

St. Christopher's
Episcopal Church
400 Dupre Drive
Spartanburg, SC 29307

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
STCHRISONLINE.ORG

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday Service: 9:30 a.m.

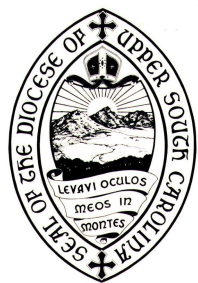
Wednesday Service: 5:30 p.m.

Staff

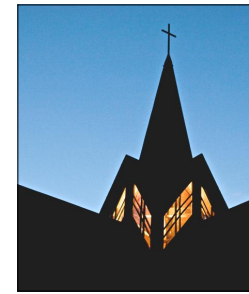
The Rev'd W. Andrew WaldoBishop
The Rev'd Joseph K. Smith, ext.13..... Vicar
The Rev'd Deacon Fergie Horvath, ext.11Deacon
Anne Denbow, ext.14Dir. of Liturgical Arts/Parish Administrator
Margaret Hopper Organist
Raiford Collins, ext.12 Youth/Children's Ministries Coordinator
David Ferguson..... Sexton
Anita Bruhnke Volunteer Office Assistant

Mission Committee

Senior Warden: Mitch Slade583-7053
Junior Warden: Bill Canny579-1397
Treasurer: Ruth Anne Hickerson579-4019



Diocese of Upper
South Carolina



THE CHURCHMOUSE

Advent, 2010

"Let your light so shine before others, that they may see
your good works, and glorify your Father,
which is in heaven" —Matthew 5:16

FROM THE VICAR

As we sit and wait during this season of Advent, lots of planning for the New Year is happening. Your Mission Committee has given long hours as they poured over the tedious numbers for next year's budget. They have also been working on a new set of bylaws to help guide us while we are a mission church and yet grow with us as we return to parish status. Your Christian Formation Committee has been busy planning curriculum for Wednesday night programming as well as our Newcomer's Class which will begin on January 16th. Your Outreach Committee has been helping us wrap our neighbors in warmth with blankets, rehabilitating houses with HomeWorks and adopting families with our Angel Tree. Your Fun and Fellowship committee has been busy helping us with parish gatherings be it Christmas Dinners, funeral receptions, receptions for Evensong or looking forward to our Annual Oyster Roast. Your Worship Committee has been working hard on getting all our participants for all the Christmas liturgies while evaluating and making suggestions for next year. Remember in our last Churchmouse, we had only a partial list of the liturgical helpers and it took up three pages. This committee has many hours of coordination and scheduling required to help each Sunday go smoothly. Your Pastoral Care Committee continues to look after you in your times of crisis and in your times of pastoral need. And, your Buildings and Grounds Committee has been working tirelessly on the up-keep and stewardship of our large and aging physical plant.

So yes, as you can see, waiting for Christ does not mean being idle. In fact, in our context, the Christian context, waiting necessarily means focused and purposeful activity. So as you wait, I challenge you to take this time of to truly discern what God is calling you to do here at St. Christopher's. If you have been stuck doing the same thing for the past umpteen years and feel God calling you to something new, let's talk about it. If you have not yet found the way in which you can use your gifts here, let's talk about that too. Deacon Fergie and I often say to one another that we are doing what we are called to do when our greatest joys meet the world's greatest needs. And yes we know that we ripped that saying off from Frederick Buechner, but we believe it and it is our hope for every person here. We all deserve that kind of happiness.

So have a blessed and reflective Advent and a joyous Christmas. I look forward to beginning my third year with my St. Christopher's family. May God continue to bless us as we do his joyous work.

Fr. Joseph+

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday Service: 9:30 am

Wednesday Night

Taizé Healing & Holy

Eucharist: 5:30 pm

24th—Christmas Eve
Concert/Carol
Sing: 10:30 pm

25th—Christmas Day
Service (spoken
service): 10:30 am-

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Christopher's
Episcopal Church reveals
the light of Christ as a
beacon of love in the
world.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Thank you St. Christopher's for really stepping up for this year's stewardship campaign. Your efforts attest to an ethos of truly faithful giving of time talent and treasure here at St. Christopher's. I wanted to share with you the results of your efforts.

- We have received 59 pledge cards for the 2011 year representing \$184,960.00. This is an increase of \$27,620, which is about a 17.5% increase.
- The 59 pledging units represent 69% of our membership.
- We have 10 pledging units that we did not have at this time last year.*
- 25 pledging units increased their pledges. This is about a 43% increase.
- 7 pledging units lowered their pledges. This is about a 12% decrease.
- 15 pledges are unchanged
- 10 pledging units that pledged last year did not make a pledge this year.

It is important to note that the above statistics are only a snapshot of what people pledged in the midst of this turbulent economic period in our country. I wish we could have gotten 100% return on pledge cards even if they only checked, "I pledge to pray and worship regularly, while volunteering and supporting my time with the ministries of St. Christopher's." It's a fact that there are stages in people's lives in which they are not able to commit to giving money. We understand that. This process should never make anyone feel excluded because their economic situation precludes them from making a financial contribution. Money is not a measuring stick of ones worthiness before God. However, all members should be able to commit to some things that can help in the life of this church. The pledge card is a tangible way in which we make our commitment so that St. Christopher's can properly budget for the upcoming year.

Thank you again for your faithful support.

Joseph+

* Some of these 10 new pledges were giving at some point last year but had not yet formally committed with a pledge card at the end of our stewardship campaign.

INQUIRER'S CLASS

Are you a new member of St. Christopher's? Are you someone who either wants to be confirmed, reaffirmed or received into the Episcopal Church when the Bishop comes for his annual visitation on April 3rd? Are you someone who wants to brush up on what it means to be an Episcopalian, why we do what we do in liturgy and what it means to live into your Baptismal Covenant? Your opportunity will begin with what we are calling our inquirer's class which will begin on January 16th. This 9 week course is meant to aid the participant in practical ways. For example, we don't memorize any creeds but rather we learn where we can find it in the liturgy, why it's important and what it means to us as a Christian. Come join us after our 9:30 Sunday Liturgy in the Parish Hall for this exciting class.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER:

- 15th—5:30 pm-Taizé Service; 6:30 pm-Parish Christmas Dinner (Potluck)
- 22nd—5:30 pm-Said Service of Healing & Holy Eucharist; No supper
- 23rd—9:00 am-Decorating the Chrismon Tree, putting poinsettia's out, getting the church ready for Christmas.
- 24th—10:30 pm-Christmas Eve Concert/Carol Sing
- 24th—11:00 pm-Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist
- 25th—10:30 am-Christmas Day Service (spoken service)
- 26th—9:30 am-Christmas I
- 29th—No Wednesday evening activities

JANUARY:

- 2nd—Lessons & Carols/Holy Eucharist; 9:30 am
- 5th, 12, 19 & 26—*Wednesday Night Activities Resume*
 - 5:30 pm—Taizé Service
 - 6:15 pm—Catered Supper, \$5/person
 - 7:00 pm—"Embracing an Adult Faith"
 - Marcus Borg on "What it means to be Christian"
 - Session 1—God, Session 2—Jesus, Session 3—Salvation
 - Session 4—Practice, Session 5—Community
- 6th—7:00pm Convocational Epiphany service at the Church of the Epiphany
- 9th—Parish Forum on proposed new bylaws
- 16th—Newcomer's Class begins
- 23rd—Annual Parish Meeting and covered dish lunch

TOTAL MINISTRIES, Sun., Jan. 16th—Cereal

PAS-

EMERGENCY PRAYER TREE

We offer a confidential 24-hour Emergency Prayer Tree for members of St. Christopher's and their families who are in crisis. Call the church office at 585-2858 or email:

epray@stchrisonline.org.

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS

Helen Bean	Les Dyer	Jim Johnson
Jim Bean	Roberta Gentry	Emilio Larrier
Joe Beasley	Jack Graham	Ginny Scott
Phyllis Bemelmans	George Hairston	Sherry Steinman
Mary Brown	Pauline Harbison	Sue Teele
Dennis Bruce	Martha Harris	Betty Ruth Walker
Les Cavin	Monique Harrison	Bill Wilson
Marion Craven	Norwood Harrison	John Woodward
Christopher Dowell	Betty Holland	
Marsha Dowell	Fergie Horvath	

Birthdays

Lex Hray	12/01
Bill Wilson	12/04
Bruce Witteveen	12/10
Fergie Horvath	12/12
Anne Woodward	12/15
Mary Ann Palmer	12/20
Paul Halphen	12/22
Mike Kohler	12/26
Butch Harris	12/28
Gus Shoolbred	12/29
Paul Hucks	12/30
Jacob Anderson	1/06
Patty Hairston	1/06
Bliss Harley	1/09
Roy Parker	1/10

Baptized

Alex Hickerson	12/12
Gus Shoolbred	12/18
Cindy Hray	12/25
Jay Palmer	12/25
Jack Bruhnke	1/08
Bruce Stroupe	1/09

Anniversaries

Norwood & Monique Harrison	12/20
Lex & Cindy Hray	12/27
Ric & Jakie Bost	12/28
Peter & Karen Barnes	12/30

WEDNESDAY MENUS

January 5	Spaghetti
January 12	Chili
January 19	Chicken and Rice
January 26	Mac n Cheese w/ Ham

Please send announcements for publication in the newsletter to stchris@stchrisonline.org.