

THE CHURCHMOUSE

"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

March 2010

SERVICE SCHEDULES

Sunday Service: 9:30 am

Wednesday Night

Taizé Healing & Holy
Eucharist: 5:30 pm

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church is called to build up the Kingdom of God by:

- Celebrating the love of Jesus Christ through Worship;
- Enriching our relationship with Him and one another through prayer, study and caring fellowship;
- Demonstrating His love through outreach; and
- Inviting others into a relationship with God and one another in Christ.

Holy Week Worship

As we continue to study prayer for our Lenten discipline, I would like to share with you my thoughts about the prayerful liturgies of Holy Week. It has been my experience that full participation in the breadth of our liturgical offerings helps us prepare ourselves for the Paschal Mystery. Our participation in the events of the last week of Jesus' earthly life is central to our faith and life.

Be it just marking time by saying Evening Prayer; or experiencing Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday; or recounting our salvation history with the Service of Lights found in Tenebrae; or remembering Jesus' commandment of service and the Eucharist found in the Maundy Thursday Service; or holding Prayer Vigil over the reserved sacrament after the church is stripped of all its accoutrements much in the same way the disciples held vigil in the garden of Gethsemane; or participating in the Good Friday service receiving communion from the reserved sacrament; or recounting the last steps of Jesus through the Stations of the Cross; or even going over to St. Andrews in Greenville for the Great Easter Vigil; all are liturgies for us to come to know and understand the Paschal Mystery. Leonel Mitchell, in his book, *Praying Shapes Believing*, says, "the Vigil marks not only the passage from Lent to Easter, but Christ's Passover from death to life in the resurrection, and our participation in it. It is by hearing the 'Word' and participating in the 'Sacraments' that the congregation come to share in the Paschal Mystery."

The services of Holy Week are designed so that we can experience the passions of Christ. They exist so that we can understand the things that were of the utmost importance to Christ, so much so, that he chose to die. The more we know and understand about the mind of Christ and the story of our salvation, the more fully we can understand and appreciate the blessings of our new life found in Jesus. Easter Day is the culmination of these liturgies. The way we pray, the way we experience worship determines the way we believe. March 28th through April 4th, come participate in our salvation story. Come and find your passion by experiencing Jesus' life in Holy Week Liturgies.

Yours in Christ,
Joseph K. Smith, Vicar

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

As the new chair for the Building and Grounds committee, I wanted to give everyone some information on our current and future projects. We have an extensive list of needs and projects and are working through them with priority being given to safety issues and areas where further damage will result without quick attention to the problem.

The recent heavy rain and snow highlighted our current priority which is roofing repair. The leak in the Connector has been repaired and we are evaluating estimates on additional repair work in other areas. Beyond roofing, the list includes everything from gutters to potholes, light bulbs to floor mats. Even though we have a long list, we may have missed something so if you see an issue please let me know.

We would like to have a couple of work days in the spring to work on some gardening and light painting. The dates are still to be determined so stay tuned and please help if you can.

Thank you,
Rob Hickerson

SPRING WORK DAY

Saturday, April 17th

Come join us at 9:00 am on Saturday, April 17th, to begin work on the Kendrick Garden. There will be other outdoor projects to work on if digging isn't your thing. Mark your calendars and come help.

FROM THE RT. REV'D ROGERS HARRIS

February 18, 2010

Dear Friends,

Thank you, all of you good people of Saint Christopher's, Saint Matthew's, and all others who came to the Oyster Roast on Shrove Tuesday. Thank you for the best birthday party I have ever experienced.

And thank you for the best birthday present I have ever received, your wonderful and generous gift to the Haiti Bread & Water campaign for the people of the Cange area. They are very close to my heart.

Anne and I also enjoyed the oysters and shrimp as usual, and the clam chowder was a delicious addition to this feast before our fast began. And the singing group sounded like someone from Hollywood or Broadway. It was a great joy to us to be seated next to Snooky and Mike and Carol and Mac and with many other great old friends at table.

Walter Brice, Mike Kohler, Dave Collins, Fergie Horvath, Kathy Wood and Becky Brunson all stretched the truth quite a bit in the outrageous compliments they gave me in their remembrances. They made me blush, and I am still blushing because they made me sound like someone much better than I am, but frankly, I loved it!

Deacon Fergie gave us the only word that could sum up the spirit of all this, the good Hebrew word "chesed" (which I believe occurs ninety-four times in the Hebrew Scriptures). It means "steadfast love," which is, of course, God's love. But on Shrove Tuesday night, all of you good friends poured out that "chesed" on me! I am humbly grateful. Thank you.

In Christ's love,

+Rogers

HELP FOR HAITI

A member of our diocese has generously agreed to match dollar for dollar contributions made to the Bread & Water Fund, established to ensure the viability of the water supply and expand our ministries in Cange, Haiti.

The crisis in Haiti has not passed. The need immediately to complete our work to replace the worn-out water system at Cnge has become even more critical as those in need of emergency health care due to the earthquake, children left orphaned, and other refugees from Port au Prince have flooded into Cange, putting a tremendous strain on an already inadequate and contaminated water system. Additionally the need for the vocational school to begin classes has been accentuated by the population growth and the lack of employment. The demand for the increased production of our nutritional products to fight malnutrition has also grown dramatically.

You now have a chance to make a tremendous difference in the lives of our friends in Haiti, thanks to the generosity of one Upper South Carolinian who has offered to match your contributions to the Bread and Water Fund, up to \$200,000. Please take advantage of this opportunity to double the effect of your gift by contributing today.

Please designate your checks to the Gifts of Bread and Water and make them to the Diocese of Upper SC. God has given us this unique opportunity to "act in the world as the body of Christ" and to change lives.

Donations can be made online at WWW.EDUSC.org or mailed to:

EDUSC
1115 Marion Street
Columbia, SC 29201
**MARK THE CHECKS BREAD & WATER -
RESCUE, CANGE, HAITI**

Episcopal Relief & Development
PO Box 7058
Merrifield, VA 22116-7058
MARKED: "HAITI FUND"

****Only donations to the Bread and Water Campaign will be matched. If you choose to donate to ERD, your monies will not be matched.**



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Most Sunday's we enjoy a discussion on the Lectionary texts for the day. Occasionally, we have seasonal teachings that will be announced and publicized.

YOUTH CHRISTIAN FORMATION

We are meeting in the loft at 11:00 on Sunday morning as we read and discuss stories from the Old Testament.

CHILDREN CHRISTIAN FORMATION

11:00 AM—11:45 AM

This year we are starting a new program for Christian Formation called *Godly Play*. *Godly Play* teaches children the art of using religious language - parable, sacred story, silence and liturgical action - helping them become more fully aware of the mystery of God's presence in their lives. Each week there is a hands-on Bible lesson that helps the children experience the love and wonder of God. The teacher this year will be Lindsay Smith and *Godly Play* will take place during the Adult Christian Formation time in the *Godly Play* Room.

OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

DURING THE WEEK INCLUDE:

- The *Vicar's Brown Bag Bible Study* at noon on Mondays in the Connector
- Wednesday Nights in Lent
March 10th—*Prayer Shawl Ministry* with Cathy Grooms
March 17th—*Praying the Labyrinth* with The Rev'd Bob Libbey
March 24th—*The Prayer of Liturgy*
(All classes in the Connector)
- Acts 2:42 Groups

The committee is always open to suggestions and new volunteers.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

HOLY WEEK

Wednesday, March 31st

Service of Tenebrae - 7:00 pm

Thursday, April 1st

Maundy Thursday Service with foot washing and stripping of the altar - 7:00 pm
The Prayer Vigil begins immediately following this service.

Good Friday April 2nd

Good Friday Service with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament - 12:00 noon
Stations of the Cross - 6:00 pm

Saturday April 3rd

The Great Easter Vigil - 7:00 pm
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Greenville



A TYPICAL WEEK OF LENT

Tuesdays

7:00 pm - Evening Prayer

Wednesdays

5:30 - Holy Eucharist with healing and Taizé style worship

6:00 pm - Simple Lenten Soup Supper
Following supper, "Teaching on Prayer"

7:40 pm - Choir Rehearsal

THE RHYTHMS OF THE SEASONS

As many of you know, the Bible verses that we read each Sunday are arranged into a church year, broken down into what we call 'seasons.' And in these seasons, we recall, through the scriptures, the life of Jesus Christ. We begin our church year with the season of Advent, where we anticipate the Savior coming into the world. We move straight into Christmas, celebrating the birth of the Christ child, then sweep right past that to the season of Epiphany, where Jesus is revealed to the whole world. Before you know it, it will be Lent...and then Easter.....and so it goes. We repeat this pattern over and over again to remind ourselves of the surprising and transforming work of God.

So how do we live fully into the seasons of the church? I think we do so by RPMs. RPMs? Yep. RPMs.

First, we Remember Christ's ministry as we navigate through the rhythms of the seasons of the church. This is done through our worship and our Christian education, offered here in this place.

Second, we Participate in worship and Christian education. Participating allows us to fully engage in each aspect of Christ's life, draw closer to God individually, and experience together as a faith community, holy cycles of sin, forgiveness, redemption, and new life.

Third, we Move. We don't stand still in our faith. What we take from our worship together and Christian education is nothing less than the transforming love of Jesus.....OUT.....into the world. We 'move' it...from inside these walls...to out there...in the grocery store, at the hardware store, in the courtroom, at the hospital. We 'move' Christ's love from here.....to everywhere.

There are some times in the church year that are particularly appropriate for RPMs. One such time is the season of Lent. Believers often study more, listen more, worship more...all with the intent of drawing closer to the Christ who, as we remember in this season of Lent, took on the sin of the world and died for us. These extra things are part of the rhythm of this time.

Do you live in the rhythms of the seasons of the church year? Do you RPM during your week? In this season of Lent, it is my fervent prayer that all of us at St. Christopher's remember, participate, and move our faith....to become the body of Christ God intends us to be.

fergie+

FROM BRASS TO WOOD

The season of Lent has become something I have grown to appreciate. Growing up and even in my early adulthood I used to dread Lent, the silent procession, the solemn hymns, the whole sacrificing of something. When I went to the Methodist church, I was at first thrilled that they did not really celebrate Lent; the hymns were still upbeat and the service was not as solemn. However, I still gave up something and I did try and attend an Episcopal service or two. Now, I really value the time of Lent, what it means, the time we have to reflect, repent and prepare for what lies ahead. I try to give up something that will truly be a sacrifice for me instead of just giving up something because I am supposed to. I try to spend more time in prayer and study.

One of the things I love about St. Christopher's is the way we use not only the liturgy to remind us that it is Lent, but the sanctuary becomes a reminder that it is Lent as well. When we walk into church, things not only sound a little different as we sing more solemn and contemplative hymns. and as the liturgy has some differences to it, things also look a little different. We change from the brass processional crosses and candelabras to the wooden processional cross and candelabras. We change from the silver paten and chalice to the ceramic paten and chalice. We change from the brass collection plates to the wooden collection plates. The hymns, liturgy, and worship space will all remind us that it is Lent, a time for quiet reflection, confession, and sacrifice. A time to remember we are but dust and to dust we shall return. A time to remember we are sinners in need of a Savior, in need of the ultimate sacrifice that Christ made on the cross.

Lathrop Mosley

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Giving Up Something For Lent

The penitential season of Lent has returned. Easter will be coming; but first we must traverse the 40 days of preparation. Our church encourages us to prayer, self-examination, sacrifice, fasting and abstinence.

As we go through this period of introspection, we look for activities that we can 'take on' and activities we can 'give up' to enhance our spiritual growth and readiness for the Risen Christ.

If we're feeling particularly oppressed by the pains we've taken on, or the emptiness of what we've given up, here's a thought; There are 40 million people who live on less than \$30 a day in the United States. That's the official poverty level. There are many millions more around the world who live on less than \$1 a day.

What does living in poverty mean?

'Poverty is hunger. Poverty is lack of shelter. Poverty is being sick and not being able to see a doctor. Poverty is not having access to school and not knowing how to read. Poverty is not having a job, is fear for the future, living one day at a time. Poverty is losing a child to illness brought about by unclean water. Poverty is powerlessness.' *

These are not cheery thoughts, but they are healthy ones to remember. There are so many who have nothing to give up for Lent. Helping others is a continual task we need to take on.

*(The World Bank Group)

PASTORAL CARE

JANUARY 2010

ACTIVITIES

Meals: 5

Visits: 6

Telephone Calls: 26

Transportation: 2

Cards/notes: 6

Errands: 5

TOTAL MINISTRIES

FOOD DONATIONS

2009

346 pounds

2010

January: Cereal = 26 pounds

February: Grits = 54 pounds

Year to date 80 pounds

The Walk

Those of us who walk along this road do so reluctantly.

Lent is not our favorite time of year.

We'd rather be more active – planning and scurrying around.

All this is too contemplative to suit us.

Besides we don't know what to do with piousness and prayer.

Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think, for thoughts come unbidden.

Perhaps we're afraid to face our future knowing our past.

Give us courage, O God, to hear your word and read our living into it.

Give us the trust to know we are forgiven, and give us the faith to take up our lives and walk.

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

Johnsie Canny	03/03
Samuel Rochester	03/03
Keith Jones	03/08
Martha Harris	03/09
Ginny Scott	03/09
Cheryl Parker	03/14
Brigitte Canny	03/20
Chester Brown, Jr	03/29

Baptized

Robin Gilman	03/01
Harold Holland	03/01
Mary Ann Palmer	03/13
Mary Halphen	03/18
Peggy Wilson	03/22
John Woodward	03/26

Anniversaries

Bill & Peggy Wilson	03/07
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WEDNESDAY MENUS

Simple Soup Suppers
throughout Lent

\$3.00

*Please call the church by
Tuesday afternoon if you are
not a "regular" so we can let
our caterer know in advance if
he needs to prepare more.*

Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH:

- 2—Evening Prayer, 7:00 pm
- 3—Taizé Service/Holy Eucharist, etc., 5:30 pm
- 9—Evening Prayer, 7:00 pm
- 10--Taizé Service/Holy Eucharist, etc., 5:30 pm
- 16--Evening Prayer, 7:00 pm
- 17--Taizé Service/Holy Eucharist, etc., 5:30 pm
- 23--Evening Prayer, 7:00 pm
- 24--Taizé Service/Holy Eucharist, etc., 5:30 pm
- 25--Evensong, featuring *Musica Reservata*, Church of the Advent, 7:00 pm
- 27—Making of the Palm Crosses; 10:00 am
- 27—Passion Reading Rehearsal, 1:00 pm
- 28--Palm Sunday/Dramatic Reading of The Passion, 9:30 am
- 31--Tenebrae Service, 7:00 pm

APRIL:

- 1—Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 pm; Prayer Vigil
- 2—Good Friday Service, Noon; Stations of the Cross, 6:00 pm
- 3—The Great Easter Vigil, 7:00 pm, St. Andrews, Greenville
- 4—Easter Sunday Service, 9:30 am

PASTORAL CARE CONTACT: March: Mary Halphen—579-0870

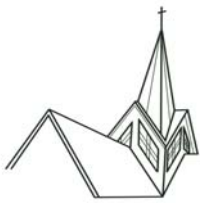
EMERGENCY PRAYER TREE

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

Phyllis Bemelmans	Monique Harrison	Emilio Larrier
Holly Broadwell	Norwood Harrison	Ginny Scott
Mary Brown	Betty Holland	Archie Taylor
Dennis Bruce	Fergie Horvath	Sue Teele
Les Cavin	Jim Johnson	Betty Ruth Walker
Jack Graham	Keith Jones	Bill Wilson
Pauline Harbison	Lydia Kaplan	John Woodward

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



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

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
STCHRISONLINE.ORG

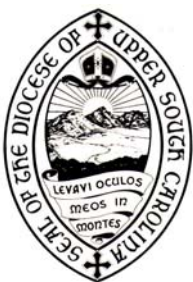
ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday Service: 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Service: 5:30 p.m.

Staff

The Rev'd W. Andrew Waldo *Bishop-Elect*
 The Rev'd Joseph K. Smith, ext. 13 *Vicar*
 The Rev'd Deacon Fergie Horvath, ext. 11 *Deacon*
 Anne Denbow, ext. 14 *Dir. 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*



**Diocese of Upper
 South Carolina**

Mission Committee

Senior Warden: Mitch Slade 583-7053
Junior Warden: Bill Canny 579-1397
Treasurer: Ruth Anne Hickerson 579-4019

Members

Peggy Graham, Martha Harris, Cindy Hray

Office Hours: Tues.—Thurs., 9 am - 12 pm & 2 pm - 5 pm

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