



Volume IX, Issue 5
May 2010

From *the Rafters*

The mission of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection is to love, worship and serve God, to learn and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and to set an example in our lives as we minister in his name.



Celebrating the Haitian Bread and Water Rescue Project

**Our parish raised over \$30,000 for relief in Haiti!
Thanks be to God!**

Episcopal Church of the Resurrection

South Main at Marion Street • Greenwood, SC 29646

P.O. Box 3283 • Greenwood, SC 29648-3283

864-223-5426 • cor@episcopalgreenwood.org

www.episcopalgreenwood.org

How is your Pneumatology?

Pneuma-what? Pneumatology is the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, from the Greek word for spirit, *pneuma*. May is usually the month of the Holy Spirit, when the Easter season culminates in Pentecost. The Holy Spirit has been the neglected member of the Trinity for much of the life of the western church. Somehow, we stay clearer about and more interested in the first and second persons of the Trinity. From the Hebrew tradition, we inherit a monotheistic clarity about the Father and Creator, the first person of the Trinity. Then from the experience of the incarnation and the pages of the New Testament springs an obvious and necessary Christocentrism (a focus on Christ). Jesus captures our imagination, love, and devotion as the second person of the Triune God, who took flesh for our sake, died on the Cross, and rose again. The personal and thus approachable nature of the Father and the Son appeals to us.

Many of us struggle, however, to know the Holy Spirit, who may seem elusive and impersonal. A careful Bible study would find the Spirit moving with great power throughout the pages of Scripture. The Spirit was operative at the creation, brooding over the waters (Genesis 1:2). The Spirit aided Joshua and Samson in their acts of valor and guided Israel's kings. Prophets like Isaiah insisted that the Spirit of the Lord had come upon them and given them God's own truth to speak. In the later books of the Hebrew Scriptures, the Spirit is often credited with bestowing intellectual prowess and wisdom on humans. The Spirit's identification with Lady Wisdom in Proverbs leads some contemporary theologians to speak of the Spirit with feminine pronouns, a feature of some of the newer experimental liturgies of the Episcopal Church.

In the Gospels, we see Jesus empowered by the Spirit at his baptism in the River Jordan, driven into the wilderness by the Spirit, and deploying the Spirit in his work of healing. He promised that the Spirit would speak through his disciples when they were put on trial (Mark 13:11). St. Paul often wrote about the work of the Spirit, uniting believers with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17), being active in Christian worship (Rom. 8:26), and bearing fruit in the lives of believers (Galatians 5:22). Indeed, the Book of Acts can be called "The Book of the Holy Spirit," for it tells the story of the church's Spirit-guided ministry, as Peter and Paul spread the good news about new life in Christ around the Mediterranean world.

Given this abundance of evidence and experience for the Spirit, from whence arises our discomfort? We might trace it back to a divergence in the two great Pentecost stories that speak of the Spirit's relationship to the church. In John 20:22, we read of the resurrected Jesus breathing on the disciples in the upper room, saying "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." This memory and text became a favorite of the institutional church, a great prop to the power of popes, bishops, and priests. The idea became that Christ gave the Spirit to the apostles, who gave it to the clergy by the laying on of hands for many generations. But the other great Pentecost story is that of Acts 2, when the Spirit came "like the rush of a violent wind," with flames, and many tongues, settling on people of all nations. That is no orderly Holy Spirit; not one to be dispensed by religious professionals.

Yet we have often preferred John's Pentecost to that of Acts. We like our Spirit confined to the channels of the church, often subjected to the power of the clergy. We say that the Spirit is active in our sacraments and proclamation. That's true, but only saying that has often deprived us of the Spirit's power. In an age in which respect for clergy has sunk to levels approaching that of members of Congress, we need to liberate the Spirit from clerical hands. Indeed, the Spirit has already done that in many parts of the wider church. As we look toward Pentecost on May 23, let us pray for the Holy Spirit to descend anew upon each of us and on our parish family. The Spirit has the power to enlighten our minds, strengthen our wills, and renew our church for mission. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Nicholas+

Christian Formation

The **adult class** on the Resurrection continues through May 23 with Ashley Woodiwiss leading the class on May 9 and Father Beasley teaching on May 16 and May 23.

The May rotation for **Children's Christian Formation** will focus on The Beatitudes that Jesus gave at the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. These eight "Blessed Art..." statements proclaim God's favor toward those who aspire to live according to God's kingdom.

We don't often hear the word "beatitude" in modern conversation, but Webster's Dictionary defines it as "supreme blessedness." When we talk about being blessed, we often translate "blessed" as "happy", which doesn't really express the same thing. Maybe it would be more accurate to say that being blessed has more to do with divinely favored than it has to do with being blissfully happy, although sometimes it encompasses that too.

This unit gives us a unique opportunity to talk with children about the difference between God's values and the values commonly illustrated in our society. Being meek and poor in spirit and merciful and pure in heart are not attributes generally thought to be important or valued in today's world. We tend to value strength and power and wealth and cleverness, but maybe by taking a closer look at the Beatitudes we can remind ourselves once again that the Kingdom of God doesn't often look like the kingdoms of this world.

This rotation begins May 9; teachers are Lori Kent, Elizabeth Beasley, and Jan Puzar.

Sunday School Wrap Up

May 23 will be our last day of Sunday School; Sunday School leaders will be celebrated at the 9:00 service.

**Youth Sunday at 9:00 and Parish
Breakfast this Sunday (May 2) at
10:15.**

EYC News

On Saturday, April 17, our EYC traveled to Columbia to participate in a volunteer - driven *HomeWorks* project sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina. Ten of our members, one guest, and more than 700 youth and adult supervisors from across the state participated in this outreach ministry to the poor. Some 42 homes were repaired or improved.

Our task this year was to work at the home of Mrs. Anita Rosenstein, an elderly widow who lives with her disabled brother, Buddy, and a friendly dog named Molly. Along with a wonderful crew from CMC Corp. and some other organizations, we dismantled and removed an old deck, insulated an attic entrance, cut grass and trimmed bushes, stabilized a handicap ramp, removed about four dumpsters of musty old "treasures" accumulated over a very long lifetime, repaired a storm door, installed a new kitchen sink, faucet and sprayer, repaired fascia, and scraped the ENTIRE exterior of the house in preparation for another crew who will come next weekend to paint.

We also learned firsthand the old lesson "many hands make short work." and we finished earlier than usual, in plenty of time to enjoy a well deserved meal at Rush's Hamburger Restaurant on the way home.

Yes, we were tired and ready for a long hot shower, but we were very thankful that we all returned safely and that we were able to help a family make their home a little more safe and pleasant.

Thanks to all who participated and worked so hard...we are blessed to be able to call you our friends!!! Norm and Roxy Fawcett

***Vacation Bible School begins on
Monday, June 14.***

Salad Supper - May 3

All women of the church are invited to bring a salad and join the women of St. Agnes Chapter for a picnic at 6:30 PM on Monday, May 3 in Barbara Brock's back yard at 114 Overbrook Drive in Forest Hills. Rain location is Bishops' Hall.

Ascension Day Service and Steak Dinner - May 12

"God has gone up with a shout," we are told in Psalm 47:5. Seated at the right hand of the Father, the Risen Lord bears human flesh still. We who are in the flesh thus have great reason to rejoice. We celebrate the good news of Ascension Day on its eve, Wednesday, May 12. There will be a service of Holy Eucharist at 6:00 PM, followed by the always popular Steak Dinner. Steak, baked potatoes, and salad are on the menu, with kid-friendly options as well. Adults eat for \$8; kids for \$2.

Honoring Graduates - May 16

Please let the Parish Office know if there is a graduate in your family. We will honor them with the gift of a Bible at the 9:00 service on Sunday, May 16, and in the June issue of the *Rafters*. We'll be thankful to know the school from which they are graduating and any future plans. We like to keep those heading off to college on our mailing list, so please provide those snail and email addresses when available.

Education for Ministry (EfM) Graduation is May 16

Chuck McDonnell is completing EfM this year, a four-year course of theological study mentored by Charlie Weesner and Ann Hayden. We'll mark this significant achievement at the 7:45 service on May 16, when Chuck will be awarded a certificate from the School of Theology at the University of the South. Our parish is blessed by Chuck's thoughtful Christian leadership; please extend to him your congratulations.

The Ordination of the 8th Bishop of Upper South Carolina – May 22

Our new bishop, soon to be the Right Rev. W. Andrew Waldo, will be consecrated a bishop on Saturday, May 22, 2010, at 11:00 AM at Christ Church in Greenville. At this high and holy service, he will be charged to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the church and to serve as a faithful pastor and wholesome example for the entire flock of Christ. All are invited to the reception following at the Hyatt Regency Greenville, 220 North Main Street. There are 1700 tickets available for the liturgy itself; seating will be in four different spaces. These spaces include the church, the chapel, Finlay Hall, and the All Saints' Center, with closed circuit viewing in the latter three spaces. Leave plenty of time for parking. Resurrection will receive 24 tickets, two for seating in the church. Please let the Parish Office know if you would like a ticket. If demand exceeds supply, we will have a drawing (or a bidding war!) for them. Our own Alan Treeter has been instrumental in making this day possible through his service on the Transition Committee of the diocese; we thank him and the many others who have led our diocese through this process.

May 23 is Pentecost: A Great Feast of the Spirit and a Picnic

Pentecost draws the Easter season to a close as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. At 5:00 that evening, we celebrate with a picnic at Peggy and B Adams's farm on Lebanon Church Road. We will begin with an Evening Prayer service at 5:00. For the meal, the church will provide fried chicken, paper goods, and drinks. Please bring a side dish and pick-up desserts. *Also, don't forget picnic blankets or folding chairs.* The rain location is at church, with the service in the church and supper in Bishops' Hall.

Directions to the Adams farm from Greenwood - From the start of the Ninety Six Highway (Hwy 34) on South Main Street, go toward Ninety Six 3.2 miles.

You will turn right onto Lebanon Church Road. You will see Mt. Lebanon Methodist Church on the right before you turn. Go .9 miles on Lebanon Church road and turn left through the farm gate to go to the house on an unpaved road. The number for the farm house is 864-227-8679, the Adams's cell is 942-2330. *From Ninety Six on 34*, go 4.2 miles to Lebanon Church Road on left and .9 miles on Lebanon Church Road to drive.

Summer Schedule (8:00 and 10:00) Begins May 30

Memorial Day weekend means the beginning of our Summer Schedule of 8:00 and 10:00 services. Typical of the schedule we are experimenting with, a summer reduction in the number of services lets us reconnect with those who have been worshipping at another time. In a parish of our size, that stretches some of its resources during the program year, and with three services, the summer schedule is a needed break. Be with us for summer's slower pace. *Coffee Hour will follow the 8:00 service. After 10:00, we'll enjoy Lemonade in the Shade* during June and head inside Bishops' Hall for Lemonade and Coffee at the first of July. Sign-up sheets for Lemonade in the Shade are posted in Bishops' Hall. Labor Day weekend will be the last Sunday of the Summer Schedule. We are likely to renew our three-service schedule at that time. The Worship Committee and Vestry will carefully consider the three-service schedule over the summer.

Looking for a Summer Project?

Our parish has a number of closets and storage spaces in need of a thorough cleaning out. The EYC is having a parish workday May 15, but it is still likely that we could easily keep a gifted organizer and ruthless declutter-er busy for several days this summer. Please give the Parish Office a call if you are interested. We could also use help from someone with a pick-up who is available to do some hauling. Some old financial records need to be taken to the county solid waste facility for shredding.

OUTREACH: Reaching Out to Haiti

The 2010 Lenten Project is a wonderful living example of God's love working through the body of Jesus Christ. Totals for the Haitian Bread and Water Rescue Fund stand at \$22,058.

The Resurrection vestry has pledged to match the first \$7,500, bringing the total to \$29,958. This amount will also be matched by an anonymous donor from the diocese. As a result, the Bread and Water Rescue Fund has been enriched by \$59,116 through the compassion and generosity of our church community. Thank you!

But there is more: Christian Formation reports that \$643 was raised for Heifer International to bequest a gift of livestock to the Cange community, pushing our gift total to \$59,759. Finally, the "Capping It Off" celebration provided 96 T-shirts and 72 baseball caps to be shipped to the William A. Beckham School – another \$836, making the grand total \$60,595.

And there is still more good news. In June, Resurrection members Charlie Weesner and Ann Hayden will be joining a delegation from the Diocese of Upper South Carolina on a mission visit to Cange. Included in this group will be our new Bishop-elect, Andrew Waldo, and Earl Burch who coordinated the diocesan fundraising efforts for the Bread and Water Rescue Fund.

This money will be well spent. The region around the Cange community is rapidly becoming a model of sustained economic stability through the efforts at the diocesan level and through medical assistance provided by Partners in Health. The Outreach Team thanks every one of you for your generous, loving participation.

The Food Bank Needs your HELP
If each parishioner will bring a can of food to the Sunday service each week, we can make a difference for the hungry in Greenwood. Place your can in the basket in the rear of the church.

Save the Date: Primetimers Lunch June 2

Have You Been in the Parish House Lately?

Most of us active in the life of the Church of the Resurrection spend time in the church building (sometimes called the sanctuary) and in Bishops' Hall, but relatively few parishioners now enter the Parish House. Those of us with children in the Nursery make a long trip down to the basement; members of our youth group do the same; and Sunday School and choir participants experience the upper level of the Parish House. But those participants are a small number of the 450 who are members of this parish. If you have not been in the Parish House lately, please come and see some of the challenges we face. We will have the usually locked rooms in the basement open for the next several weeks. We all need to become more aware of the Parish House as our Vision 2020 committee sets to work.

“Vision 2020” Committee Appointed

The Vestry appointed a new long-range planning committee named “Vision 2020” and chaired by Frank Wideman. Other members of the committee appointed by the vestry include: Donna Brooks, Patrick Kinney, Charlie Weesner, Adelaide Smith, Linda Dolny, Noonie Fennell, Cecily Hughes, and Father Beasley. The committee's charge by the Vestry is to answer the following questions: What is God calling us to do as a body of faith? What will our parish ministries look like in the year 2020? Will our existing facilities support the work of those ministries? This team will, over the summer, develop a plan to lead our parish family through a process beginning in August to answer these questions. We hope to complete the process by All Saints' Sunday. Look for more to come about this important effort which will help shape the future of our Parish.

*Holy God
We offer into your loving care
Our hearts, our minds, and our whole lives...*

These simple, yet potent, lines begin a prayer spoken in unison which, in turn, forms a preamble to the most still, most silent gathering of God's people that ever takes place in the sanctuary of Church of the Resurrection. Since January, a handful of parishioners have been meeting twice a month to contemplate the writings of Julian of Norwich and to practice her signature form of contemplative prayer.

Julian's writings are based on a series of revelations, or "showings," which she experienced as a young woman. Remarkably, she committed these to writing in a full account after about 20 years of reflection on their meaning and import. Her volume, known as *Revelations of Divine Love*, was the first English book authored by a woman. A recent translation into modern English was published as *A Lesson of Love: The Revelations of Julian of Norwich* and is used as a supplemental text for our Julian group.

Monks and nuns of the Anglican/Episcopal Julian House monastery in Waukesha, Wisconsin, have organized Julian's words into brief “modules” for study. Our group was established by Brenda Weems, an oblate of the Order of Julian, who spends several months of the year in our congregation.

What does a 14th c. English mystic have to say to us in our own time and place? Her reflections on the nature and purposes of God are consistent with Scripture, yet she brings a fervent, fresh voice. She writes with confidence in God's loving care in the midst of societal ills, disasters, and political and ecclesial upheavals. She gives us an abundance of words for contemplation, yet urges us to seek God in quiet, still prayer.

Julian Gatherings are open to all. We currently meet on 2nd and 4th Mondays. From 3:00-4:00, the study module for the day is read aloud and discussed in the room across from the nave. We spend 4:00-4:30 in prayer in the chancel. (Days and times may vary in the summer months; please confirm.)

For more information, please contact Annie Hayden 998-3962 or alhayd@aol.com

May Birthdays and Anniversaries

We are now listing birthdays and anniversaries in the *Rafters*. This gives us an opportunity to encourage and congratulate one another with cards and to remember one another in prayers of thanksgiving. If the parish office does not have yours, please share them with us. Take notice, years are not listed!

BIRTHDAYS:

01 – Hope Scurry 02 – Jane Sanders 03 – Ann McIlvain 03 – Katherine Wells 05 – Matt Jones 07 – Reva Davis 07 – Stefan Hartung 08 – Rebecca Merrill 10 – Sarah Magness 10 – Libby Sealy 11 – Yates Johnson	11 – Peter Magness 13 – Larry Joe Cook 14 – Walker Moore, III 14 – John Rambo 17 – Chuck McDonnell 18 – George Rush, III 19 – Jack Cooper 19 – Add Penfield 20 – Camilla McDevitt 21 – Charles Long, Jr. 21 – Patrick Craven	23 – Lila Eisenreich 24 – Sam Hall 24 – Margaret Ann Hughes 25 – Bob DiBenedetto 26 – Tom Stevens 28 – Bruce Craven 29 – Welborn Adams 29 – Mary Helen Dixon 31 – Lori Kent
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ANNIVERSARIES:

18 – George and Sarah McKinney	26 – Henry and Libby Cary
24 – Abney and Susu Wallace	29 – John and Susan Hinkel



PRAYERS ARE ASKED

For the sick: Harold L. Stevens, Ryan Wright, Estelle Craven, Nancy Irwin, Keith Thomas, Doris Suber, Thomas Brooks, Eric Petrus, Diana Dent Cox, Ann Arnold, Betty Curry, Edith Powell Wilkins, Add Penfield, Sr., Sara Kummer, Elsie Speer, Mae Phillips, Gretchen Gwynette, Nancy Wease, Jay Pendergrass, Earl McCombs, Nancy Cash, Ronnie Myers, Wanda Sorrels, Mary Wilson, Corky Waller, Louise Daigrepoint, Cande Ayala, Jeanette Litte, Amy Truelove

- We extend sympathy to Sarah Cathey and family on the death of their husband and father, Rob, on March 29.
- We extend sympathy to Bill, Shannon, Justin, and Jordan McCabe on the death of his wife and their mother, Janet, on April 19.
- We bid farewell to Jimmy, Courtney, John Parker, and Mack Rambo, relocating to Simpsonville.
- We welcome the following persons, now enrolled as baptized member of our church: Adelaide Smith and Andrew Hodges.
- John Murray Harte was received into the communion of this church on Sunday, April 25.
- We welcome Mary Fran Brinson, transferred from a sister church in Greenwood.

For the men and women in the Armed Forces of our country: Jennifer Smith, Scott Daigrepoint, Patrick Sullivan, Will Ross, Derek Starkey, Rick Campbell, Terry Starkey

For the people of Afghanistan and Iraq

The unemployed

For those to be baptized: Annie Sullivan Eisenreich

For those to be married: Malone Scurry and Kevin Whitehead

For these families expecting babies: Patrick and Katie Craven, John and Meisha Cobb, Nicholas and Elizabeth Beasley.

Please send additions/deletions to the prayer list to Denise at denise@episcopalgreenwood.org or call 223-5426.

April Stewardship Report

	Pledges (Budgeted)	Pledges (Actual)
Last Month	\$ 24,333	\$ 16,155
Year to Date	\$ 97,333	\$ 105,254

Is your parish in your will? A bequest to the Resurrection Foundation will support our ministry for generations.