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# 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.



## **Episcopal Church of the Resurrection**

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## Thoughts on Our General Convention

I was away from Greenwood during most of the General Convention and missed the opportunity to reflect with you on that important meeting. We prepared ourselves with a segment of the Adult Forum in the spring in which we examined the governance of the Episcopal Church, the Anglican Communion, and some of the issues of the day. Since then, it has been clear to me that there is not a high level of concern in our congregation about the issues of human sexuality, biblical interpretation, and moral theology that have been the flashpoints of recent conventions. I am thankful for a lack of unhelpful anxiety and for our irenic spirit. At the same time, we risk burying our heads in the sand by embracing a localism not true to the Anglican tradition. Though hardly breaking new ground in light of the events of 2003, this convention's actions are likely to impair further our Anglican and ecumenical relationships. I wish a greater spirit of forbearance had characterized both this General Convention and the precipitous actions some dioceses and parishes have taken in anticipation of it.

The main resolutions of the convention relating to the issues of the day were DO25 and CO56, both of which can be read at <http://www.gc2009.org>. DO25 accurately described the considerable distance between our denomination's practice regarding the ordination of persons neither married nor celibate and the practice of the vast majority of other Anglicans. That resolution expressed a great desire to remain in communion with other Anglicans yet did not reaffirm the moratorium on the election of gay bishops invited by the Windsor Report and endorsed by the convention in 2006. CO56 directed the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to collect and develop theological and liturgical resources on the blessing of same sex relationships. Those resources will be presented to the next General Convention. While not creating the liturgies for blessings that would signal a fairly clear break with the rest of the Anglican Communion, the resolution are likely a step in that direction. While making careful legislative choices, our bishop also signed a dissenting statement affirming the Windsor/Anglican Covenant process. The bishop's writings on the convention can be found at <http://www.edusc.org/GC2009> (look under "categories"). Relatively few bishops signed that statement; the majorities adopting the resolutions were large.

The response of our learned Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams (see <http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/2502>) to the convention was both charitable and critical. He noted that "a realistic assessment of what Convention has resolved does not suggest that it will repair the broken bridges into the life of other Anglican provinces." His statement also suggested that the current direction of the Episcopal Church is likely to result in some second-tier status for us in the Anglican Communion, as the Anglican Covenant process moves forward. He went as far as to say that churches which innovate based on purely local initiative risk become "unrecognizable" to other Christians. He welcomed the action of our bishop and others who signaled a willingness to live within the consensus of the Anglican Communion.

As you all know, I am not inclined to activism on these issues. I regret that our national body is not more responsive to the requests for forbearance of our sisters and brothers in the wider communion and in the whole of the church catholic. We are fortunate to be part of a diocese that is likely to seek ways of maintaining a connection to the Anglican Communion and the Archbishop of Canterbury. At the level of our national convention, our denomination may be losing touch with the marks of catholicity and historicity that have distinguished it for 500 years. In the very long term, I am sure that there will be theological and pastoral renewal in our church. It also seems inevitable that a deeper global consciousness will eventually settle into the minds of our leaders. In my own generation, I sense little energy for the legislative in-fighting and culture war-mongering that seem typical to me of the generation that currently runs the church at the national level. Please continue to pray for the unity of the church and its faithfulness in witness. Nicholas+

## **Worship Survey Results**

Following are some statistical results from our Worship Schedule Survey in May. We received 59 surveys; 19 from 8:00am worshipers; 35 from 10:15 am worshipers; and 5 from persons who attend both services. The results were encouraging, both in the care many respondents took and the level of trust they show between the congregation and its leadership. While some of us have experience some crowding, the survey results suggest that many of us are comfortable with the current schedule, while also being open to the new possibilities for our parish that a shift in schedule might create. By far, most persons preferred a schedule with three services. Several respondents expressed concern about an additional service's impact on the parish's family feeling. Others wondered if an additional service is necessary at this point. The Worship Committee and Vestry will continue to study the question this fall and make a recommendation before the end of the year. They continue to welcome your input and covet your prayers.

### **Overall Comments regarding congestion**

- 40% notice no congestion at all
- 28% notice difficulty finding accessible, open seats
- 26% notice latecomers standing in the back
- 22% notice congestion in the parking lot
- 10% have difficulty finding their favorite seat
- 10% notice congestion at the door upon arriving
- 10% notice congestion at coffee hour
- 3% notice congestion at communion
- 3% notice congestion leaving church

### **Attitude Toward A New Service Schedule**

- 61% support a change in early 2010
- 17% support a change today
- 10% support further study of the schedule through 2010
- 12% did not answer this part of the survey

### **Service Schedule Preference**

- 79% prefer Service Schedule Option 1 (8:00/9:00/11:15 Services)
- 10% prefer Service Schedule Option 2 (9:00 and 11:00 Services)
- 3% have no preference
- 5% proposed a different schedule
- 3% did not answer

### **Service Time Preference**

- 21% prefer an 8:00am service or earlier
- 47% prefer a 9:00am service
- 7% prefer an 11:15am service
- 9% will alternate between a 9:00am and 11:15am service
- 7% will attend the service at which the choir sings
- 9% either did not answer or proposed different time

## CHRISTIAN FORMATION

### **Sunday Morning Adult Forum: Faith and Finances: the Search for Enough**

The Great Recession of 2009 may be nearing its end. Some of its effects, however, will be with us for a long time. Many of us have been obliged to reconsider our earning and spending over these months. One positive outcome of the experience could be a more appropriately Gospel-centered attitude toward work, spending, saving, and giving. We'll take up the topic of faith and finances in our Adult Forum this fall. The Rector, local banker and financial planner Melissa Hull, attorney Lee Roper, and others will lead our reflection on the place of money in the Christian life. We begin on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:15. We'll meet in the church on that Sunday and in Bishops' Hall thereafter.

### **Children (K4 through 5th grade)**

Once again this year we will be using Workshop Cycles by Leader Resources, an Episcopal rotational Sunday School series. Each rotation will last from three to four weeks and will study both Old and New Testament stories as well as the Episcopal Church. We will begin our year with a rotation entitled "The Good Shepherd" and will be taught by Lander Adams, Mary Ann Cooper and Beverly Hall. Children will study the Good Shepherd story from John as well as the parable of the Lost Sheep.

### **Older Children (Middle School and beyond)**

We will meet on Sunday mornings in the EYC room from 9:15 to 10:00 am. Bruce Craven and Welborn Adams will be leading this class using the *Living the Good News* curriculum. It is a lectionary-based curriculum that helps to bring the weekly readings we hear in

church alive and applicable to the issues our youth face.

**Rally Day Pot Luck and Fellowship** – Sept. 13 following the 10:15 service. Bring your favorite dish and lots of it!

### **EYC**

EYC is a youth group open to all 6th thru 12th grade "teens". We meet most Sunday evenings (starting September 20th) from 5:30 to 7:30 in the Parish House youth room. We have time for fellowship (just fun), devotion (we try to find fun and interesting topics for teenagers) and, of course, great food (supplied by our parents). We will be planning some outreach and community service projects and you will be surprised how much fun working together, to help others, can be. If you are new to our group, and want to learn more about what we do, please give us a call.

We will kick off our new year with a lake party for all new and current members (and their families) at the Fawcett's Stoney Point home on Saturday afternoon, September 12th. Let's hope for good weather and we'll do some boating / tubing / swimming / jet-skiing / whatever, from approximately 1:30 to 4:00 and we will eat around 4:30. We have sent the details to existing members and to the potential new members that we know about. If we have missed you, please give Norm and Roxy a call at the number below and we will send you the information you need.

Remember..1<sup>st</sup> meeting on Sunday, Sept 20 at 5:30pm in the Parish House youth room. Bring all of your fun summer stories and experiences to share with the group!! Any new members...we hope you will come and give us a try.

Norm and Roxy 227-3421 fawcett@nctv.com  
Adelaide and Gratin 229-9260

## Wednesday Mid-Day Eucharist and Book Study

The Rector's book study resumes on Wednesday, September 9 at 10:45 AM in the Cothran Library in the Parish House. We will be reading Rupert Shortt's book, *Rowan's Rule: the Autobiography of the Archbishop of Canterbury*. This book offers an opportunity to encounter one of the most profound theologians Anglicanism has produced, as well as one of the major actors in the current struggle in the Anglican Communion. We will discuss the Preface and Introduction at the first meeting. You can order a copy from a local bookstore or via Amazon.com. The celebration of Holy Eucharist, Rite I, in the chancel resumes on September 9 at noon as well.

## Wednesday Evenings for Adults and Children Resume on September 9

Wednesday evening at Resurrection is centered on the celebration of Holy Eucharist at 6:00 PM. On the first Wednesday of the month, we have a family Eucharist with music, which all ages attend. The rest of the month, children gather for children's choir and adults celebrate Eucharist with a Bible Study in place of the sermon. This fall, adults will be studying Paul's letter to the Romans. Romans is a central text for understanding the theology of St. Paul and key ideas in Christianity, including faith, sin, death, justification, and resurrection. Please be with us as we re-examine the famous Roman road to salvation.

Our Wednesday supper begins around 6:35. We will again use Somebody's House from Hodges for some good home-cooking. On the first Sunday of the month, coinciding with the family Eucharist, we will give the caterer a break

and ask one of the participants to prepare the meal.

Wednesday nights are a time of good fellowship, growth in Christ, and hospitality. Please join us; you can make a reservation by calling 223-5426 or by email [cor@episcopalgreenwood.org](mailto:cor@episcopalgreenwood.org)

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## Viva Voce! A New Children's Choir Program for 1st thru 6th Graders



This year we will be using an exciting new program with our St. Cecilia Children's Choir. Viva Voce! is a comprehensive teaching curriculum for children's choirs. Our young choristers will learn vocal technique, music skills, hymn knowledge, liturgy, and much more. St. Cecilia Children's Choir is open to all 1st thru 6th graders and will rehearse on Wednesdays from 5:45-6:30pm beginning September 16th. More information will be available at the children's choir party at Gatewood on August 30th, or call Donna Brooks at 992-3738 if you have questions.

## Confirmation Classes begin September 13

In preparation for Bishop Henderson's visit on October 25 to celebrate confirmation and reception at Church of the Resurrection, our confirmation classes will be held on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 beginning September 13. This will be a good time with Bible study, food and fellowship, and talks on Anglican worship, theology and our parish's common life. Call Father Beasley or Domer Ridings with any questions. Please call 223-5426 or email [cor@episcopalgreenwood.org](mailto:cor@episcopalgreenwood.org) if you plan to join confirmation classes.

## Feast with Friends

*Feast with Friends* (formerly 8@8) is a way to meet new people and to enjoy fellowship in a relaxed atmosphere away from the church.

*Feast with Friends* seeks to help both newcomers and established parishioners make connections with others in the parish and encourage new relationships in the context of Christian fellowship. Even if you've been a part of this community for many years, there are always new faces in our midst. Faces of interesting and fun people who, like you, enjoy the fellowship that comes from being a part of a faith community

*Feast with Friends* are dinner groups that meet every other month from October to May. Participants are expected to host at least once. Normally, the host cooks the main dish and everyone brings either an appetizer, side dish, salad or dessert. To sign up and/or to learn more about *Feast with Friends* call Dyan Webb (229-3114) or Carolyn Wehmann (943-0208). Meet new people and enjoy socializing with those you already know at *Feast with Friends*!

### Pastoral Request

Due to the illness of Paul Crawley, parishioner Philip Carango is in need of periodic rides to the grocery store from his apartment on Cambridge Avenue. Please call the church office if you can assist Philip.

### New Website

Resurrection is excited to share its new website with you. The site offers new and useful content for current members of the parish and visitors. It features:

- A new page with information for visitors.
- Easy downloads of the parish newsletter, monthly calendar, sermons, vestry minutes, and other occasional documents.
- A "Lay Ministry Schedules" section to remind you who's ushering, acolyting, and reading.

- A new photo gallery from Google with easy uploads. Send your parish photos to Carl Brock or Denise Brown.(72 dpi)
- Information on parish leadership, each major area of ministry, and opportunities to get involved.

- A new page on the Resurrection Foundation.

Webmaster Carl Brock, Jason Haigler, other members of the Vestry, members of the staff, and several others contributed content and design ideas. The site, inspired by our church's many Celtic crosses, was designed by Kim Buchanan, married to the Rev. Furman Buchanan, of Columbia.

Good communications makes for a deeper community in our parish family. We pray this website will assist us in building up the Body of Christ. [www.episcopalgreenwood.org](http://www.episcopalgreenwood.org)

**Episcopal Church Women – St. Anne's**  
St. Anne's ECW will meet Sept. 8 at Bishop's Hall at 10 a.m. We will have a short program and organizational session.

### Harvest Dinner



Adult parishioners of Church of the Resurrection have likely already received invitations to a special Harvest Dinner slated for Sunday evening, September 27 at the church. Sponsored by the stewardship committee, this event will feature music by Ashby Stokes and a meal coordinated by table hosts. It is important that you RSVP no later than Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> (223-5426 or [denise@episcopalgreenwood.org](mailto:denise@episcopalgreenwood.org)) to ensure that you are assigned to a table. Your table host will call on you to provide either wine, a side dish, or dessert for the small group at your table. Child care will not be provided so line up your babysitters and make your reservation now.

## September 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 – Elizabeth Beasley 02 – James Gobble 05 – Noonie Fennell 07 – Mason Shirley 09 – Samantha Hasting 09 – William Lewis 11 – Beverly Joosten 11 – Judy Park 12 – Thomas Brooks	12 – Courtney Rambo 14 – Rob Elsner 15 – Phyllis Dodge 16 – Cherry MacTaggart 16 – Jon Brooks Newlon 17 – Philip Carango 18 – Tommy Adams II 18 – Norm Fawcett 18 – Laura Stowe	22 – Jacob Davis 24 – Dale McClary 27 – Cindy Hughes 27 – Adelaide Smith 27 – Bill Tarrer 28 – Tom Cobb 29 – Cynthia Dougherty 29 – Mary Alice Poore 30 – Sissy Tennis
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### **ANNIVERSARIES:**

10 – Jerry and Lori Kent  
 27 – Alan and Cherry MacTaggart

### **PRAYERS ARE ASKED**

**For the sick:** Harold L. Stevens, Ryan Wright, Debra River, Jack Pepper, Estelle Craven, Nancy Irwin, Keith Thomas, Dor Suber, Thomas Brooks, Eric Petrus, Ann Hayden, Nancy Miller, Diana Dent Cox, Ann Arnold, Bill McDaniel, Betty Curry, Edith Powell Wilkins, Danny Wilbanks, Angie Maryworth, Add Penfield, Sr., Sara Kummer

- We extend sympathy to Nancy Miller on the death of her husband, George Miller.
- We extend sympathy to Sara McKinney and family on the death of her father, Tom Brodie.
- We extend sympathy to the Yeremian Family on the death of Millie Yeremian.
- We extend sympathy to Mary Haigler on the death of her grandmother, Jane Hansley.
- We extend sympathy to Kathy Robertson on the death of her grandmother, Catharine Powe Cole, widow of the Rt. Rev. Clarence Alfred Cole, fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina.
- We extend sympathy to the Stroud family on the death of J.S. Stroud on August 26<sup>th</sup>.
- We give thanks for the baptisms of Claire Elizabeth Lottes and Abbie Jules Davis.

**For the men and women in the Armed Forces of our country:** Kurt Cheeseman, Carey Varas, Jennifer Smith, Scott Daigrepoint, Patrick Sullivan, and Will Ross

**For the people of Afghanistan and Iraq**

**The unemployed**

**For those to be baptized:**

**For these families expecting babies:** John and Sarah Hasting, Tripp and Laura Padgett, and Katie and Dave Eisenreich.

Please send additions/deletions to the prayer list to Denise at [denise@episcopalgreenwood.org](mailto:denise@episcopalgreenwood.org) or call 223-5426.

### August Stewardship Report

	Pledges (Budgeted)	Pledges (Actual)
<b>Last Month</b>	<b>\$ 23,250</b>	<b>\$ 19,728</b>
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>\$ 186,000</b>	<b>\$ 177,685</b>

Family News