

The Church of the Holy Family

Family Affairs

November 2010

Deadline for December 2010 *Family Affairs*: November 15

from the interim rector

November is a month of transitions celebrated by a Holy Family in the midst of transition. The month begins with the Feast of All Saints' Day on November 1 and comes to a close only a couple of days after the First Sunday of Advent. Between those two dates we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King with all its glory and its subversion of what the world understands as kingly power. Between All Saints' Day and Advent we also celebrate Thanksgiving Day – not an ancient feast day of the church, but a day that has come to remind us of God's good gifts and a time to share with family and friends.

Our movement through time during this month is especially important to us during this season of transition. We know what hopes and dreams we bring with us to this precise time and place. We know the many losses we have experienced in our lives and the blessings that have come our way. As this particular experience of transition time moves toward its close in the coming months, we have hopefully learned with some degree of certainty that it is the presence and promise of God and God's love that binds us together as the people of God – the holy household of God – in this place we call the Church of the Holy Family.

In all likelihood, some form of the Feast of All Saints dates back to the year 270 of the Common Era and a service of remembrance of the martyrs of the church. By the early to mid ninth century Pope Gregory IV urged that an observance of All Saints take place throughout the Holy Roman Empire. What better way to observe the transitory reality of this life than to celebrate those, among both the living and the dead, who have been “knit together [as God's] elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of [God's] Son Christ our Lord” (BCP, page 245).

What better way to prepare for the coming of Holy Family's new Rector than to celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, whose kingship is not of this world, and who came among us to serve rather than to be served. What better way to prepare for the next part of this parish's journey together than to recall how Christ came among us to participate in our humanity that we might, in the goodness of God, learn to participate more fully in the dream of God made new through the inbreaking of God's reign – what we most often call the kingdom of heaven.

For all the subversive imagery of Christ the King, Thanksgiving affords us the opportunity to stop in the midst of our chaotic lives and give thanks to God for the innumerable blessings of this life. We take time to offer our thanks and praise to God “for the fruits of the earth in their season” and for those who labor in the harvest. We take time to ask that God make us “faithful stewards of [God's] great bounty...” and for “the relief of all who are in need” (BCP, page 246). And it is hopefully a time when we recognize that our understanding of what it means to be a part of the household of God – God's Holy Family – must far surpass the world's concept of what it means to be family.

Our month comes to a close as we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. As a parish in transition, how glorious it is that we can together, as the people of God gathered in this place, enter a season of expectation and anticipation! Dating back to the latter half of the sixth century, Advent was originally “kept as Lent, but with less strictness” (Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church). Initially focused solely on preparation for the Feast of the Nativity, over the years it has also come to be a season of preparation for the Second Coming of Christ. While Lent is meant to be a season of introspection – of being asked to share the sufferings of the Lord – Advent asks us to prepare our hearts in awe and quiet wonder as we await the inbreaking of God's reign, which is made known to us through the Incarnation of the Word of God.

November opens for us as a reminder that the whole of our lives are experiences of transition in the presence of God. The month ends with us entering into the first days of a season of expectation and hope – where the promise of God's coming among us far outweighs the penitential aspects of Lent, but makes us mindful of being ready for the coming of Emmanuel – God with us. Holy Family's between times are not over, but we stand on the threshold of a new beginning. Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses we look forward with anticipation as the Dream of God continues to unfold before us.

—Jim Melnyk +

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November Meeting Schedule

Augustine Project Board

Thursday, Nov. 4 at 7:00 p.m.—Library

Christian Education Commission

Sunday, Nov. 14 at 5:00 p.m.—Commons

Evangelism and Discipleship Commission

Thursday, Nov. 4 at 8:00 a.m.

Fellowship Commission

No meeting in November

Finance Commission

Monday, Nov. 8 at 7:00 p.m.—Conf. Rm.

Liturgy Commission

Wednesday, Nov. 3 at 7:00 p.m.—Library

Outreach Commission

Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 7:00 p.m.—Library

Pastoral Care Commission

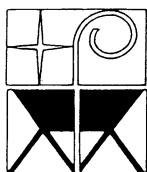
No meeting in November

Properties Commission

Monday, Nov. 8 at 5:30 p.m.—Library

Youth Commission

No meeting in November



Summary of Vestry minutes

AT ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING on September 21, 2010, the Vestry:

- Received full financial reports for July and August showing receipts below budget targets; learned from the Treasurer that this is not unusual during the summer, and that the Finance Commission continues to monitor receipts and expenses closely (see page 5).
- Heard a report from Lisa Worster, chair of the Search Committee, on the committee's progress and plans for a presentation to the Adult Forum on September 26. Lisa reported that the application period has closed, and detailed the anticipated next steps in reviewing applications and conducting interviews.
- Endorsed the Executive Committee's appointment of Alma Gaudette as Chair of the Every Member Canvass for 2011, and adopted funding priorities to be presented to the parish.
- Certified continuing and newly-elected delegates to the Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina: Verlene Kuoni, Jenni Scoggin, Sefton Stevens, Tracey Powell, and Rob Capra.
- Approved the expenditure of \$3047 to upgrade the church sound system and bring it into compliance with FCC regulations for cordless devices.
- Discussed the need to amend documents governing disbursements from the Nebel Fund.
- Heard a report on an introductory conversation with the Diocesan Youth Missioner, and agreed to delay the full program study until the spring of 2011.

Every Member Canvass for 2011

As of October 28, the Canvass Committee had received 90 pledges totaling \$284,633 for the calendar year 2011. The Canvass continues during this month, and the Vestry will begin deliberations on the 2011 budget at its November 16 meeting. Last year's annual budget was based on a pledge total of \$631,500. If you still need a pledge card, they are available from the church office (942-3108).

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

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.

At every meeting of the Rector Search Committee, a member serves as chaplain. That person has the specific responsibility to open and close us in worship and to offer prayers in the midst of discussion should the need arise. It has been a powerful experience to frame our work in worship for it takes our process from simply being a meeting to an experience of knowing and serving God as we seek to discern whom God would call to serve as rector of Church of the Holy Family.

At our most recent meeting, the chaplain offered the following prayer as we began our work:

We pray especially this evening for insight and wisdom as we move forward in this next critical phase of the discernment process for our new rector. Your Holy Spirit, O Lord, has guided us this far; we pray for the continuance of this blessing. We pray for those who are no longer part of our discernment process, and we pray especially for those who are continuing with us. May their discernment, and ours, reflect your holy guidance. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

We have indeed entered into the next stage—inviting candidates to visit with the search committee. From October 25 – November 12, the committee will host a handful of candidates (and their spouses), give them a tour of our campus, hear them preach, and share with them in a celebration of the Eucharist. We are excited! The candidates, too, have each expressed their enthusiasm for the opportunity to know Holy Family more fully and to continue with us in prayer and discernment.

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.



Holy Eucharist for the Feast of Thanksgiving

Our observance of the Thanksgiving Holy Day (*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 17) will be held on the Eve of Thanksgiving Day, **Wednesday, November 24**, at 7:00 p.m. Please pass the word to your friends and neighbors. This is a time of year when many who have not heard the Gospel might be inclined to attend worship with friends and family.

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (*BCP*, p. 246)

Mark your calendars!

Plan now to attend Nicholasfest on Friday, December 3, at 6:00 p.m.

All Saints for All Ages!

Join us in the Christian Education Commons on Sunday, November 7th at 10:05 for our annual All Saints celebration. There will be an opportunity to meet real saints (beyond all the ones you meet every Sunday here at Holy Family!), make prayer beads, and think about the ways you are a “saint of God” every day.

Please bring a food item that reminds you of one of the saints in your life: your mother’s baklava, a cousin’s special cake, your grandfather’s cheese grits. It will be one more way for us to feast with the saints on this special day!

Celebrating Advent at home

Are you looking for materials to incorporate into your family’s celebration of Advent? Check out the resource shelves for families and teachers located in the Christian Education Commons. You’re invited to sign out and borrow any of the materials located there!



Advent Workshop

The Advent Workshop will be in the Parish Hall on **Sunday, November 21**, beginning at 3:30. Activity stations will include making Advent wreaths, Jesse tree ornaments, and gift bags. We’ll also have devotional booklets for you to use with your Advent wreaths at home. Come celebrate this season of preparation! This is an event for the whole parish family – we hope you will be part of the fun!

Friendly (and shy) Beasts needed (also Angels, Shepherds . . .)

All children—infants through fifth grade—are invited to participate in the preparation for Holy Family’s Christmas pageant on **Sunday, November 21**, at 2:30 p.m. Children dressed up for various roles in the Christmas story will have their pictures taken by parish photographers. The resulting slide show becomes the gospel reading and homily for the 5:00 p.m. celebration of the Holy Eucharist on December 24th. Just think: Christmas Eve with no rehearsals and no stage fright!

At 2:30 p.m. on November 21, children should come to the Nave in costume. (Think bathrobes, dishtowels, and cardboard angel wings. Extra costumes are also available at church.) Parts are assigned by age-group, but creatures of all sorts are welcome at the manger. Principal parts are chosen from the fifth grade class, and a new baby plays Baby Jesus. Please join us even if you don’t think your child will stand with the group; our photographers have many years of experience in snapping solitary angels and wandering sheep.

Suggested costumes:

- Infant and preschool through age four: farm animals, especially sheep
- Kindergarten, first, and second grades: angels
- Second, third, and fourth grades: shepherds or townspeople
- Fifth grade: innkeepers, townspeople, shepherds, or soldiers

We also need a few younger teens who can come as shepherds and hold small sheep. For more information, contact Nancy Bryan (nbryan@chfnc.net or 942-3108) or Phyllis Murray-Graham (542-6238 or graham226@nc.rr.com).

Have your children outgrown the pageant but their costumes are still living in your closets? We’d love to have your old angel wings, sheep costumes, children’s bathrobes, etc!

Third Quarter financial review

As is usual during the summer months, pledge income and other receipts for Holy Family were less this quarter than during other times of the year. We have begun to see an increase in receipts as parishioners return for the fall, but we are still behind where we should be. In our continuing effort to be more transparent with the parish's finances, the following chart shows the pledge payments, total receipts and operating expenses of the parish through September 30, 2010:

	September 30	Annual Budget	% of Annual Budget
Pledge Payments	\$432,790	\$631,000	68.53%
Total Receipts	\$479,727	\$716,432	66.96%
Operating Expenses	\$530,880	\$716,432	74.10%

Through September 30, 2010, our expenses have exceeded our revenue by a little over \$51,000. As we move into the final months of the year, please help us to reduce this deficiency by making every effort to bring your pledges up to date.

Thank all of you for your continued support. Questions and requests for additional information on Holy Family's finances can be directed to Sefton Stevens, Finance Commission chair, at 929-8155 and sefton.stevens@ustrust.com.

Bakers to the rescue!

Just in time to save you from hours of preparation for your holiday guests, the high school Sunday School class and youth Journey in Faith group will offer their annual pre-Thanksgiving Baked Goods Table. Watch for it on **Sunday, November 21**, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the sidewalk in front of the Nave. Proceeds from this event will benefit three projects for children in need: the Haiti Scholarship fund, the Augustine Project, and Christmas presents for two Orange County teens in foster care. We need people to bake cupcakes, cookies, pies, brownies, cakes and whatever baked good is your specialty. Then stop at the table and take home something special.



The links you need—

- to reach the Interim Rector,
Jim Melnyk: jmelnyk@chfnc.net
- to reach the Assistant to the Rector,
Michelle Robertshaw: 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
- to send e-mail to the **Rector Search Committee:** 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
- to receive **Please Note**, a digest of timely news from the Diocese of North Carolina, visit the diocesan website: www.episcdionc.org/ and add your name to the diocesan e-mail list.

Just \$25 buys a holiday meal for an entire family.
You can help Inter-Faith Council reach out to our neighbors.
Look for the sharing coupons at church during November.

RSVVP — Tuesday, November 9

RSVVP stands for “Restaurants Sharing 10 Percent.” On **Tuesday, November 9**, participating restaurants will contribute 10% of their total proceeds from that day to benefit the Inter-Faith Council and other local hunger efforts. Now you have an excuse to go out to eat—breakfast, lunch, dinner, or all three! Visit an old favorite or give a new restaurant a try. A complete list of participating restaurants is on the IFC website (www.ifcweb.org/rsvvp2010.html).

outreach notes

A message of thanks from Nepal

Early in October, the Outreach Commission heard from Gyani Thapa, who sends warm greetings and thanks for Holy Family’s recent gift of \$1000 for her congregation in Nepal. Since 2005, our parish has supported the Kirtipur Christian Fellowship (KCF), a ministry in the Katmandu Valley led by Gyani and her husband, Madhu Ruchel. Besides holding church services, Madhu and Gyani offer programs for women and children, provide meals and home assistance for the elderly, and organize outings for the congregation.

KCF carries on despite various distractions: an unstable political situation; Gyani’s travels in and out of the valley to receive additional training in women’s and children’s programs, and to conduct trainings herself; and planning for the ministry’s 10th anniversary celebration, which had to be postponed from its intended date last April. Gyani says that a simple celebration is now planned for Friday, November 26, and she asks us to pray for these needs:

1. Pray for the stability of the Nepal government.
2. Pray for KCF 10th Anniversary Program. We have already started some program. (Thanksgiving, Children’s program, Upcoming Events Outreach program, Women’s program, Worship and Revival program, Healing program and Final program to be held).
3. Pray for financial support to fulfill all the needs to celebrate for the program
4. Pray for the administration and logistic support that we can be able to celebrate this program successfully.
5. Pray for the church office equipment and transportation (e.g. Laptop, multi-media projector to do presentation during the program and one motor-bike to run errand church work).
6. Pray for church land.

Here are Gyani’s words to the Outreach Commission and the people of Holy Family:

Thank you for your support and prayer which it has been a great help for us and helped us in our hard times. Bless to you and to HFC. Thank you again.