill you with a list of needs. We seek rather for your spiritual wholeness in God. We will ask you to consider giving of a percentage of your income that will lead to deeper spiritual growth. The biblical basis for this is ten percent. It is known as the tithe. Please discuss the generous life of giving and receiving in your households and decide on a percentage of giving to which you will commit. If you cannot commit to the tithe this year, consider a lesser percentage with a commitment to tithe in the future. Talk to others about the challenge and the opportunity. You will also have the chance to hear from parish members about their 'life of giving' in the next few weeks. While this is my "first" stewardship campaign as rector, tithing is not a "first". Steve and I made that leap of faith seven years ago. I can say with all honesty that it has been life changing.

In keeping with the theme of generous giving the Stewardship Committee also desires to give to you on Consecration Sunday. Following the one combined service at 10 AM on the 23rd, there will be a catered lunch for all. You won't have to cook or clean up. Reservations will be taken during the services leading up to the day. Come celebrate the life of giving. Come celebrate the life of Jesus Christ who was given for you that you may receive.

Come and See!

Mother Mary Erickson

CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS COMING

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

New Consecration Sunday is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat people like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. *New Consecration Sunday* encourages people toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?" During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday. We urge people to attend who feel strongly opposed to completing a card. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do no home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship our guest leader will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspiration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship.

We will encourage participation in Consecration Sunday events through the Consecration Sunday team and governing board members. Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend Consecration Sunday worship.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Consecration Sunday events.

Yours in Christ,

Joe White

Consecration Sunday Chairperson



THE LATEST FROM OUTREACH

This year's Bane and Blessing was a great success. Thanks to your generous giving, we made about \$3700. Chris McAbee and Marcia Humphreys would like to thank all members of the Parish for their donations and help with the sale. Thank you to Carol Robson, Joe White, and Brenda Worley for counting the proceeds and making deposits. We want to give a special thank you those hardy folks who started with us at 6:30 Saturday morning and were still there for clean up on Sunday evening: Keith and Maggie Martin, Jim Humphreys, Brenda Worley, Earline Walpole, and Pat Ashley. These folks worked tirelessly and it was confirmed, Keith Martin can sell anything!!! Remember; don't throw anything away because there is always next year.



The Outreach Committee will meet Monday, October 10, at 6:30 in the church library. Make plans to attend as we debrief about Bane and Blessing and make plans for the upcoming Thanksgiving season.

Food Pantry

If you have motel/hotel size bars of soap, shampoo, lotion, etc. many of our patrons would appreciate them. Actually any type of cleaning products/personal hygiene products would be appreciated especially by those folks striving to get back into the work force and needing that additional lift during the job hunt.

Please find below the list of items included by our baggers each week. Please pick up some of these as you shop each week. Speaking of baggers, we could use your help there as well. The same faithful four or five prepare 144 bags of groceries every Sunday morning at 9:00 AM. Come join in sometimes and see what this is all about.

Weekly bags:

- 1 6oz. can of tuna, chicken, or salmon
- 1 can of potatoes or corn
- 1 can of pork and beans
- 1 box of macaroni 'n cheese
- 1 package of Ramen noodles soup

Each person receives two bags

Please remember that in addition to two bags of food per household, fourteen gallon-sized bags each of cat food and dog food are distributed each week. Any help you could give would be appreciated.

Upcoming Events

Outreach meeting is Monday, October 10th

Spare Change Sunday is October 30th

Church Shop

If you are interested in making a donation or volunteering your time to the Church Shop on Main Street please contact Winnie McGruder or Earline Walpole.

Marcia Humphreys

Outreach Vestry Liaison

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FALL SCHEDULE

Our fall schedule has begun and we have classes for all ages. We invite you to read through the class offerings listed below and join us each Sunday, as we continue our lifelong spiritual formation together.

Adults:

The *Welcome to...* series is a year round preparation class for confirmation, reception, and affirmation. This class will continue to be led by Mother Mary and is located in the Adult Forum.

"Christian Parenting" led by Kathi White, is located in the large classroom.

High School: (Grades 9-12)

My Faith My Life by Jenifer Gamber is closely linked to *The Book of Common Prayer* and covers everything from Scripture, church history and sacraments, to the meaning of prayer and ministry in the lives of real teens today. It is led by Dan Baker, Tiana Brachel, and Judith Cunningham and is located in the High School classroom. Required for confirmation 11/13/2011.

Middle School: (Grades 6-8)

Episcopal Curriculum for Youth uses a cumulative framework of modules focusing on Old Testament, New Testament, and Contemporary Times, as well as the basics of Sacraments, The Episcopal Church Year, and Spiritual Life. It is led by Carol Robson and Michael Robson and is located in the Middle School classroom.

Upper Elementary: (Grades 3-5)

Weaving God's Promises follows our Sunday lectionary and was developed and written exclusively for the Episcopal Church. The program teaches children the way of Christ, not only in the church but also in the world, and gives them a solid grounding for future youth formation programs, which in turn prepares them for Christian adulthood. It is led by Earline Walpole and Lee Owens and is located in the upper elementary classroom.

Early Elementary: (Grades Pre-K – 2)

Episcopal Children's Curriculum sets forth a framework for helping our children interpret and understand the covenant made in Holy Baptism, and to live the Christian Life. These four units are included in every year of the curriculum: Old Testament, New Testament, Sacraments, and the Church. Every year also has material on the major events of the Church Year, including All Saints and Pentecost. It is led by Melissa Schimke and Stephanie Horah and is located in the early elementary classroom.

In addition to our Sunday class offerings, Mother Mary conducts weekly bible study on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in the Parish Library.



Finally, on Wednesdays, following the evening service Mother Mary will offer a bible study class. The first Wednesday of the month will be dedicated to Bible & Brew: Theology and Fellowship, (location to be announced) and the subsequent Wednesday bible study classes will be held in the Parish Library. This class will require a minimum of 6 participants.

Our hope is that we are offering something for everyone and that all will find their place, but we welcome any and all feedback. Please feel free to contact either Carol Robson: 678-757-1014 or mcssrobson@comcast.net or Mother Mary Erickson: 770-382-2626 or merickson@ascensioncartersville.org.

ASCENSION COFFEE HOUSE ON OCTOBER 14

The next Ascension Coffee House will take place on Friday, October 14th, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Guest musicians for October are Steve Sanders and Jerry Brownlow. Steve and Jerry have been picking and singing together for more than fifteen years.



Since the beginning of their collaboration, they have shared an affinity for the well-crafted song. Their early influences include Townes Van Zandt, Guy Clark, Nancy Griffith, Greg Brown, Kate Wolf and Mary Gauthier. Steve and Jerry have developed their own brand of folk music over the years and are looking forward to performing together again at Ascension.

Rick McKee will continue his role as host. Admission is free, but please consider contributing non-perishable food items to benefit the hungry in our community. Dry pet food is needed to distribute to needy animals. All cash tips and food donations collected will benefit ministries at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension.

Do you have a card table in good condition that you would like to donate to the church for use at coffee house and other events? We could use a few replacements of our well-worn tables. Please consider joining the coffee house ministry team. We are delighted to welcome several new members this month. Contact Angee McKee (amckee56@aol.com, 770-382-7939) to volunteer your time or food for the event.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

The men of Ascension will kick off their breakfast this month on Saturday, October 15. The game plan will be as usual – breakfast at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall catered by Doug's at a cost of \$6.00 per plate. Bring a friend and come enjoy the fellowship.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Bring your animals to be blessed on Saturday, October 1st, at 10:00 AM. Make sure they are on a leash or in a cage. Mother Mary will bless any and all animals. Don't miss this lively service!



COME CELEBRATE AND SAY GOODBYE TO GEORGE CHESNUT



As you know, Sunday, October 2nd, will be our beloved Organist/Choirmaster's last Sunday with us. George Chesnut has accepted a position of Organist and Choirmaster at St. Margaret's, Carrollton. To send him off properly the Young Choristers

will join the Adult Choir during the 11:00 AM service and there will be a reception following that service. Rumor has it that Corinne Scott will be making her famous syllabub. Yum!! Make plans to attend and wish him "Godspeed!" We will miss him, but certainly wish him all the best. May God bless and keep you, George.

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO MALBONE

Ascension will once again celebrate its roots as we return to Malbone, the family home of Fredrick Knight, on Sunday, October 9. The 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist will be at the Church as usual, but the 9:15 AM and 11:00 AM services will be combined into one 10:00 AM service at Malbone. The service will be followed by a picnic lunch. Please bring a dish or two to share. Come on out and enjoy the beautiful fall weather and give thanks to God for our heritage and his grace!



PRESIDING BISHOP PREACHES 9/11 SERMON AT ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL

By Lynette Wilson, September 11, 2011 [Episcopal News Service]



Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori asked the congregation gathered Sept. 11 at St. Paul's Chapel in lower Manhattan, across the street from Ground Zero, to pray for those who perpetrated the violence, those who sought vengeance and for the families and friends of those who died in the terrorist attacks 10 years earlier.

"We will not be healed if we hold hate in our hearts,"

Jefferts Schori told media following the service. "Healing comes through the discovery of common bonds."

About 200 people gathered Sept. 11 at St. Paul's Chapel for "A Mass for Peace," kicking off Trinity Wall Street's daylong observance themed "Remember to Love."

"We gather here today in peace, yearning and hoping that peace may come in this land and across the world. We gather to remember those who died violently and senselessly 10 years ago today," said Jefferts Schori in her sermon. "We gather to reflect on lives lost, families devastated, and hopes dashed. And still we gather in hope for hearts that will grow and learn and change, so that no nation will study war any more."

In the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, St. Paul's Chapel became a staging area and sanctuary for rescue workers, police and firefighters, construction workers, and others who worked "the pit," as the smoldering remains of the World Trade Center towers came to be called.

Lisa Behnke, a volunteer firefighter with the Stony Brook Fire Department and a member of the vestry of Caroline Episcopal Church of Brookhaven in Setauket, New York, and her 17-year-old son John Lang, boarded at just after 3 a.m. a Long Island Railroad train bound for Penn Station to make it to St. Paul's in time for the service.

"I felt like I needed to be here in my faith community near Ground Zero," Behnke told ENS, adding that she came also for the first responders, the police and firefighters, who were not invited to the city's 9/11 commemoration, which could be seen and heard broadcast on a large screen from the 9/11 National Memorial at Ground Zero, behind the chapel, across Church Street.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has been criticized for not inviting New York City and Port Authority police officers and New York City firefighters to the 10th anniversary commemoration. Bloomberg defended his decision saying there wasn't enough room for the families of the victims and the first responders. There were 343 New York City firefighters killed on 9/11. Religious leaders also were excluded from the official ceremony.

Trinity and St. Paul's played an important role immediately after 9/11 and in the 10 years since, said Jefferts Schori.

"This came to be a place for all, family, friend and foe," she said. "We don't need to be in the center of things, but here for those who need us. And that's what St. Paul's did; they were here for the people who needed them."

St. Paul's also has become a memorial to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. A steady stream of tourists and onlookers visit Ground Zero daily, with many of them also passing through St. Paul's, where photos, cards, drawings, banners, flags, and other items sent to encourage rescue workers or as memorials remain on display.

Visitors stood around the chapel's perimeter, snapping photos and looking at the memorials, during the service.

Following the service, at 8:46 a.m., the exact time American Airlines Flight 11 struck the north tower, the Rev. James Cooper, rector of Trinity Wall Street, rang the Bell of Hope, a gift from the Lord Mayor and people of London, England, to the city of New York in 2002. New York Bishop Mark S. Sisk, who presided at the Eucharist, and the presiding bishop also took turns ringing the bell.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND NOTES

09/16/11

Results from the month of August

Our financial results for the month of August were mostly positive with the exception of having to spend \$1,800 on a sewer repair. Total revenue was higher than budget but the bottom line was negative due to the aforementioned repair and payment of a quarterly insurance bill.



Some notes on the August results:

- Pledge receipts exceeded budget by \$1,321 for the month. The year-to-date shortfall for eight months is now \$1,795.
 - Expenses for the month exceeded budget by \$3,939. Year-to-date expenses are under budget by \$4,047.
 - Total expenses exceeded total revenue by \$2,956 for the month. For the eight months year-to-date total expenses exceed total revenue by \$527.
 - Our unrestricted cash balance at the end of the month was \$3,454 and our operating accounts payable were \$4,308.
- Mal Underwood, Chair
Finance Committee



BISHOP SEARCH AND TRANSITION UPDATE

The Nominating Committee for the 10th Bishop of Atlanta will accept applications and names of potential candidates until October 30. It also has published a profile of the Diocese of Atlanta featuring material gleaned from a series of listening sessions over the summer. The profile and steps for beginning the process of nominating and applying are available at the Nominating Committee's website - www.atlbishopsearch.org

CONGRATULATIONS TO WEB POPHAM

Web Popham will be awarded his Eagle Scout on Sunday, October 2nd. Web is the son of Gayle and Dennis Popham. We are proud of this young man and thankful for him and his family.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar Flowers do more than enhance our worship with their beauty. They are used as tools by Pastoral Care as the Holy Eucharist is celebrated with the sick and shut-in. If no visits are made to our parishioners, the flowers are often used as tools for evangelism at nursing homes and shelters. Please consider donating flowers to remember or honor someone or some event in your life in praise and thanksgiving to God, and make it possible for us to take God's ministry beyond the walls of Ascension's building.



Happy Birthday to...

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Sally Rogers | 15 Marty Barber |
| 1 Spencer Barnett | Donna Marie Newton |
| 2 Caroline Knight | 19 Barry McLeod |
| 5 Jesse Ochoa | 20 Max Rowland |
| Susan McGivern | 23 Dan Baker |
| Marcela Brock | Dyer Kennedy |
| 7 Judy Patterson | 29 Nancy Kelly |
| 11 Lori Pruitt | 30 Jamie Hamilton |
| Whitney Moon | Robert Gnann |
| James Hamilton | |

Happy Anniversary to...

- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 4 Kathy and Vann Vaughan |
| 6 Carol and Michael Robson |
| 13 Linda and Neal Brunt |
| 16 Helen and Tom Maher |
| 17 Kathy and Porter Gnann |
| 18 Susan and Michael McGivern |



WOMEN'S RETREAT

October 22, 2011—10:00 am – 4:00 pm—Evans' Farm

Join us for a day apart to reflect, renew and worship

"There is in each of us an instinct for newness, for renewal, for liberation of creative energy. We seek to awaken in ourselves a force which really changes our lives from within. And yet the same instinct tells us that this change is a recovery of that which is deepest, most original, most personal in ourselves. To be born again is not to become somebody else, but to become ourselves." Thomas Merton



A key element of daily pilgrimage and renewal is *the spiritual discipline of forgiveness*. On our next retreat we will explore some of the implications of forgiveness as it relates to our ability to live a rich full life....a life filled with meaning and newness. The way to inner peace and freedom comes with the decision to commit daily to the healing process of forgiveness. Each time we forgive, there is the potential to be "born again" into the greater life God has created for us.

Mark **Saturday, October 22nd** on your calendar for our Fall women's retreat. More information and a sign-up will be posted in the Parish Hall in October. If you have any questions or need additional information please e-mail Earline Walpole at elwalpole44@bellsouth.net.

Church of the Ascension
205 West Cherokee Avenue
Cartersville, GA 30120
Phone: 770.382.2626
Fax: 770.382.2874
www.ascensioncartersville.org



JUST SO YOU KNOW

Why do Episcopalians cross themselves?

We Episcopalians cross ourselves from time to time during the service. Crossing is an ancient Christian gesture in which one touches his forehead, heart, left shoulder and right shoulder. When we teach children what the gesture means we tell them that we're asking God to be "in our heads" (when we touch our foreheads), "in our hearts" (when we touch our hearts), "and in all of me" (when we touch our shoulders). Paul writes, "For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1st Corinthians 1:18) Crossing oneself simply reminds us of the sacrifice Jesus made for us and of the power God demonstrated in Jesus' sacrifice. While making the sign of the cross it is common to add an expression of faith in the Trinity (certainly an appropriate thing to do in our parish!): "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

When do we cross ourselves? Local custom will vary, but generally Episcopalians cross themselves whenever the priest blesses them — for example, after the Confession of Sin during the Eucharist (cf., The Book of Common Prayer, p. 360). The Very Rev. Doug Travis

Pope Innocent III (1198–1216) gave the following instruction: The sign of the cross is made with three fingers, because the signing is done together with the invocation of the Trinity. ... This is how it is done: from above to below, and from the right to the left, because Christ descended from the heavens to the earth, and from the Jews (right) He passed to the Gentiles (left). Others, however, make the sign of the cross from the left to the right, because from misery (left) we must cross over to glory (right), just as Christ crossed over from death to life, and from Hades to Paradise. [Some priests] do it this way so that they and the people will be signing themselves in the same way. You can easily verify this — picture the priest facing the people for the blessing — when we make the sign of the cross over the people, it is from left to right...



FOLLOW UP ON THE HUNGER WALK

Each year Episcopal Charities Foundation partners with the Atlanta Food Bank to stage the Hunger Walk/Run. Established in 1984 as a grassroots movement in response to the issue of hunger locally, the annual event raises awareness

about hunger and it raises funds to help alleviate that hunger.

The 28th Hunger Walk/Run was held in March 2011. Thousands of participants from all over Atlanta and North Georgia walked and ran, raising a half million dollars—the most successful ever.

Episcopal parishes throughout the diocese formed teams, journeyed to Turner Field on Sunday, March 11, 2011, and helped raise that record-setting figure. Walkers and runners from thirty-six parishes combined to raise over \$21,000! Of that amount Episcopal Charities Foundation received \$13,000. Parishioners at St. Paul's, Atlanta, had the greatest number of walkers and raised the most dollars—\$5,389! Congratulations, St. Paul's!

Episcopal Charities Foundation was enriched because of those parishes who came to walk and run. Those funds help ECF fund some 90 organizations and ministries throughout the Diocese of Atlanta— those who respond to God's mandate to help the least among us.

The kick-off meeting for Hunger Walk/Run 2012 was held recently. The event will be Sunday, March 12, 2012.

Mark the date on your calendar. Let's set more records next year— more dollars and more parishes! Watch for more information coming soon!

ECF's goal is to double the number of parishes with hunger/walkv teams.



The Rev. Mary K. Erickson, Rector
Helen Lesser, Parish Administrator
George Chesnut, Organist and Choirmaster
Nancy Haight, Vestry Clerk

John Youd, Senior Warden, Stewardship
Carol Robson, Junior Warden, Christian Ed.
Marcia Humphreys, Vestry Member, Outreach
Keith Martin, Vestry Member, Bldgs. & Grounds
Christopher McAbee, Vestry Member, Fellowship

Angee McKee, Vestry Member, Liturgy & Worship
Nancy Miller, Vestry Member, Finance
Mason Rountree, Vestry Member, Evangelism
Earline Walpole, Vestry Member, Pastoral Care

Brenda Worley, Trumpet Editor available at carl46@bellsouth.net