



Volume VIII, Issue 12
December, 2009

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.

The Annunciation



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An Advent Revival

We don't have many revivals in the Episcopal Church, at least in the sense that many other denominations in the South have had them. I am afraid the response would not be great if I pitched a tent on our empty S. Main Street Lot and set up for a week of sweaty preaching in August. One of the great revival hymns *Revive Us Again*, points to the problem with revivals. The Latin prefix "re" in "revival" already contains the idea of doing something again, so "reviving us again" is asking God to make us spiritually alive again again. That is how the revival tradition of Christian spirituality works: revival is followed by backsliding, leading to the necessity of another revival, with the hope that this time, the sanctification will stick. Usually, however, another revival is in order. That is the reality of a human nature broken by sin.

As much as I prefer a different Anglican way, I will not pretend that there is no backsliding in the Anglican tradition. Surely, there is; we fall prey to spiritual aridity and disconnection from the Gospel's hope as readily as do other followers of Jesus. My hope for our more sedate mode of spirituality is, however, that its valleys are less deep than those that may be found coming off the mountain top of a great revival. Emotionally, we may not rise so high, but perhaps we do not fall so far, either. Ours is a slow and steady building up of Christian hope, the layering of years of prayer and Bible study and sacramental life and service to others. Sanctification in this tradition is in the long run, best seen from the perspective of one old and full of years. Our revival is a weekly encounter with Christ in his word and sacrament.

And yet our liturgical year does offer two great seasons of revival in Advent and Lent. The Advent season we are now in is a chance to re-center your life on the Christian hope. As we look toward the return of the Lord at the end of time, Advent has a penitential feel. Looming judgment has a way of making us aware of our sins! But as we draw nearer to Christmas, the theme of expectation overwhelms that of penitence. It is appropriate that a growing sense of God's power and God's will to save overwhelm the focus on self that accompanies a penitential mode. Eventually, no matter my sins, God will redeem his creation. Our endless self-awareness will give way to a wondrous vision of God, pervading all things. We see that beginning in the incarnation of Jesus and then finally and fully in his coming Kingdom.

There are many distractions from the work of Advent. I won't repeat the litany against Shopmas you have heard before; I trust you know it. The best hope we have of staying centered this season is prayer and the reading of scripture. There is a wonderful Advent devotion online at <http://www.followingthestar.org/>. You can always pray the daily office online at (www.missionstclare.com) Or simply read a psalm out of a plain old paper Bible everyday and pray "Come, O Come, Emmanuel" with every breath. While you are at it, share this online Advent Calendar from the National Cathedral with your children: <http://www.edow.org/spirituality/advent/2009/advent-calendar-2009.html>. Our Wednesday services at Noon and 6:00 PM await you as well.

May your Advent season be one of revival. Even better, may it be a season in which the Gospel's hope claims you so strongly that you never go your own way again.

Nicholas+

Advent and Christmas at the Church of the Resurrection

The Second Sunday of Advent, December 6

In addition to our morning services and Christian Formation:

1:00-2:30 pm Christmas Parade Open House from 1:45; Parade begins at 2:30.

Wednesday, December 9

12 Noon Holy Eucharist

6:00 pm Holy Eucharist, followed by supper/5:45 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

The Third Sunday of Advent, December 13

In addition to our morning services and Christian Formation:

6:00 pm A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 16

12 Noon Holy Eucharist

6:00 pm Holy Eucharist in Chapel, followed by supper/

5:45 pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

The Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20

In addition to our morning services and Christian Formation:

6:00 pm Christmas Pageant and Reception

Wednesday, December 23

The noon and 6:00 pm services will **not** be held.

Christmas Eve, December 24

4:00 pm Family Eucharist; Children's Creche; St. Cecilia Children's Choir

11:00 pm Festive Eucharist and Adult Choir

Christmas Day, December 25

10:00 am Holy Eucharist in the Church

The First Sunday after Christmas, December 27

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

9:15 am No Sunday school for children or adults

10:15 am Holy Eucharist and Baptism

Wednesday, December 30

The noon and 6:00 pm services will **not** be held

Sunday, January 3

8:00 am Holy Eucharist

9:15 am No Sunday school for children or adults

10:15 am Holy Eucharist

The Feast of Epiphany, Wednesday, January 6

12 Noon Holy Eucharist

6:00 pm Holy Eucharist in Church, followed by Appetizer Potluck

The Parish Office will be closed Christmas Day and New Years Day.

Limited hours December 28-31.

Sunday School resumes January 10.

Bishop Search

The search for Upper South Carolina's next bishop is nearing an end. Two walk-about, held on the weekend of November 21-22, allowed certified delegates and other interested persons to meet and ask questions of the six candidates. Resurrection was well represented at both walk-about with a large number of parishioners serving as timekeepers or moderators. Kudos to Alan Treeter and George Rush for coordinating this and special thanks to Bill Arnold, John Beckett, Carl Brock, Margot Burdette, Tom Cobb, Trisha Craven, Linda Dolny, Albert Faden, Joe Fennell, Chris Jayne, Abney Wallace and Charlie Weesner who served. Your delegates were all in attendance as well.

Diocesan Convention will be reconvened on December 12 at Trinity Cathedral in Columbia for the election. Delegates from Resurrection include the Rev. Nicholas Beasley, Barbara Brock, Allen Hughes, Chuck McDonnell and Alan Treeter. To follow the process, go to www.bishopsearch.edusc.org

The consecration of the Eighth Bishop of Upper SC is scheduled to take place on May 22, 2010.

Pledge Update

The Stewardship Committee reports that we have received 115 pledges totaling \$262,754. Reminder letters have gone out to those who have not yet made a pledge. For 2010, we are approximately \$30,000 below our 2009 pledges. If you have not made a pledge, please do so at episcopalgreenwood.org or via a pledge card. Please contact the Parish Office if we can assist you. We are thankful for the many generous commitments made.

The Finance Committee and Treasurer will be thankful for the

completion of all 2009 pledges by December 31. Statements were recently mailed; if you need information about your current pledge, please contact Ann Bowen, our financial contractor, at 223-5426.

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Annual Meeting Election Results and Vestry Planning

At our parish's annual meeting on November 22, the following persons were elected as adult members of the Vestry for a three-year term: Robby Crowder, Chuck McDonnell, Jane Hawthorne Merrill, and Lee Roper. Libby Sealy was elected Youth Member of the Vestry for a one-year term. Patricia Craven was elected delegate to the Diocesan Convention for a three-year term; Welborn Adams serves as her alternate. The parish also adopted a budget of \$292,000. We heard oral reports from the chair of the Resurrection Foundation Trustees, Peggy Adams, and from one of the Vestry Liaisons for Pastoral Care, Shirley Walker. If you were not able to attend, you can collect a copy of the Annual Report on the table at the rear of the church.

The Vestry now turns its attention to its internal organization for 2010. Its December meeting is devoted to an annual Rector-Vestry review. Leadership for areas of ministry will be assigned during December. Officers will be elected at the January meeting. The Vestry will attend a retreat January 8-10 at Kanuga, lead by nationally-known congregational consultants.

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Christmas Flower Memorials and Thanksgivings

Parishioners and friends who wish to memorialize or give thanks for their loved ones at the altar over Christmas may make a contribution to a special Christmas Flower

Fund. A contribution of \$25.00 is suggested from each donor – regardless of the number of folks you wish to remember. Please be sure to mark the envelope clearly as to your specific request. December 15th is the deadline for contribution.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Advent Conspiracy Begins December 6

On the Sundays of Advent, adults are invited to gather in Bishops' Hall at 9:15 to join a conspiracy against Christmas as we know it. The story of Christ's birth is a story of promise, hope, and a revolutionary love. So, what happened? What was once a time to celebrate the birth of a savior has somehow turned into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping lists. And when it's all over, many of us are left with presents to return, looming debt that will take months to pay off, and an empty feeling of missed purpose. Is this what we really want out of Christmas? What if Christmas became a world-changing event again? Join us for the Advent Conspiracy. Worship Fully; Spend Less; Give More; Love All.

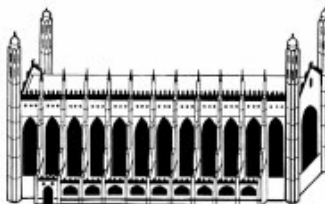
<http://www.adventconspiracy.org/>.

Children's Christian Formation for December 6 and 13 will focus on the events of Advent through a rotation entitled "The Stations of the Crèche." In this rotation we will be focusing on the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. Children will be making symbols to represent some of the important people and events in Jesus' family tree. These Symbols will be hung from a Jesse Tree in Bishop's Hall each Sunday. The idea of the Jesse Tree comes from Isaiah 11:1 "*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.*"

Adult Christian Formation in January will offer a new opportunity to enrich your prayer life. Brenda Weems who visits our parish in the fall will be staying at her house in Cross Hill in January and February. Brenda is an Oblate of the Episcopal Order of Julian of Norwich and has offered to help us launch a JULIAN GROUP. This is to introduce Contemplative/Still prayer followed by an official module study of Julian's "Revelations of Divine Love." This group will meet beginning on Monday January 11, 2010. More information about this opportunity will appear in the January Rafters.

St. Anne's ECW will have a covered dish luncheon Dec. 8th 11:30 at the home of Audine Bergman. For directions or transportation call her at 229-1350.

Advent Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 13



Please join us for a service of Advent Lessons and Carols at 6:00 PM in the church. This service is loosely based on the famous Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College Chapel at Cambridge (www.kings.cam.ac.uk/chapel), broadcast annually on Christmas Eve on the BBC and NPR. Given the date, we will be singing Advent hymns rather than Christmas carols and reading lessons pointing to the first advent of Jesus Christ. This is a blessed opportunity to prepare your heart for the one who is coming.

EYC Christmas Outreach Project

Thanks to all who purchased the 2009 customized solid pewter Christmas tree ornament with a rendering of the Sanctuary of our Church. We still have about 20 ornaments left to sell...if you missed us on our November sale days, and you would like to purchase an ornament, please call Norm and Roxy Fawcett at 227-3421 and we will arrange to get you one. The ornaments are \$22.00 each.

**An Old Fashioned Christmas Pageant
presented by the
children and choirs of the Church of
the Resurrection on Sunday,
December 20th
at 6:00 pm**



Following the 6:00 pm Feast of Epiphany service on Wednesday, January 6, we'll go to Bishops' Hall for an appetizer potluck. Everyone is asked to bring a finger food for this reception.

Service Schedule Change Update

Planning for our three-service experiment continues. All those who schedule our various lay ministries for Sunday will gather in early December to determine how best to deploy our labor and avoid conflicts. We are looking toward February 7 as the best date to begin. The schedule under consideration remains:

- 7:45-8:35 Holy Eucharist (coffee time and one adult class following)
- 9:00-10:05 Holy Eucharist with choir (young family emphasis)
- 10:15-11:05 Sunday School (classes for children, youth, adults)
- 11:15-12:00 Holy Eucharist (two hymns, organ)

The Rector and Worship Committee welcome your thoughts and ask for your forbearance as we test these waters.

What's this about a Parish Weekend at Kanuga?

The Parish Weekend at Kanuga is scheduled for March 5-7, 2010. This will be a fun weekend for members of the parish to enjoy each other's fellowship in a relaxed environment. Located in the mountains near Hendersonville, NC, Kanuga takes you back to a simpler time. There are no alarm clocks in the rooms, meals times are announced by an old fashioned bell sounding and the mountain views are excellent. Activities will be planned, but every minute of your day will not be scheduled so you can take a hike on your own or just rest in their famous rocking chairs. More details are coming. If you want to go ahead and reserve your family's spot, please contact Jane Merrill at janehmerrill@gmail.com or 388-2173. If you'd like to learn more about Kanuga, visit their website at kanuga.org.

Here's what a few members of our parish have to say about Kanuga:

I can't imagine life without Kanuga. I first went to Kanuga with my parents for a Parish Family Weekend when I was only three years old. We loved it so much that we began vacationing there every summer. Now Lee, Wiley, Angus and I go every summer with my parents. I love my children become the third generation to enjoy Kanuga. - Perrin Roper

Kanuga has become an important part of our family's life. The first time I met some of Albert's extended family was at a church service at Kanuga. We visited his family each summer and decided to try staying for a whole week. We had a wonderful time and have already booked next year's vacation there. I encourage you to come to Kanuga for the Parish Family Weekend. It's the perfect way to try out Kanuga; you'll be glad you did! - Jane Merrill

December 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 – Anna Bettis Padgett 04 – Virginia Glenn Donaghy 05 – Gladys Vazquez 05 – Pat DeYoung 06 – Susan Hinkel 09 – Chelsea Sharpe 10 – Lee Roper 12 – Nick Kent 13 – John Tennis	15 – Virginia Johnson 16 – Alex Lopez 17 – Ginny Cambreleng 19 – Mary Lynn Landgraf 19 – John Beckett 20 – Lisa Grose 22 – Janet Daigrepoint 22 – Frank Wideman 22 – Julian Burdette	26 – Bill Hughes 26 – Abney Wallace 27 – Becky McDaniel 28 – Bill McDaniel 28 – Janet Munns 30 – Buster Brooks 30 – Nathan Fancher 31 – Laurie Thompson 31 – Sara Moseley
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ANNIVERSARIES:

12 – Evan and Doris Clay 16 – Charles and Ginger Long 17 – Larry Joe and Mary Jo Cook 17 – Jason and Mary Haigler 20 – Buster and Edie Brooks 21 – Albert and Dean Faden	22 – Dan and Janet Daigrepoint 27 – John and Hope Scurry 27 – Chuck and Leslie McDonnell 29 – James and Marilyn Gobble 30 – John and Lesa Beckett 30 – John and Judy Park
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PRAYERS ARE ASKED

For the sick: Harold L. Stevens, Ryan Wright, Debra River, Jack Pepper, Estelle Craven, Nancy Irwin, Keith Thomas, Doris Suber, Thomas Brooks, Eric Petrus, Nancy Miller, Diana Dent Cox, Ann Arnold, Bill McDaniel, Betty Curry, Edith Powell Wilkins, Danny Wilbanks, Add Penfield, Sr., Sara Kummer, Marsha Brodie, Kate Grusauskie, Mae Phillips, Elsie Speers, Gretchen Gwynette.

- We give thanks for the birth of Anna Ravenel Burns Padgett, daughter of Tripp and Laura Padgett and granddaughter of James and Anna Padgett on October 30th.
- Those baptized on November 1st were Mason and Samantha Hartung and Samuel McDevitt.

For the men and women in the Armed Forces of our country: Kurt Cheeseman, Carey Varas, Jennifer Smith,

Scott Daigrepoint, Patrick Sullivan, Will Ross, Derek Starkey, Rick Campbell

For the people of Afghanistan and Iraq

The unemployed

For those to be baptized: Carolyn Hasting

For these families expecting babies: Katie and Dave Eisenreich.

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

November Stewardship Report

	Pledges (Budgeted)	Pledges (Actual)
Last Month	\$ 23,250	\$ 19,103
Year to Date	\$ 255,750	\$ 238,448

Family News