

# Family Affairs

October 2010

Deadline for November 2010 *Family Affairs*: October 15

from the interim rector

**I have come to understand being part of a faith community such as the Church to be an exercise in vulnerability.** As we say in our Eucharistic prayers, “And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies” (*BCP*, p. 342), or, “Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice (that is, unite us to Jesus in his death), that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified (made holy – set apart from the world) by the Holy Spirit” (*BCP*, p. 369).

If we choose to live our lives in the words of our sacramental theology, it means letting go of our own agendas for life and turning them over to the One Who Gives Us Life. That’s choosing to be vulnerable, my friends: recognizing the things we value most all belong to God, and that we are but stewards of God’s deepest blessings. Our jobs, our homes, our families, Holy Family, even our very lives? All belong to God. It is an exercise in vulnerability to live the life of faith.

**I suspect that most of us do not like feeling vulnerable,** and there are several ways we can react when we are feeling vulnerable. We can get feisty – or angry – or overly possessive when we don’t seem to have a handle on things, holding tightly to what we have or know because we are anxious or uncomfortable with the unknown. Or we can feel humble, recognizing our openness in the midst of ambiguity or in the whirlwinds of life.

This time of year can be an especially vulnerable time for us in the Church. The “S” word comes up this time of year. **Stewardship is a conscious act of vulnerability on our part.** We are asked to place some sense of value on things that may not always be as tangible a reality for us as we would like them to be. We may not happen to be feeling God’s presence in our lives right now, but we are asked to respond to that presence none-the-less. One’s employment outlook may be shaky at the moment (in this economy that may be a reality for all too many of us), and yet we are still asked to give out of our abundance. We are asked to take our hard-earned money, our time, and our gifts, and turn them over for God to use through the Church: the Vestry making financial decisions for us, and Commission Chairs calling us to ministries we haven’t ever considered in the past. Stewardship is an act of vulnerability. We turn over to God, through others, a part of who we are and then trust them with our gifts.

And this fall, in particular, we are being asked to enter into an act of vulnerability as the Search Committee and the Vestry use the input received from the parish and seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance in calling a new Rector. As a parish we have done what we can do. **It takes an act of vulnerability to trust those charged with seeking a new Rector.** As a parish we can choose to be feisty, or anxious, or stand-offish (“I’ll just stand on the periphery or hold onto my pledge until I see who is called”) or we can be open-handed, humble, and trusting the wisdom of our peers and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Those candidates who are discerning a potential call to Holy Family as your new rector have no choice but to feel vulnerable. The search process makes it impossible to be anything otherwise. Candidates react to that by being humble and open, or by being less than genuine. **Search Committees (ours and everyone else’s) need to be vulnerable;** but they have the power in this process, and it’s a struggle for groups to let go of a “business” mode in carrying out their charge and instead, be open and vulnerable in the process. Continue to pray for the Holy Family Search Committee.

On my first Sunday at Holy Family, I preached about Jacob wrestling with God by the river Jabbok while waiting for his brother Esau to appear. Jacob had sent his family and his possessions across the river to keep them safe. I asked, “What are we tempted to send across the river to keep safe? What is God calling us to wrestle with during this interim time?” What I was asking, it seems, is this: “How vulnerable are we willing to allow ourselves to be during this time? How much will we trust the process, those involved, and in the end, God’s Holy Spirit working among us?” **Our openness to our own vulnerability and God’s Spirit working among us will be our greatest gift** – not only to ourselves, but to the new Rector of Holy Family and to the loving, caring God who calls us to ministry in this time and place. —*Jim Melnyk* +

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## October Meeting Schedule

### Augustine Project Board

*No meeting in October*

### Christian Education Commission

*Sunday, Oct. 10 at 5:00 p.m.—Commons*

### Evangelism and Discipleship Commission

*Thursday, Oct. 7 at 8:00 a.m.*

### Fellowship Commission

*No meeting in October*

### Finance Commission

*Tuesday, Oct. 12 at 7:00 p.m.—Conf. Rm.*

### Liturgy Commission

*Thursday, Oct. 28 at 7:00 p.m.—Commons*

### Outreach Commission

*Wednesday, Oct. 6 at 7:00 p.m.—Library*

### Pastoral Care Commission

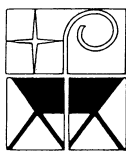
*No meeting in October*

### Properties Commission

*No meeting in October*

### Youth Commission

*Sunday, Oct. 10 at 12:15 p.m.—House*



## Summary of Vestry minutes

AT ITS REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING on August 17, 2010, the Vestry:

- Received the Treasurer's report for June, showing receipts at about \$6000 below target for the year to date. Expenditures were also lower than budget predictions for the first half of the year.
- Approved unanimously the Executive Committee's decision to purchase a laptop computer for use by the Youth Minister.
- Discussed and approved the charge of the Transition Committee which will work with the incoming new rector, the outgoing interim rector, and the Fellowship Commission to plan events and provide resources for a successful transition.
- Approved a charge to the newly formed Technology and Communications Committee, and appointed Jason and Jenni Scoggin as co-chairs of the committee.
- Accepted the Diocesan Assessment for Theological Education and approved sending the full amount of \$6930 to the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest to support James Franklin, seminarian from Holy Family.
- Learned of progress in repurposing Christian Education space.
- Received a written report from Lisa Worster, chair of the Rector Search Committee indicating satisfactory progress to date; agreed to a called meeting of the Vestry in order to consider whether there are any qualities, characteristics, or issues which would be impediments to calling a particular candidate.

## From the Chair of the Finance Commission

Over the last few months, our parish's expenses have exceeded the contributions received. If, upon examining your September pledge statement, you find that your household has fallen behind in your giving over the summer, please help us out by catching up as soon as you can. If the Lord has blessed you monetarily this year above what you expected, please consider your church family in your giving. As always, if circumstances have changed in your life and you need to adjust your pledge either up or down please let our Treasurer, Richard Fair, know. Your communication with him, as always, is confidential.

—Sefton Stevens

## 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 Committee

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.

Our search was open for eleven weeks, the end of June through early September, with the bulk of applications received by the end of August. The committee read through, prayed over, and discussed each applicant and, based on the yearnings expressed in our profile, narrowed the list down to those with whom we wanted to speak personally. As you read this, the committee has completed its phone interviews and is now entering into the next stage of discernment—deciding whom we want to meet personally.

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).

## Every Member Canvass for 2011 begins

Every friend and member of the parish is encouraged to tithe from their treasure and give of their time and talent for the building up of the Kingdom at the Church of the Holy Family. This year's Every Member Canvass Chair is Alma Gaudette

In this newsletter and in each Sunday bulletin this month you will find a **pledge card** and a **time and talent checklist**. Please take a moment to pray with members of your household about your giving for 2011. Listen for God's challenge. Then make your pledges of time, talent, and treasure deliberately, and return the card and checklist to the parish office at your earliest convenience.

### Vestry endorses tithe

Your Vestry has unanimously passed the following resolution stating its commitment to the sacrificial tithe:

RESOLVED, that the 2010-2011 Vestry of the Church of the Holy Family affirms the tithe as the minimum standard of giving for Episcopalians; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we the members of this Vestry do hereby affirm through our signatures that we are tithing or that we have adopted, or will adopt, a plan working toward the tithe during this season.

*It's fall! Have you had time to take a breath yet, as the academic year – and the sports, lessons, car-pooling, homework – has gotten underway? Take a look at the various classes available at Holy Family as an opportunity to “be still and know that I am God.”*

### **Sunday School year begins**

Christian Education for children and youth has gotten off to a good start, though not without its challenges. Additional teachers, classroom helpers and others willing to volunteer their gifts and time are still needed. If this ministry is calling you, please contact Nancy Bryan (nbryan@chfnc.net or 942-3108) to talk about how you might be involved.



### **Fifth Sunday Service Project**

On Sunday, October 31, children and youth will gather during the Christian Education hour to work on a service project. This event will take the place of regular classes on this—and every—Fifth Sunday (they fall once a quarter).

This month, our Fifth Sunday project is to put together goody bags for the children of families served by the Interfaith Council. We'll be decorating bags, filling them with healthy snacks, toothbrushes and toothpaste and other treats. The bags will be delivered the following day to IFC.

You can participate (even if you don't have young children at home!) by bringing individually-wrapped healthy snacks such as applesauce, pudding, graham crackers, pretzels, etc., or children's toothbrushes and travel-sized toothpaste or stickers, small packs of crayons or other child-safe treats. A box for your donations is in the hallway by the Director of Christian Education's office (Room 205).

### **Looking ahead**

We'll celebrate **All Saints** with an intergenerational event on **Sunday, November 7**. Come listen to stories told by actual saints, discover the symbols of your own saintliness and share the food that saints have fed us over the years! This is an event for all members of the Family – plan to be with us!

The **Christmas Eve photo shoot** and our annual Advent Workshop are scheduled for the afternoon of **Sunday, November 28**. Look for details in next month's *Family Affairs*.

### **Amazing but true!**

Advent and Christmas are just around the corner! Are you looking for intentional, faith-filled ways to celebrate the seasons? The bookshelves in Room 206 offer lots of resources for a simplified, peaceful, and less-stressed December. You're welcome to borrow any of the resources on the shelves – just please return them for someone else to use!

## Adult Classes in October

**You are always welcome** to attend one of our Adult Classes on **Sundays from 10:10 to 10:55**. Note that on the first Sunday of each month, adults are encouraged to join the Fellowship Hour at 10:10 a.m. in the Parish Hall, so classes are usually not planned for those dates.

### **Adult Forum:** *Introducing the Gospel of Matthew*

Location: Parish Hall

Leader: The Rev. Jim Melnyk, Interim Rector

**October 10** – Do not be anxious: Lilies, birds, and bucks

**October 17** – Jesus spoke to them in parables: Treasures, trophies, and the kingdom of God

**October 24** – Matthew: The Book of Mercy

**October 31** – Matthew Continued: The New Moses, the Son of God, or just plain Tricks and Treats?

### **Small Group:** *Approaches to Contemplative Prayer*

Location: Library

Leaders: Suzette Cayless and Flora Shedd

**October 10** – Centering Prayer: a method of finding God in us

**October 17** – Insights from Christian Mystics

**October 24** – A Pattern for Living: the value of a Rule of Life

**October 31** – Praying Day by Day: life experiences as our teachers

### **Adult Bible Study:** *Journeying with the Israelites*

Location: Conference Room (downstairs at the back of the church office suite)

Leader: Paul Cizek

**October 10, 17, 24, and 31:** Numbers 1-2, 10-25 – Prepared for war, the Israelites learn that their greatest enemy may be themselves. Battles, complaints, curses, talking donkeys, and more!

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## The new shape of Children's Liturgy

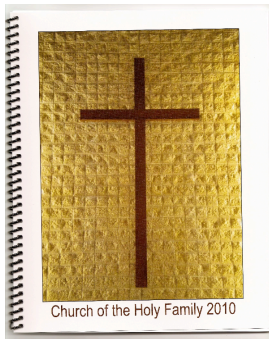
As you probably know, Church of the Holy Family offers a Children's Liturgy twice a month. What you might not know is what this ministry looks like. If you were at the 8:55 service on September 19th, you might have noticed that Children's Liturgy has made some big changes for this year! For those of you who missed it, here's how Children's Liturgy has "grown up" to better serve the parish's kindergarteners through fifth graders.

The purpose of Children's Liturgy is to give elementary school-aged children the chance to hear the Word of God in a way they can more fully understand and appreciate while still participating in all other aspects of the service:

- Children begin with their families in the Nave so they can sing the opening hymn and the *Gloria* as well as recite the Decalogue and confession of sin.
- After the Collect of the Day, the children process to the library, following a handmade cross, while the congregation sings "Go now in peace"—a canon children learned at this year's Vacation Church School.
- In the Library, they receive an age-appropriate Liturgy of the Word, complete with a scripture reading from the day's Propers, a sermon, and simpler versions of the Creed and Prayers of the People. They also sing familiar and new songs.
- They return to the Nave at the Peace—or earlier if there is a baptism—so that they can fully participate in Holy Communion.

The response from participating families has been quite positive. Several parents say their children look forward to Children's Liturgy Sundays. The kids sit and *really* listen, asking questions that show they are truly absorbing what they are hearing.

Children's Liturgy is held at the 8:55 service on the first and third Sundays of the month. All grade-school children are welcome.



**Pictorial directories are here . . .**

. . .and they are beautiful! Look for them in Narthex on Sundays, or in the church office on weekdays. If your household posed for a portrait or submitted a photo, you should find a copy of the directory with your name on it. Otherwise, take one of the extra copies that will be available after October 10. Many thanks to Debbie Dodds for the creativity and hard work that went into this directory.

**In-Home Fellowship Dinners**

A popular Holy Family event comes around again on **Saturday, October 23**. You may sign up (as host or attendee) on Sundays this month, or watch for an e-mail opportunity to register. Hosts provide the venue and set the menu; attendees bring a large dish to share, and come ready to meet a small group of those interesting people whose faces fill our directory! Dinner groups will be planned to form new acquaintances, and will accommodate various ages of children (or not) and pet allergies. Questions? Contact Marcia Tuttle (929-3513 or mtuttle2@nc.rr.com).

**Journey in Faith for adults begins in October**

Journey in Faith is a course for those seeking Baptism, Confirmation, Reaffirmation, or simply a better understanding of what it means to be an Episcopalian and how we live that out as a community of faith here at Holy Family. If you are considering one of these paths, or would just like to be a part of a group on a journey together, consider Journey in Faith.

Classes for adults meet on Sunday afternoons (4:00 to 6:00 p.m.) from October through April, with a long break from mid-November through early January. Each weekly session includes prayer, hands-on experience with the various liturgies (services) in the prayerbook, a series of talks on Christian themes, and an opportunity for fellowship and reflection in small groups. Presenters include clergy and a varied group of church leaders. Child care is provided for all sessions.

For more information, contact the Journey in Faith coordinator, JR Rigby (jr.rigby@gmail.com) or Mo. Michelle in the church office (919) 942-3108 or mrobertshaw@chfnc.net).

**2010 Softball season is in the books**

Holy Family’s team ended the Church Softball Leagues season with an overall record of 9-5. Seeded third in the league’s September tournament, the Tongues O’ Fire advanced to the semifinals, then lost a close game to the eventual champions, undefeated Christ United Methodist. For a good summer and a fine contribution to fellowship, thanks all around: to our players and fans, to Jim Ray for coaching the team, and to Michael Cornett for again serving as league commissioner.

parish notes

ushers wanted	musicians wanted
<p><b>IMMEDIATE JOB OPENINGS</b>                      For the <b>7:55</b> Sunday service, we have two immediate openings for ushers. You will receive free training, free coffee after each shift and will serve with the grateful thanks of your fellow early risers. All interested should contact Phil Post (ppost@ppaengineering.com).</p>	<p><b>FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE GUARANTEED</b>                      Singers and instrumentalists: Whether or not you can commit to every rehearsal or Sunday, we can use you! Music teams alternate weeks at 8:55, and the Adult Choir sings every Sunday at 11:05. For more information, contact Boyd Gibson, Music Director (boyd.gibson@dpsnc.net).</p>



Everyone is invited to participate in this year's **Operation Christmas Child**. Through simple, gift-filled shoe boxes and evangelistic materials that tell the Good News of God's love, Samaritan's Purse has been bringing joy and hope to millions of children in desperate situations worldwide since 1993. Packed boxes will be gathered in the downstairs lobby at Holy Family (near the church office) between **November 14 and 21**. Instructional brochures are available on tables in both lobbies, or you can find all the info you need online ([www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)). Remember to **give \$7** or more per box to cover shipping and other project costs. Contact Cathy Leslie ([cathyleslie1@nc.rr.com](mailto:cathyleslie1@nc.rr.com) or 967.8020) for more information.

reaching out to others

### Augustine Project News: Did you know...

- ▲ As the new school year begins, Augustine tutors are also back in the classroom. They are busy planning lessons and tutoring at-risk children twice each week in more than 100 schools and after school programs around the Triangle. Two new tutors joining this army of dedicated, professionally trained volunteers are Holy Family parishioners Bridget Burlless and Nixie Miller who completed their training in July.
- ▲ The October training in Durham is fully subscribed with a waiting list. On the roster is Molly McDonough whose mom started the project 16 years ago.
- ▲ A faithful group of food providers offer delicious, nutritious lunches to Augustine trainees year after year. When you see Deb and Neil Newcomb, Clare Fair, Nancy Pekar, Jill Paul or Hager Rand, please thank them for their contribution to this ministry.
- ▲ Successful trainings also depend on the team of parishioners who teach the curriculum and supervise the practicum groups: the team currently includes Barb Teagarden, Sheryl Forbis, Paula Giles, Debbie McCarthy, Linda McDonough, Emy Scoville, and Carol Uphoff.
- ▲ Thanks be to God, the Outreach Committee of Holy Family has supported the Augustine Project financially every year since its inception. This year, less than 8% of the project's budget came from Holy Family Outreach funds. The remaining 92% comes from a broad base of support including: contributions from the Diocese of NC; grants from foundations and family funds; special events like the Great Human Race, Christmas angels and Mother's Day cards; fees for trainings and gifts from **many** generous individual donors.
- ▲ A new chapter of the Augustine Project was launched in Asheville in July. It is affiliated with the Literacy Council of Buncombe County and joins replications in Winston-Salem, Charlotte, Hickory, Fayetteville, Upstate SC and Houston TX. New chapters are anticipated next year in Sanford and Wilson.
- ▲ If you would like to teach a disadvantaged child or teen to read, write and spell, please mark your calendar for Friday, Oct. 22 from 11:45 to 12:45. Come celebrate with us at Watts St. Church (800 Watts St. Durham 27701) for Closing Exercises. You'll enjoy a recognition ceremony for the newly trained tutors, watch a short demonstration lesson involving all of the practicum children and share a festive pizza lunch. It's both fun and enlightening. You will see the project's slogan embodied in the smiles and tears of the participants: "Tutor one child. ~ Change two lives."
- ▲ For more information about the Augustine Project, contact Debbie McCarthy (919-408-0798 or [augustine@chfnc.net](mailto:augustine@chfnc.net)) or visit [www.augustineproject.org](http://www.augustineproject.org)

#### A vital resource

As a cancer survivor, I have personally benefited from the services of **Cornucopia Cancer Support Center** and have also served as a volunteer. Cornucopia offers support groups and education programs such as nutrition and stress management, yoga (4 times a week, drop-ins welcome) and other support such as therapeutic massage by appointment. All services are provided at no charge to the participant! I pray that members of Holy Family touched by cancer as patient, caregiver, friend, or family will make use of this important resource in our community. Cornucopia is in a new location: 5517 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd., ste. 1000. Their website is [www.cancersupport4u.org](http://www.cancersupport4u.org) and phone is 919-401-9333.

—Ruth K. Graff, Parishioner