

Family Affairs

June 2010

Deadline for July/August 2010 Family Affairs: June 15

from the interim rector

In his book, *The God We Never Knew*, Marcus Borg offers readers a wonderful quotation from St. Augustine. It speaks to the overwhelming presence of God in our lives, giving promise to the words Dietrich Bonhoeffer would later write: “God is the beyond in our midst.” The following is taken by Borg from Augustine’s *Confessions* (Italics added by Borg).

How late I came to love you, O Beauty so ancient and so fresh, how late I came to love you! *You were within me*, yet I had gone outside to seek you. Unlovely myself, I rushed toward all those lovely things you had made. *And always you were with me*, I was not with you. All these beauties kept me far from you – although they would not have existed at all unless *they had their being in you*. You called, you cried, you shattered my deafness. You sparkled, you blazed, you drove away my blindness. You shed your fragrance, and I drew in my breath and I pant for you. *I tasted* and now I hunger and thirst. *You touched me*, and now I burn with longing for your peace. (Borg, page 47).

In his writings on the Trinity, whose feast day we celebrate on May 30 this year, Augustine describes the Triune God as Lover, Beloved, and Love. To experience God in terms of the glorious passage from Augustine quoted above, is to truly experience God as our lover – as scandalous as that may seem to some. The passage from Augustine is nothing less than a love letter to God; written with all the mysterious intimacy we long for in our relationships with each other and with God.

Coming across Borg’s quote the other day brought to mind a story I heard years ago in a commentary on NPR. Kim Taylor was speaking about a talk she had with her young daughter, Scooter, who was apparently having a difficult time expressing her feelings. Kim told Scooter to fold her hands over her heart and say, “Scooter, I love you.” Little Scooter was skeptical at first, but Kim told her she had to practice. She was convinced only after Kim told her the following story. “When you were a baby, I used to hold you so close to me, your head resting over my heart. And I would imagine all the love in my heart pouring out into your tiny, little heart, because I loved you so much.” The next day Scooter came dancing and twirling across the school yard to her mom and cried out, “I’ve been practicing!!!”

The Christian faith journey is about practicing – it’s about practicing our love for God and for one another every day of our lives. Some days we get that whole love thing down better than others. It’s easy to fall out of love with ourselves. Someone says an ugly word to us, or a harsh criticism, and we take it to heart as if they hold the Gospel truth about us. We look at the stars and find ourselves feeling small rather than experiencing the vast grandeur of God’s creation. We use theological words like “sin” as value judgments about our worth to God, yet God’s love makes us worthy – as the prayer says, “You have made us worthy to stand before you” (BCP, p. 368). It is the practicing of our love for each other and our love for God that allows us to help support schools in places like Molas, Haiti, help rebuild the Gulf Coast following Katrina and weep for the Gulf in the midst of a massive oil spill, or build Habitat Houses in places like Chapel Hill. When we practice our love for God and for one another we find ways to teach our children and youth, organize fellowship activities, care for this wonderful campus entrusted to us by God, or pray for and visit the homebound.

Would that each of us could envisage God, holding us tightly to God’s breast, with all the love God has for us flowing into our tiny, little hearts, knowing that God loves us that much! Oh, how we could love ourselves, if we felt that love from God. And, oh, how we could love each other. Maybe, if we committed to placing our own hands over our hearts each day, and telling ourselves that we love ourselves...maybe, just maybe, we’ll fall in love with ourselves all over again, and in doing so, we’ll fall in love with God all over again as well.

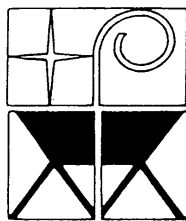
—Jim Melnyk +

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June meeting schedule

- Augustine Project Board**
No meeting in June
- Christian Education Commission**
Sunday, June 13 at 5:00 p.m. – Library
- Evangelism and Discipleship Commission**
Wednesday, June 2 at 6:30 p.m. – Library
- Fellowship Commission**
No meeting in June
- Finance Commission**
Tuesday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m. – Conf. Rm.
- Liturgy Commission**
No meeting in June
- Outreach Commission**
Wednesday, June 9 at 7:00 p.m. – Library
- Pastoral Care Commission**
Wednesday, June 2 at 5:00 p.m. – Library
- Properties Commission**
No meeting in June
- Youth Commission**
No meeting in June



Summary of Vestry minutes

AT ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING on April 20, 2010, the Vestry:

- Received full monthly financial reports for February and March, showing a net operating deficit of just under \$8000; learned that Sefton Stevens, chair of the Finance Commission, will provide periodic updates in *Family Affairs*, with reminders about the importance of keeping pledges current.
- Adopted the recommendation of the Finance Commission for distribution of surplus funds from the 2010 Parish Retreat.
- Learned that the church phone system can be modified to accommodate private voice mailboxes, and appropriated up to \$1000 from the Capital Improvement fund to proceed with this modification.
- Heard a report from the Interim Rector on pending matters, including the Liturgy Commission’s proposal to schedule Sunday worship at 7:55 and 10:00 a.m. during the summer.
- Discussed and approved a revised charge for the Master Plan Vision Implementation Committee, and appointed Dave Worster as chair of the committee.
- Heard a report from Lisa Worster, chair of the Rector Search Committee, on progress toward completion of the Parish Profile. The draft will be submitted to Canon Michael Hunn and then returned to the Vestry for final approval.
- Learned from Andrew Kinard of progress on redesigning the parish website, and of plans to move to a new hosting arrangement. Parish commissions and other ministries have been invited to submit content for the website.
- Received an update from the Outreach Commission on their current projects and expenditures.
- Heard from Adam Grobin of work toward formation of a transition team to prepare for the new rector.
- In accordance with annual diocesan requirements, signed a document acknowledging receipt of diocesan policy and procedures regarding sexual misconduct.
- Learned of arrangements for leadership of the Augustine Project during Debbie McCarthy’s sabbatical (April 19–June 2).
- Reviewed the calendar of upcoming events.

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

It's almost time and we're headed toward New Jerusalem!

Vacation Church School is June 27 – July 1

We'll gather in the Nave at **6:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 27**, to sing and celebrate the week's journey toward New Jerusalem. VCS will begin at 6:30 on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings – and you are invited to come early (5:45) each of those nights to share a simple supper as a family. We will conclude at 8:30 each night. Thursday evening will feature "Heavenly Banquets": around the altar, and in the parish hall. You are invited to bring your favorite food – the one item you'll be looking for in heaven!

All children and friends of the parish from age three to rising 6th graders are invited to participate. Registration forms are available online (www.chfnc.net/VCS), in this newsletter, and in the Nave. While registration isn't necessary, it is a wonderful help to our planning and preparation for the week! Nancy Pennington is once again designing the award-winning t-shirts for the week. We ask a \$5 donation to help defray those costs.

Please volunteer or respond as you are able to invitations to participate in this incredible event. Few parishes create a Vacation Church School like Holy Family's – it takes many hands to make light (and enjoyable) work! We'll be looking for shepherds, craft helpers, kitchen staff, cleaning crew, and many others!

We're looking forward to a wonderful week of stories, songs, crafts, games and learning!

Christian Education Commission retreat

The Christian Education Commission will spend a day in retreat on Saturday, July 10, praying, listening, envisioning, dreaming about the formation of young Christians at Church of the Holy Family. If you are interested in joining the Christian Education Commission or learning more about our work, please contact Nancy Bryan (nbryan@chfnc.net) or Janice Bainbridge.

Family play date!

All members of Holy Family, but especially our children and youth, are invited to join us for "**Holy Family Day**" at the **Museum of Life and Science in Durham on Saturday, July 17**. We'll meet at the museum at 10:00 and enjoy all it has to offer. You may bring a picnic lunch or eat at Grayson's Café, on the museum grounds. We'll conclude our time together at 3:00, but you can leave early or stay late! If you haven't been to the museum before, visit their website to learn the range of wonder it has to offer and for directions: www.ncmls.org. Cost is \$8 per person for those who are not members of the museum. Please contact Nancy Bryan (nbryan@chfnc.net) to add your name to the list!

Invitation to teach

While Sunday School has taken a break for the summer, planning and preparation has not! Are you feeling a "nudge" from the Spirit to consider being part of Christian Education at Holy Family? Our teachers work in teams of three, allowing for rotation and the necessary Sunday away. Our curriculum is wonderful and (of course!), you couldn't ask for better kids! If you're interested in learning more, contact Nancy Bryan (nbryan@chfnc.net) or Janice Bainbridge – no strings attached!

Did you know . . . ?

. . . that Bobbie was appointed deacon during Advent 1990 . .

. . . that Wayne and Mary were married during the 9 am service on Nov 12, 1995 . . .

. . . that Lift Every Voice and Sing II was put in the pews in 1996 . . .

. . . that Ann Louise was the 1st to be baptized in the new font (February 2003) - and it was not heated!

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. The Committee is moving forward with diligence so that we might post our parish profile and begin to receive names of interested candidates this summer.

The committee is now engaged in completing the Parish Profile—a document that states who we are, our vision for the next three-to-five years, and the attributes we seek in a rector. The committee considers itself most blessed to have had the services of Nancy Bryan as editor of the profile.

Although we know her as our Director of Christian Education, she has had a fruitful career as an editor, primarily of OSL Publications, and she has brought her significant skills and expertise to the development of the profile.

The final draft of the profile will be reviewed by the Diocese and then presented to our Vestry for approval. Once the text is approved, the profile will be added to Holy Family’s website, currently in process of being re-designed. The new website design will support more robust information about the parish and its ministries and will offer a more comprehensive look at who we are as a holy family. The committee is grateful to all those undertaking the re-design, as we believe the website is a significant tool in supporting the rector search and for helping potential candidates to learn more about us.

A timeline has been posted along the hallway connecting the Parish Hall and the Nave. Please add dates of significance to you and your family—baptism, confirmation, reception, burial, wedding, etc.—and photos of your favorite parish events. Families tell stories: the timeline provides us with an opportunity during this season of transition to tell our stories and it will be presented to our new rector upon his or her arrival. Imagine the fun of walking the rector from one end of our space to the other and sharing memories of our nearly 60 years together as Church of the Holy Family!

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, www.chfnc.net, and the committee may be reached at rector_search@chfnc.net.

rector search

Summer schedule has started

- * The summer schedule for Sunday morning worship (celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at 7:55 and 10:00 a.m.) started May 23, and will continue through Sunday, August 22.
- * Join us for Lemonade in the Shade after the 10:00 a.m. liturgy on Sundays all summer.

Creation

— a production of the Sr. EYC Art Group

Think about it: how would you tell the story of Creation, using paint? But first, linger in the stories of God's creative work: Genesis 1, Genesis 2, Job 38-41, Psalm 148, and Psalm 19. Learn from the painted depictions of Creation produced by the church past. Walk about the physical Creation, mindful of its Creator. What motifs and details must be included to tell the Creation story well? What details delight you, invoke awe, and teach you about God's work in Creation? These are the questions the Sr. EYC Art Group has considered over the last year. On **Sunday, June 6**, we invite you to come to the Parish Hall and see how we've used paint to tell the story of Creation.

Book Group invites you

The CHF Book Group will discuss Barbara Brown Taylor's newest work, *An Altar in the World*, on **Monday, June 28**, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the church Library. All adults are welcome to join us.

Taylor's book tackles the question of how we encounter the sacred as part of our everyday lives? Describing spiritual practices as basic as walking, carrying water, being with other people, and saying blessings, she calls conventional distinctions between the sacred and the secular into question. Delving into darker practices of getting lost, falling ill, feeling pain, and grieving loss, she challenges the notion that God does God's best work in the light. Throughout this richly personal narrative, she suggests that no physical act is too earthbound to become a path to the divine. The world is full of altars, she says, for those willing to welcome the truth that comes to them in the flesh.

Save the date!

Holy Family's next In-Home Fellowship Dinner will be on **Saturday, July 31**. Be sure to plan to attend this popular evening of small-group gatherings. You may host a dinner or attend; we guarantee good food and good company. More detailed announcements will come in early July along with opportunities to sign up and participate.

Silent retreat planned

The Contemplative Prayer Groups of Church of the Holy Family and Church of the Advocate will hold their Silent Retreat at Avila Retreat Center (in North Durham) on **August 20 to 22**. The retreat begins Friday evening and will end at noon on Sunday. This is an opportunity for silence and also for those who wish to do so to read and talk about Thomas Kelly's *A Testament of Devotion*. The Reverend Lisa Fischbeck will celebrate Eucharist in Avila's chapel on Saturday morning at 10:00. The cost for two nights and all meals is \$140. For further details and a registration form, please email charsullivan@yahoo.com or call 919-542-2521.

Young players to present concert

Please join us for an afternoon concert offered by nine students of Rebekah Carlson (eight violinists and one cellist) in preparation for their trip Italy this summer where they will perform in Florence, Lucca, Cremona, Siena and Venice. Their "farewell concert" will showcase their tour repertoire including music by Vivaldi and Corelli as well as Appalachian music. The concert will be in the Nave of Holy Family on **Sunday, June 13** at 3:00 p.m. and will feature parish members Sophie and Henry Nachman. Admission is free. Everyone is welcome to stay for a send-off reception after the concert.

Holy Family's softball team, the Tongues o' Fire, has completed spring practice and will begin playing in the Church Softball League this month. Recruits are always welcome in the cheering section! Games are announced in the Sunday bulletin each week.



HAITI SCHOLARSHIP DRIVE June 13, 20, and 27 with special guests!

Each year Holy Family raises money to help Père Noe Bernier purchase school uniforms and supplies for the fall term and to pay his teachers at L'École de Nôtre Dame in Molas throughout the year. Since our partnership began in the early 1980s, the school has grown from 50 to currently about 250 kids. Come to the table on the porch after the liturgies on **June 13, 20, and 27** to offer your support:

- \$75 buys rice and beans for all the kids in the school for one day.
- \$75 pays a teacher's salary for one month
- \$100 educates a child for an entire year (school fees, uniform, supplies).

Any amount is welcome! **Checks can be made out to Church of the Holy Family with Memo: Haiti Scholarship.**

This year we will be especially blessed by the presence of Père Noe, his wife Sherly, and their children Noely (8½ yrs), and twins Lex and Lexi (7 yrs). They will be with us for Vacation Church School, and Père Noe will preach on June 27. This will be the first trip to North Carolina for Sherly and the kids. Watch for later announcements about opportunities to offer hospitality to the Berniers.

A mission trip to Haiti

Five parishioners from Holy Family will travel to Haiti in early June. Ed Eastman, Joe Herbert, Whitman Reardon, Leslie Sharpe, and Diane Steinhaus are going on a week-long medical and construction mission trip to Cité Soleil. Along with members of First Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, they will work in a clinic operated by Pastor Leon Dorleans and will help to repair homes of his parishioners and neighbors.

Thank you to everyone who contributed supplies for the trip. Please keep the team, and the people they will encounter, and all who will work with them, in your prayers.