

# *Family Affairs*

**December 2010**

Deadline for January 2011 *Family Affairs*: December 15

## *The Story Continues for Each of Us*

The story is told of an old Navaho woman who sits silently at her loom weaving as the generations before her had done. She has spent a lifetime working her loom, and she carries out her work without a second thought. Her mind travels elsewhere while her fingers dance with the yarn, creating a sacred rug pattern as she weaves. As images in her heart and mind find a place on the rug, they also carry her thoughts into a daydream.

“Our lives are like this rug. We are formed by the Cosmic Woman who makes this world on her loom. Each of us becomes as she weaves us into her Earth Rug. The various colors and textures interrelate to tell the stories of our lives and of this world. Each of us has a place. Each of us contributes to the whole. Nothing is unintended. All have a purpose.”

When the woman awakens from her daydream she discovers the Cosmic Woman’s Earth Rug story has been woven into her rug. Her rug tells the story of her people and their history, and she realizes that her story is but a part of the greater story of Creation. (This story is taken from one of the Common Lessons in the EFM program)

This is our story as well, my friends. Perhaps by chance, but more likely by God’s grace, our lives have shared a place on the Earth Rug. Being a part of the life of Holy Family has been a blessing in my life. In many ways you have blessed my family, though because of different churches and distance, you may not be as aware of your impact. You have touched our lives in so many ways in such a short time period. It is one of the dangers of Interim Ministry: knowing that people will make a difference in one’s life, that relationships and friendships will be forged and hopefully not soon forgotten.

And although our ministry paths move us in different directions, we still remain a part of each other. The images change and move apart from one another, but they are still a part of the same rug – we change and move apart from one another, but we are still each a part of the communion of saints which know not the constraints of time and space.

The past year has been a time of growth for me (I’ve discovered I can chant the liturgy – though I realize I’ll never be confused with one of the Three Tenors), and hopefully a time of growth for each of you. We’ve done some wonderful things together. I am deeply thankful for the staff at Holy Family and for their witness of God’s love. It has been a privilege to serve with such fine sisters and brothers in Christ.

As this community moves through the season of Advent and prepares to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord – once again retelling the story of Emmanuel – God with us – may each of you be filled with joyful anticipation as your search for a new rector moves through its final stages. God has wonderful plans for Holy Family – and each one of you is a part of those plans. May God’s richest blessings surround and uplift you in the days ahead.

Blessings and love, Jim+

from the interim rector

## In this issue:

Advent and Christmas / page 3      Pastoral Care / page 8

Christian Education / page 4      Outreach / page 9

Rector Search / page 5

Parish Notes / pages 6 and 7

## December Meeting Schedule

Augustine Project Board

*No meeting in December*

Christian Education Commission

*Sunday, Dec. 12 at 5:00 p.m.—Commons*

Evangelism and Discipleship  
Commission

*Thursday, Dec. 2 at 8:00 a.m.*

Fellowship Commission

*No meeting in December*

Finance Commission

*Monday, Dec. 14 at 7:00 p.m.—Conf. Rm.*

Liturgy Commission

*No meeting in December*

Outreach Commission

*Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 7:00 p.m.—Library*

Pastoral Care Commission

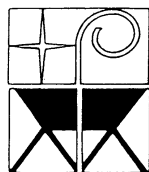
*Wednesday, Dec. 1 at 1:00 p.m.—Library*

Properties Commission

*No meeting in December*

Youth Commission

*No meeting in December*



## Financial notes

**Every Member Canvass:** As of November 23, the Canvass Committee had received 170 pledges totaling \$542,905 for the calendar year 2011. The Canvass continues during this month, and the Vestry will adopt budget for 2011 at its December 21 meeting. Last year's annual budget was based on a pledge total of \$631,500 from 222 pledges. If you intend to pledge, please do so as soon as possible. Pledge cards are available from the church office (919-942-3108).

**Pledge statements** for the year 2010 up through November 28 will be mailed in early December. Please take time to examine your statement when it arrives, and write to the Parish Administrator if you see any mistakes. Contribution statements for tax purposes will be mailed at the end of January. To be included in 2010 giving, contributions must be in the church office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 31, or must be postmarked by that date.

## Summary of Vestry minutes

AT ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING on October 19, 2010, the Vestry:

- Reviewed and approved changes in the charge to the Vision for Ministry Implementation Committee; approved the committee's membership as proposed by its chair, Dave Worster.
- Heard a report on activities of the Rector Search Committee, including plans for candidate visits; learned that committee member Susan Sunnarborg will be moving away, and approved the appointment of Sheryl Forbis to replace her.
- Received full financial reports for September showing that receipts continue to lag behind expenses.
- Received and approved a proposal from the Outreach Commission for a fund-raising event for the school in Haiti.
- Learned that a mission trip to Haiti is in the planning stages.
- Agreed to allow promotion of the annual sale of wreath and roping, a fund-raiser for Child Care Matters.
- Learned that Holy Family will host one of three regional workshops based on the book *Radical Welcome*. The event is planned for Saturday, April 2, 2011.
- Reviewed the process of forming a Nominating Committee which will be charged with presenting a slate of candidates for the Vestry class of 2014.

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## The Vestry

CLASS OF 2011: Andrew Kinard • Martha Mundy • Thomas Pafford • Mary Rushing

CLASS OF 2012: Adam Grobin • Neil Newcomb • Phil Post • Tracey Powell

CLASS OF 2013: Tom Bainbridge • Anne Hager-Blunk • Kevin Reily • Rollie Tillman

## *Advent and Christmas at the Church of the Holy Family*

*In this season of preparation for the coming  
Christ Child, consider attending an Advent liturgy.*

**Advent Mid-week Mass:** Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22

*7:00 a.m. — The Holy Eucharist, Rite Two*

Each Wednesday of the Advent season begins with a 30-minute celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Nave.

**Sung Compline:** Sundays, December 12 and 19

*8:00 p.m. — The final office of the day in the tradition of canonical hours*

The Compline Choir sings Psalms and other short pieces of music in the dimly-lit Nave. The people participate through prayerful listening.

**Evening Prayer:** every Tuesday and Thursday (except Christmas Eve)

*6:30 p.m. — The Daily Office for Evening, with additional prayers for the concerns and loved ones of the parish*

The service is read in the Narthex by lay readers on two weekday evenings throughout the year.

**Silent Prayer:** every Wednesday evening

*6:00 p.m. — 30 minutes of silence.*

People are invited to come and sit in the Nave. No words are spoken, and you may come and go as you wish.

**Christmas Eve:** Friday, December 24

*5:00 p.m. — The Holy Eucharist with Christmas Pageant*

Holy Family's Christmas celebration begins with this liturgy. It features a Christmas pageant: a reading of Luke's Gospel illustrated by a slide show of Holy Family's children acting out the drama in Bethlehem. Familiar carols will be sung. This joyful, spirit-filled liturgy is open to all, and is especially appropriate for children.

*9:30 p.m. — A Service of Lessons and Carols*

*10:00 p.m. — Festival Holy Eucharist*

The Holy Eucharist will be sung; incense and Sanctus bells will be used.

**Christmas Day:** Friday, December 25

*10:00 a.m. — The Holy Eucharist, Rite One*

On Christmas Day, the third Liturgy of Christmas will be celebrated with quiet joy.

**The Feast of the Holy Family:** Sunday, December 26

*7:55 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite One*

*10:05 a.m. A Festival Holy Eucharist*

Holy Family's patronal feast will be observed on the First Sunday after Christmas with two celebrations of the Holy Eucharist (instead of our usual three). Child care will be provided during the 10:05 a.m. liturgy, which will be sung.

**The Holy Days of Christmas:** Weekday Liturgies on December 27, 28, 29, and January 1

*12:00 noon The Holy Eucharist, Rite Two*

The Feasts of St. Stephen (Monday, December 27), St. John (Tuesday, December 28), the Holy Innocents (Wednesday, December 29), and The Holy Name (Saturday, January 1) are marked by brief (30-minute) weekday celebrations of the Holy Eucharist including readings from the Tradition of the Church.

## Celebrating Saint Nicholas

One of the great saints of the Advent season, Nicholas of Myra, will be honored here at Holy Family on Friday, December 3. Many legends have grown up around this famous bishop and you're invited to come hear more of his stories of kindness to those in need. We will begin with a child-friendly liturgy at 6:00 in the Nave; you are asked to bring an offering of unwrapped toys or books to be shared with the clients of "Homestart," a program of the Homeless Shelter for Women and Children.

Following this time of celebration, music and prayer, we'll move to the Parish Hall for a soup and sandwich meal. Contact Nancy Pekar, chair of the Fellowship Commission, if you can make soup or sandwiches for our communal meal (929-9154 or [nancypekar@bellsouth.net](mailto:nancypekar@bellsouth.net))

### Christian Education reminders

- The 5:00 pm liturgy on Christmas Eve is particularly suited to children. We invite children to bring food that another child might like as their offering (macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, boxed gelatins or pasta, etc). All food will be donated to the Interfaith Council food pantry.
- There will be **no Sunday School** for children or adults on **December 26 or January 2**. Sunday School will resume on January 9.

### Advent quiet at home

Advent Wreath Prayers are available on the table in the back of the Nave. Also available is an Advent calendar called "Slow down. Quiet. It's Advent," offering suggestions for each day as a gentle – and fun – reminder of the season.

A variety of materials on celebrating Advent and Christmas at home are available in the Christian Education Commons. Feel free to browse through the books or take them home – and then please remember to return them when you are finished so someone else may use them!

### Thank you!

- To the various saints of Holy Family who led stations at our All Saints intergenerational. Your time and talents were gifts to us all!
- To the incredibly talented team of volunteers headed by Sunny Chew who organized an amazing **Advent Workshop** on November 21.
- To a parish full of wonderful shepherds, amazing farm animals, a beautiful holy family, angelic angels, superb townsfolk, brave soldiers and centurions – and the most talented group of photographers, adult helpers and teen volunteers any **Christmas Eve Gospel presentation** has ever seen! The fruits of all this talent will be offered during the 5:00 pm liturgy on Christmas Eve.

## *Rector Search Update*

*In January, the Vestry charged the Search Committee with the responsibility of searching for and identifying, through prayerful discernment and a rigorous review process, a candidate to serve as the new rector of Church of the Holy Family. Choosing a rector is a process of discernment—both for the parish and the priest—and generally takes approximately twelve months.*

Can a meeting be a prayer? As we reflect on the charge to the search committee from the vestry, this is a serious question. The search committee has met 22 times for a total of 66 hours, give or take an hour or two. In addition, we spent nearly 17 hours in phone interviews and about 144 hours hosting candidate visits. We are now sending out teams to visit with some candidates in their current parishes. Multiply all this by the number of committee members and that's a lot of people-hours!

It's also a lot of prayer. Each meeting, each conversation is an opportunity for us to invite God to be with us and for us to commit ourselves to be present to God. We know God's presence as friendships have bloomed among the committee members and as we have connected with each candidate with whom we have spoken; we know God's presence as God has quieted our anxieties and encouraged us when the path has seemed particularly long and arduous. We anticipate God's presence with us as we move toward completing our discernment.

Yes, a meeting can be a prayer. We have chosen not to be transactional, not to merely do all the tasks necessary to identify someone who could serve as our rector; we have chosen to be relational, to learn about each other, the parish, and the candidates as we seek and listen for God's will for God's people. In so doing, it is our prayer that we—with the underlying prayers of the parish, will discern the one whom God would call to Holy Family and to meet fully the charge of the vestry.

The committee invites you to join us in regular prayer for our new rector—the one who is known to God but not yet known to us. Please pray, too, for the congregation that will be affected by their priest's acceptance of this call. And, during this season of transition, please pray for the Holy Spirit's abiding presence and for the clergy who so ably and lovingly serve Holy Family—Jim, Michelle, and Paula.

Almighty and everliving God, we acknowledge our need for you in this time of transition as we search for our new rector. We ask for your protection and guidance as we discern your will. We pray for the members of the search committee, that their minds and hearts will be open to your Spirit's leading. Give them your patience and strength in this work. Thank you for the priest you are preparing for us, whose name is yet known to you alone. We ask that he or she be open to your call. Thank you for all you have done, are doing, and will do among us to form us into your people that your name may be glorified and your love known to all people. All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

*All information about the search is posted on the parish's website, <http://chfepiscopal.org>, and the committee may be reached at [rector\\_search@chfnc.net](mailto:rector_search@chfnc.net).*

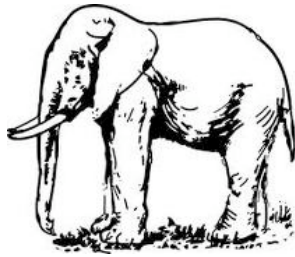
Christmas Day Dinner

Singles, couples, and families new to the area . . . Christmas Day can be trying on folks who don't have family in the area to celebrate with. We are trying something new this year: getting ourselves together for a communal meal on Christmas Day. It will be low-stress, no gifts, pot luck at Sonia Katchian's house located five minutes out of Carrboro. You can contact Sonia at sk@photoshuttle.com for more info and/or to help plan.

parish notes

EYC Vespers

YOU'RE INVITED to worship with the EYC on Sunday, December 5, at 5:00 in the Nave. EYC Vespers is the result of the Sr. EYC creatively using the "An Order of Worship for the Evening" rubric from *The Book of Common Prayer*, and aims to allow Holy Family's youth to practice using their gifts to help God's people worship God in spirit and truth. Join us for worship, then make your way down to the Parish Hall for Jim Melnyk's farewell event.



EYC Caroling and White Elephant Gift Exchange

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders: clear your throats, wrap up an old item from home, and come to the EYC Christmas party on Sunday, December 19, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We'll begin the evening walking to and caroling at the Carolina House, then return to the Parish Hall for hot soup, warm bread and a white elephant gift exchange. What do white elephants have to do with exchanging gifts? See the EYC bulletin board in Holy Family's main hallway for important gift exchange details. Join us: it'll be a blast!

EYC Ski Trip

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders: Bust out your winter gear and get ready for the EYC 2011 Ski Trip at Winterplace, West Virginia, on January 21-23. We'll ski and snowboard Saturday and Sunday, and sleep at the mountain lodge Friday and Saturday night. Don't know how to ski? Lessons are free! Don't know other people going? Bring a friend and you'll surely meet some new friends on the bus or on the slopes. Sign-up paperwork is available on the EYC bulletin board in Holy Family's main hallway, and is due by January 9. Scholarships are available. Contact Paul Cizek for more information: pcizek@chfnc.net or 942-3108.



Steps toward discerning a call to ordination —a parishioner's experience

Since this summer, I have been in the midst of a six-month internship that is a part of the Diocese's formal process for discerning a call to ordination as a priest in the Episcopal Church. I have been blessed to be assigned to Saint Philip's Episcopal Church in downtown Durham with the rector, the Rev. Jonah Kendall, as my supervisor. In addition to my involvement in weekly worship, I have enjoyed participating in St. Philip's Jail Ministry, which takes me to the Durham County Detention Facility on Saturday mornings for prayer and fellowship with inmates. Perhaps the greatest gift of this time has been the opportunity to sit down on a weekly basis with Fr. Jonah and talk about my calling and the life that may be in store for me.

Thus far, the experience has served to confirm and strengthen my belief that God is calling me to be ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church. That said, the most difficult part—for me, as well as Kacey and Virginia (and now Jack)—has been being away from regular worship at Holy Family. In early January, however, my internship will conclude, and I—along with the six other interns who are going through this same process with me—will participate in the overnight Discernment Conference where we will have a series of interviews with members of the Diocesan Commission on Ministry. Soon thereafter, each of us will meet with Bishop Curry and learn whether we are to proceed to the next step of the ordination process, whereupon we would become Postulants. I appreciate the continued prayers and words of encouragement that I receive from many of you at Holy Family, and I am hopeful about these next steps. Whatever happens, though, I—along with the rest of the Eichelberger family—will be looking forward to returning to regular worship at Holy Family in January. Until then, may God's Peace be with you. —Gary Eichelberger

## Sunday mornings in Advent

Adult classes at 10:05 a.m. on Sundays, December 12 and 19

- **Adult Bible Study** led by Paul Cizek has been journeying with the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land. Join us in December as we study Numbers 31:1-24, "Israel on the Threshold." We meet in the conference room in the lower level office suite.
- **Adult Forum:** *The Sacred Act of Icon Writing*. On Sundays, December 12 and 19, "Icon 101" will be led by guest speaker, Carole Baker, artist and icon writer. Ms. Baker will discuss the history and theory of sacred images and provide a demonstration on the practice of icon writing. For more information, visit her website (<http://www.carolebakerartist.com/posts.html>) The Adult Forum meets in the Parish Hall.
- **Special opportunity on December 19:** *A Health Insurance forum for 64+* (meeting in the Library) Jan Parry, parishioner and volunteer for the North Carolina Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIP), will be providing information about the health insurance programs offered in the state of North Carolina. SHIP is a volunteer (completely unpaid) group working under the auspices of the NC Dept. of Insurance to make sure seniors have clear, understandable, unbiased and correct information about the health insurance programs offered in the state of North Carolina. Jan will be available to answer questions about the healthcare reform act of 2010. This offering is provided during the open enrollment time for seniors with the intention of aiding them in making informed decisions.

**An Advent Quiet Day** will be take place at Holy Family on Saturday, December 4, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The morning, led by Flora Shedd and Suzette Cayless, will offer reflections on the Advent Collects, silence, and various prayer stations. The cost will be \$5. Plan now to spend quiet time with us.

**An Advent Bible Study**, "Blessings of the Manger," will be offered on Wednesdays, December 1, 8, 15, and 22, at 10:00 a.m. in the Library. The series, led by Mo. Michelle, will consider the Scripture for the Sundays of Advent.

## Greening of the church

Your help is needed to decorate the church for Christmas on **Sunday, December 19**, after the 11:05 a.m. service. Many hands make light work, so join us and enjoy the occasion.

**Christmas decorations** for the church may be given as memorials or in thanksgiving. Please return the form below to the church office (200 Hayes Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27517) along with your check.

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### *Christmas Decorations*

Name of Donor \_\_\_\_\_

Designation \_\_\_\_\_

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(In memory of . . . / In thanksgiving for . . .)

Please return this form to the church office by **Wednesday, December 22**. Checks (in any amount) should be written to the Church of the Holy Family (memo: Christmas Decorations). A list of donors and the designations of their gifts will appear in the Christmas Eve service bulletin.

## *Holiday Surprises*

A person I know very well told me of his experience between Thanksgiving and Christmas. He was frantically busy answering phone calls at work, making holiday plans for his wife and family and listening to the ever present shopping mall Christmas music in the background. On an impulse he reached for the phone and dialed his mother's number. The recorded voice said, "this number is no longer in service." My friend burst into tears as he once again realized his mother had died years before. The office door was open and a janitor who was walking by came up behind my friend and gently touched him on the shoulder to comfort him. In the midst of a joyful season came a deep remembrance of grief and the presence of the Christ in the gentle touch and presence of a caring person.

The surprises of Advent and Christmas are numerous. 'Tis the season of deep remembrances and the longing for those who are not with us, whether by death, illness, or separation. Some clinicians call these sudden grief experiences the "Anniversary Syndrome" that often arises this time of year, even years after a loss. The accompanying sadness may be a sign of deep inner longing.

Advent and Christmas are the promise of God's presence through the birth of Jesus who came into our lives to care, comfort and be with us in our life's journey.

The surprises of the season are evident when we recognize the Christ in the kindness of strangers and loved ones, in the beauty of our Eucharistic worship and the participation of the children in the Christmas pageant. The greatest surprises of all occur when we meet the risen Lord as we reach out to those who grieve, those who are poor, the friendless and the needy... "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me." Matt.25:41

—The Rev. Dr. Peter Thomas

### **Pastoral Care contact information**

Assistant to the Rector: The Rev. Michelle Robertshaw: [mrobertshaw@chfnc.net](mailto:mrobertshaw@chfnc.net)

Church office: 919-942-3108, open 9-5 Monday-Friday. After office hours, a recorded message will offer voice-mail and on-call information for Holy Family's clergy.



### **The links you need—**

- to reach the Assistant to the Rector,  
**Michelle Robertshaw:** [mrobertshaw@chfnc.net](mailto:mrobertshaw@chfnc.net)
- to reach the priest on call for emergencies, or for any other questions, phone the **church office:** 919-942-3108
- to visit **Holy Family's website:** [www.chfnc.net](http://www.chfnc.net)
- to send e-mail to the **Rector Search Committee:** [rector\\_search@chfnc.net](mailto:rector_search@chfnc.net)
- to subscribe to the **parish e-mail (chflist)** for announcements of general interest, prayer requests, reminders, and schedule changes: send an e-mail to [listmaster@chfnc.net](mailto:listmaster@chfnc.net)
- to receive **Please Note**, a digest of timely news from the Diocese of North Carolina, visit the diocesan website: [www.episcdionc.org/](http://www.episcdionc.org/) and add your name to the diocesan e-mail list.

## Alternative Christmas

On Sundays, **December 5, 12, and 19**, the Outreach Commission will continue its tradition of offering cards you can give your family and friends to let them know that you have made a charitable gift in their name. Your gift can benefit Habitat for Humanity, Interfaith Council for Social Services, or the building of a permanent school for the kids in Molas, Haiti.

We will also have *Gifts for Life* catalogs from Episcopal Relief and Development, and the much beloved hand crafted glass angel ornaments to benefit the Augustine Project. Cards and necklaces made by the young women ministered to by Catherine Piwang through ChildReach Africa will also be available. Look for the Outreach table in the narthex after the liturgies and make your Christmas giving count!

### **Church of the Good Shepherd, Protea, South Africa celebrates its re-opening**

The quaint little church nestled near the entrance to the famous Kirstenbosch Gardens in Cape Town, served until recently by The Rev. Paula McKenzie, was literally falling down. It was originally built in 1880 by the members of Protea Village with stones from a nearby river. But after 125 years without a foundation, the walls could no longer support the weight of the roof. Adding to the urgency of the problem was the fact that the dispossessed residents of Protea Village, who were forcibly removed under apartheid laws in the early 1960s, recently won a successful Land Claim and have begun to return to live on the neighboring land. Good Shepherd is a Cross of Nails Centre (learn more at <http://www.crossofnails.org/>), committed to transformation and reconciliation around the wounds of apartheid. And this special ministry is central to its mission.

Two years ago a campaign was initiated to make the necessary repairs and – with some small assistance from Holy Family through the Outreach Commission – the church has now largely been re-built and expanded and is ready to welcome the residents back to an enlarged and safe spiritual home.

On November 21 the new church was consecrated by the Bishop of Table Bay, The Rt. Rev. Garth Counsell, and a letter for congratulations from Holy Family was read. Please continue to remember the people of Good Shepherd as they now re-build their lives together.

Additional information and pictures can be found on the Outreach bulletin board.

### **A letter from Biloxi**

On December 12, the Bishop of Mississippi will consecrate a new home for the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Biloxi. Devastated twice within 36 years by hurricanes – most recently Katrina in 2005 – the Church of the Redeemer has survived in makeshift surroundings and has, despite every challenge, rebuilt on its original site.

Holy Family was one of many congregations that provided financial support early in 2006 when the situation in Mississippi appeared nearly hopeless. Back then, heartfelt thanks came to us in a handwritten note on plain paper. Last month the Outreach Commission received greetings (on letterhead) from the Senior Warden of the Church of the Redeemer. Looking forward to a November “spiritual open house,” he wrote: “This will be an opportunity to familiarize ourselves with our new building, and to quietly contemplate our blessings. We will also bring our children. . . . For many, like two of my own, it will be their first experience inside of a church building!”