



Volume IX, Issue 7
July 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.



Vacation Bible School fun

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

A Note of Thanksgiving

My first position after ordination was at Christ Church in Greenville, a big, bustling parish where I worked for a hard-working rector who continually challenged the parish, its leadership, and the staff. A gifted leader, he continually held before us the difference between church maintenance and the mission of the church. He pushed, cajoled, and encouraged the parish forward. Sometimes we did not appreciate it, since we were doing pretty well as we were. Many of the fruits of his labors can only now be seen at Christ Church, where programs, worship, facilities, evangelism, and hospitality all reflect his vision, though he moved to another parish a few years ago. I am now aware of both the faithful results of that period of pushing and the real challenge of living under it. We needed more moments of thanksgiving for our present, even as we worked toward our future. I suspect my formative years in Greenville shape my work here in Greenwood. I do think it is important to challenge our parish to take risks for the sake of the Gospel and the mission of the church. And yet, if I sometimes push, I want you always to know how thankful I am for the good work that God has been doing here for a long time. So let this July letter be an extended thank-you note from the rector to the church. We have so much to be thankful for at Resurrection.

First, I am thankful for our Vestry and for all the vestries I have worked with here. Our Vestry has a good and supportive spirit, with much appreciation for one another as faithful disciples of Christ. In addition to much good work in individual areas of ministry, the officers and Vestry have done a great job in recent months of moving a vision process forward that will lead us into our next decade of ministry. What a gift we have in the new 20/20 Vision Committee, a creative and faithful group that will lead us in making those great plans this fall. And I am thankful for the Finance Committee, a group whose careful stewardship has led our parish from a period of deficits and debt into a period of relative abundance. Here I can thank by name John Cobb and Abney Wallace, recently retired and long-serving members of the committee who gave up their places as part of a new rotation system. Please thank them for all their years of work. And I am thankful for our Altar Guild. This group of highly committed women serve at the altar for a month at a time, spending Saturday and Sunday mornings preparing for the Eucharist, cleaning up after our celebration, and delivering flowers on Sunday afternoons. They do so with a sense of holy purpose and with a great love for the church's liturgy. Indeed, I offer a word of thanksgiving for all who serve in the liturgy: the choir, ushers, acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, and lectors. I surely appreciate the leaders who schedule and coordinate those lay ministries as well. Out of the gifts of so many emerge the beauty and holiness of our gathering Sunday by Sunday. And what great things we do in Christian Formation, in our thriving youth group, and in our just completed Vacation Bible School.

I cannot name too many names here, but let me say that I am thankful for the staff: Donna Brooks, Denise Brown, Domer Ridings, Barbara Brock, and Ann Bowen. They do more than their job descriptions require, out of love for our parish and with deep respect for one another. They create bulletins and newsletters, ensure the parish's monies are handled professionally, sustain our ministry of music, assist with special events, choose our curricula, fill in for volunteers, and keep the office running smoothly. They could not do it without committed volunteers, such as our dedicated newsletter team, our chief photographer, and those who keep our facilities in shape. I am thankful for all the partnerships and teamwork I see.

And of course I am thankful for all of you; I wish I could name every ministry, committee, and individual here. Resurrection people are characterized by kindness and love, befitting followers of Jesus. Though I have been ordained nearly 10 years, you all have suffered through my first years of being rector with great patience and encouragement. I have learned so much and grown much in relationship with you. I thank God for the sweet spirit of this place, even as I know God is calling us continually beyond our current reality and deeper into the mission of Jesus. Thank you again, *Nicholas*+

Memorial Opportunities

The Worship Committee is naming some memorial opportunities which we hope might interest you. Some of our vestment and parament (hangings on lectern, pulpit, and altar) sets are fraying and fading. The design and selection process for these major gifts will include the donor, the rector, vestry liaison for worship Carmen Kinney, and the chair of the Altar Guild, Noonie Fennell. Sets may be commissioned with one of the liturgical supply houses (see almy.com and holyroodguild.com) or with a local fabric artist. We are also seeking an oriental carpet to be placed in the sanctuary, in the space in front of the altar. Again, the selection or acceptance of a carpet would include the donor, the rector, the vestry liaison, and the chair of the Altar Guild. If you would be interested in giving a vestment set or a carpet in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one, please contact the rector, Carmen Kinney, or Noonie Fennell.

Volunteer Opportunities

Our soon-to-be neighbor, the Greenwood County Library, invites you to join its new volunteer program. A variety of opportunities are available, including:

- Welcome desk aides
- Tour guides
- Computer tutors
- Genealogy/local history room aides
- Book processing aides
- Friends' Book Store
- Sorting books and materials for the Book and Rummage Sale
- Special events aides
- Helping with programs for children and teens

The Library offers training and convenient scheduling. Volunteers will have a choice of time commitments including on-going, short term, and long term.

We invite you to invest yourself – your time and your talents – in the Library's services and programs. Applications are available at the Greenwood County Library, the Ninety Six Branch Library, and the Ware Shoals Community Library, or at www.greenwoodcountylibrary.org. For more information, please contact Dana Ellis, Volunteer Coordinator, at 941-4650 or dellis@greenwoodcountylibrary.org.

Ministry Opportunities

The group that prepares and delivers a meal to families with a newborn is in need of additional help. If you'd be willing to share in this ministry by adding your name to the list of volunteers, please call or email Mary Haigler at 864-229-3310 or marycharlesbrown@hotmail.com. She will make contact as the need arises to check on your availability.

COMING SOON...

Craig Cole of Five Talents to Speak on July 4

Craig Cole, director of the Anglican microcredit ministry Five Talents, will speak as part of the 10 o'clock service on Sunday, July 4. The mission of Five Talents International is to fight poverty, create jobs, and transform lives by empowering the poor in developing countries using innovative savings and microcredit programs, business training, and spiritual development. They carry out that mission in partnership with the Anglican Communion, taking inspiration from the parable of the talents found in Matthew 25. "Master," he said, "You have entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more." His master replied. "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." (Matthew 25:14-30).

Staff Calendar and Planning Day July 7

The Parish Office will be closed most of the day on Wednesday, July 7, for an off-site calendar and planning day. If you have ideas for programs and events for the fall that further our mission, please share them with us. Direct ideas about music ministry to Donna Brooks; ideas about children's ministries to Domer Ridings; ideas for newcomers, stewardship, and parish life to Barbara Brock. Nicholas Beasley welcomes input regarding worship and adult education. Look for more information beginning in your August *Rafters*.

July 11: A Session on Developments in the Anglican Communion

May and June have seen major developments in the life of the Anglican Communion. The consecration of an assistant bishop in Los Angeles brought a response from the Archbishop of Canterbury that excluded representatives of the Episcopal Church in the United States from some international committees. The Archbishop and the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church also issued pastoral letters which spoke to the situation. We do well to stay informed about these matters, though they often seem far from the local experience of our parish. Join the Rector at 9:15 AM on Sunday, July 11, for a discussion in Bishops' Hall.

July 13-15: Clef Notes: a mini music camp for 2nd – 5th graders

Mark your calendars now for Clef Notes, a music camp for rising 2nd-6th graders. We'll sing, dance, play games, and even learn to play hand chimes. The hours are 10 AM - Noon on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 13 & 14, and 10 AM - 2 PM on Thursday, July 15. On Thursday, we'll end with lunch and swimming. For more information and to sign up, contact Donna Brooks @ 992-3738 or dbrooks@nctv.com.

August 4: Forlana Consort

Mark your calendar and bring adult friends to a performance by this Flemish choral group at seven o'clock in the church. Additional hosts are needed for several of the singers to overnight in our homes. Please contact Barbara Brock at barbarabrock22@gmail.com or 223-6420 if you can accommodate. All are fluent in English.

September 1: Primetimers

Save the date for our next luncheon at 12:30. Fr. Beasley will be the grillin' chef.

July 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!

Family News

BIRTHDAYS:

01 – James Park 03 – Evan Clay 03 – Nancy Cash 04 – Sarah McKinney 04 – Mason Hartung 04 – Samantha Hartung 06 – Allen Hughes 06 – Julianne Collins 08 – Patsy Brooks 09 – Kathleen Hughes 09 – William Beasley 10 – Mary Jo Tolbert 11 – Ginger Long	14 – Katie Kent 15 – Jean Starke 16 – Dyan Webb 16 – Gerald Brooks 16 – Hollie Long 17 – Chris Jayne 17 – John Scurry, Jr. 17 – Lorelei Harper 18 – Douglas Gilreath 18 – Chuck Stowe 18 – Taylor Wilson 19 – Suzanne Dixon 21 – Sarah Hasting	21 – Lindsey Sides 21 – Julie Kate Sealy 25 – Winnie Coleman 26 – Laura Bachinski 26 – Tripp Padgett, III 26 – Allison Wooten 27 – Audine Bergman 27 – Abby Cleland 27 – Robert Graham 28 – Joe Tolbert, Jr. 29 – Carl Brock 30 – Jennifer DuBose
---	--	--

ANNIVERSARIES:

01 – Robert and Ann McIlvain	30 – Don and Audine Bergman
09 – Mims and Mary Jane Mobley	30 – Vernon and Mary Lou Harwell
10 – Norm and Roxy Fawcett	

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, Edith Powell Wilkins, Sara Kummer, Elsie Speer, Mae Phillips, Gretchen Gwynette, Nancy Wease, Jay Pendergrass, Earl McCombs, Nancy Cash, Ronnie Myers, Wanda Sorrels, Mary Wilson, Louis Daigrepoint, Jeanette Little, Amy Truelove, Rusty O’Kelley, Florence McDow, Maria Ballard, Brian Dargitz, John Beckett

For the men and women in the Armed Forces of our country: Patrick Sullivan, Will Ross, Derek Starkey, Rick Campbell, Ryan Scheider, Trip Wash, Rette Miller

For the people of Afghanistan and Iraq

The people of Haiti

The people and other creatures of the Gulf Coast

For those to be married: Erin Long and Yates Brown

For these families expecting babies: Nicholas and Elizabeth Beasley, Brooks Kuykendall and Patricia Bolen, Tripp and Laura Padgett

- We welcome Phyllis Johnstone, transferred from a sister church in Greenwood, formerly a member of St. Andrew’s Church, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.
- We give thanks for the birth of John Brandt Cobb, Jr., son of John and Meisha Cobb, and grandson of John and Marty Cobb born on Friday, June 18.

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

June Stewardship Report (through June 28)

	Pledges Income (Budgeted)	Pledge Income (Actual)	Other Gifts and Income	Expenses (Budgeted)	Expenses (Actual)
Last Month	\$ 24,333	\$ 20,682	\$ 1,590	\$ 29,337	\$ 30,019
Year to Date	\$ 146,000	\$ 149,717	\$ 41,061	\$ 176,025	\$ 178,279

Please remember your parish and your financial stewardship over the summer.