

..... **CELEBRATING THIS WEEK**

Rosemary Harakas	12	Bill Taylor	16
Betty Coan	12	Rick & Mary Higgins	16
Corbin Melotte	14	George Harakas	17
Jim & Dot Sloan	14	John & Anita Bruhnke	17
Joe Beasley, Jr.	15	Pat & Jeanie Case	17
Snooky Kohler	16	Tiffany Toy	18

Legend: Birthdays, Baptisms, Anniversaries

Wednesday Night, May 7th, at St. Christopher

Dinner.....5:30 pm

Bible Study-Word through the Word.....6:30 pm

Menu: Fried chicken, potato salad, corn, carrots \$3.00/person

****Nursery available****

PASTORAL CARE CONTACT: Pat Hurst 585-3181

TOTAL MINISTRIES SUNDAY, May 18th - canned meats

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE MEMBERS IN YOUR PRAYERS

Samuel Baxter	Pauline Harbison	Rebecca Thurmond
Sonny Bean	Betty Holland	Hacky Walker
Phyllis Bemelmans	Katherine Hurst	Bill Wilson
Mary Brown	Ginny Scott	Peggy Wilson
Lynn Burt	Victor Siegers	John Woodward
Jack Graham	Sue Teele	

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 (585-2858) or email epray@stchrisonline.org.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Our vision is to be An Exciting Church Overflowing with Good News!

rector	The Rev. Dr. George N. Gray, Jr.
address	400 Dupre Drive Spartanburg, SC 29307
phone	585-2858
fax	585-0799
office hours	Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
email	stchris@stchrisonline.org



GoodNews!

May 11, 2008

The Day of Pentecost

AN UPDATE ON THE 5/4/08 VESTRY MEETING & SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Vestry met last Sunday, May 4, to make its decision whether to accept or reject our Bishop's offer of DEPO on the terms which he offered it in our parish meeting with him in late February. A number of parishioners attended the meeting held in the Parish Hall. After some discussion, the Vestry voted to reject the offer of DEPO. My recollection is that the vote was unanimous.

The Bishop gave us 2 other options in his February visit: The third option was leaving the Diocese and TEC. The Bishop's view is that church law (the rules by which our parish and Diocese are governed) forbids a parish to leave as a body, whether it votes to or not, and that SC state law has allowed and will continue to allow church law to govern in church matters of this nature. The Vestry accepted his view in making its decision. That means that the choice to leave the Diocese and TEC is by definition a decision to leave St Christopher's and therefore must be made by individuals. Many individuals and families, including a number of Vestry members, have decided, after long and anguished discernment, that they cannot follow national and Diocesan leadership and remain faithful to Christ, and so must leave the parish they love.

Under church law, the Vestry cannot vote to somehow take St Chris out of the national church, and because the Vestry voted to reject option 2 (for DEPO), our parish has now accepted Bishop Henderson's first option, a normal relationship with our Diocese and the national church. He has laid out his overall view of what that means in the statement he made to us in the February meeting (roman numeral 1 on the 3rd page).

Those of us who stay have a good bit of work to do. John Coan addressed our financial situation at the meeting. There is some concern about whether we can make overhead and payroll in the coming months. Giving just about stopped during the discernment, which I think we probably could have expected, given the inherent uncertainty of that kind of process. Now that discernment is over, I hope some certainty, some assurance, of the general direction we will take has returned, and that giving by those who stay will resume. St Christopher's has weathered many financial storms in its life. I am sure it will weather this one.

Monday morning Father George handed his resignation to the vestry via email. Since the vestry meeting on Sunday several vestry members have resigned. As of this writing, on Tuesday around 10:30 a.m., I have a call into the Bishop, letting him know of the resignations and our need to fill various vacancies. I will update you whenever there is significant news in regard to this issue.

Mitch Slade
Jr. Warden

Wishing all the St. Chris moms a very happy

Mother's Day

ANYONE WHO IS WILLING and able to read the account of Pentecost in a foreign language on **Sunday, May 11**, at the 11:00 a.m. service, should contact Anne Denbow at adenbow@stchrisonline.org or 585-2858 **by Wed., May 7**, if you want your name in the bulletin. You will be provided with the Biblical text if you need it, and you will NOT be reading by yourself, but simultaneously with several others in the congregation at the appointed time. Many folks reading will make it truly Pentecost-like!

THE SPARTANBURG HIGH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA will present a concert on **Tuesday, May 13th** at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary.

PARENTS: If you have a child graduating from high school or college, please call or email their name, school, and degree to Kelly **by May 18th**. Graduation Sunday will be on **Sunday, May 25th**.

HEARING AIDS: Four audio receivers have not been returned to the credenza in the Narthex. If you see one somewhere else, please return it to the rack in the Narthex.

HELP US CONSERVE ENERGY: If you are the last one out of the building, please turn off the lights and lock the door.

This is the last week of

Word through the Word with Sam Hunter
Wednesday, May 7th, Parish Hall, 6:30 p.m.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

Children - preschool - 3rd grade; meets in Children's Chapel

Crossroads— 4th-6th grade; meets in the old Children's Chapel

Youth — 7th-12 grade; meets in the Youth Room; walking through the books of the Bible

Call to Discipleship - Mondays at 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 9 a.m.

Wednesday Night - *Word through the Word* with Sam Hunter, 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Sunday Mornings— 9:45 –10:45 a.m. in the Parish Hall; teachers will rotate: Kathy Mann, Nathan Estes & George Gray.

Lectionary Class—meets in the Canterbury Room, Sunday morning, 9:45—10:45 a.m.; studies the lectionary readings for each Sunday; Catherine Stroupe



MEN'S LUNCH GROUP: The lunch group, led by Sam Hunter, meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at 12:30 p.m. in the Connector. The lunch is catered and costs \$7.00. **All men, please join us Tuesday, May 6 & 20th.**

WORK DAY: The Building and Grounds Commission will have a work day on **Saturday, May 10th**. We will begin between 9 - 9:30 a.m. Come help us spruce up St. Christopher's buildings and grounds!! Please sign up, at the front desk, for the area where you would like to volunteer. For more information, please contact John Burchfield at 579-8979.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST: Sunday, May 11th following the 8:00 a.m. service.

PENTECOST SUNDAY: On **Sunday, May 11th**, in lieu of the sermon at the 11:00 a.m. service, we will be treated to a Pentecost Drama presented by Father Gray and the Estes Family. Their family is going to reenact the kind of celebration that a contemporary Messianic Jewish family would do on the day of Pentecost. A Messianic Jewish family is one that is Jewish and is well connected with all of the traditions and celebrations of the Jewish culture, but is also Christian, believing that Yeshua (Jesus) is in fact the Messiah that God promised long ago.

SOUL SURVIVORS: Our speaker will be Mike Rainey, CEO of Spartanburg Boys' Home, formerly known as Glenn Springs Academy. The meeting, as usual, will be at 10:00 am. Anyone interested in hearing his presentation, please join us for fellowship and refreshments on **Saturday, May 17th**.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Our annual May meeting will be held **Sunday, May 18th** at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

TOTAL MINISTRIES SUNDAY is **Sunday, May 18th**. Please bring in canned meats for this important ministry. Thank you for your donations!

YOUTH & FAMILY ACTIVITIES

ALL YOUTH GROUPS (ages 3—17) meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m.
Please bring a friend and have some fun!

THE CROSSROADS YOUTH GROUP (4TH-6TH GRADERS)

- **Friday, May 16th**—The premiere of *Prince Caspian*, another movie in the *Narnia* series. Following the movie, the youth will do a Bible study that goes along with the movie! The time and cost is TBA.

JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH (7TH-12TH GRADERS)

PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN (BIRTH—12 YEARS)

- **Saturday, May 17th**, Parent's Night Out, 6:00 – 10:00 p.m.; please RSVP to Kelly.

Kelly Shafer is St. Christopher's Children & Youth Minister. If you need to contact her please email her at kshafer@stchrisonline.org or call the church office (585-2858; leave message on voice mail).