

JANUARY 2010

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

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From the Rector

by The Rev. David Umphlett

In the bleak midwinter

The backyard of our new home is a veritable Eden. We have fig trees, apple trees, a pear tree, blueberry bushes, two kinds of grapes, a place for a vegetable garden, and a variety of flowers that will delight us almost year round. The previous owners are certainly master gardeners and we are thankful to have the opportunity to enjoy their handiwork.



When we moved to High Point in late October, we were thrilled to watch as the magnificent garden, filled with red, yellow, and gold leaves, shed those glittering petals a few at a time. This glorious show lasted until the big winds of a few weeks ago. Now our trees are stark and bare. The grape vines are naked against the winter wind. The hydrangeas, which had bloomed until the first freeze, are now brown and brittle.

As I walk through our garden, I am struck by the stillness of it all. A breeze, that once would have stirred a yard full of rustling, now passes through quietly, making only a whistle as it moves through the empty branches.

This stillness is both comforting and alarming at the same time. It is like the eye of a hurricane: there is peace for the moment, yet we know that there is a fierceness still to come through which we must pass in order to find true rest from the winds.

The trees that now are so stark and still are simply waiting and resting. Each year we repeat this cycle of stillness before the explosion of new life in Spring. It is as if creation already knew, long before Christ's birth, what salvation would look like, and contains within its ordering the divine plan of redemption.

Continued on page 2.....

Where faith embraces reason and tradition

St. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

From the Rector

From the Rector.....continued from page 1

Christopher Hill writes in his book *Holidays and Holy Nights*, that at this time of year, “Time narrows down until it comes to its turning point, as all creation holds its breath in the silent night and waits for the entry of something new and unimaginable.”

So every year, in the bleak midwinter, we gather around trees lit up with lights and covered in ornaments. Yet outside we walk through trees that have neither leaves nor lights. They are waiting and their waiting points us backward to the glory of Spring that was, and in this vision of the past, we are assured that it will be again.

We who await the Christ child look forward to his coming again, all the while remembering his first coming in the grotto at Bethlehem. Then the season of Epiphany, which follows Christmas, allows us to remember various ways in which Christ’s identity was made known to those around him, thus letting them in on how truly new and unimaginable God’s plan actually is.

Enjoy the bleakness and stillness of this winter and stand firm in the winds that blow cold and blusteringly. Remember that on those winds rides the Spirit, doing something new and unimaginable even now. In the starkness, watch for it. In the stillness, listen for it.

Hill, Christopher. *Holidays and Holy Nights: Celebrating Twelve Seasonal Festivals of the Christian Year*. (Wheaton, Illinois: Quest Books, 2003), 31.

New Signs

Following the Magnetic Church seminar earlier this year, a group of parishioners evaluated the existent signs throughout the church campus to determine how visitor friendly they were or were not. Their work yielded a new scheme for labeling all of our communal spaces.

The Vestry approved the expenditure and a committee, including the Junior Warden and a liaison from the New Building Design Committee, worked with a sign company to create the new signs you will see around St. Mary’s. They meet all Americans with Disabilities Act specifications and are color-coded. Each building uses a different color to aid visitors in identifying the various buildings and purposes. This will be especially helpful when the new building is completed and our campus will include four buildings and several outdoor spaces. Eventually a new sign will be added on Farriss Ave. with a map of the campus with colors matching the system now in place.

Thank you to all those who have worked diligently to make St. Mary’s more accessible to the community.

LOOKING AHEAD

Epiphany Evensong & Twelfth Night Bash

The feast of the Epiphany predates the official celebration of Christmas by at least one hundred years. Epiphany, in the West, is the day on which we commemorate the arrival of the Magi at the manger in Bethlehem. In the East, it is the feast of the Baptism of our Lord. Throughout the Epiphany season, we will hear lessons that further elaborate on the ways in which Christ's identity was made known in the world.

On January 6th, we'll gather in the church for Evensong (sung Evening Prayer) at 6:30 p.m. Immediately following the brief liturgy, we'll move to the Parish Hall for a Twelfth Night covered-dish supper. In earlier times, the entire Christmas season (all twelve days) were filled with reveling, culminating on the twelfth, or final night. Although Twelfth Night is actually January 5th, we'll combine it with our observance of the Epiphany.

Bring a dish to share and join in the fun. We'll have King Cakes shipped in from Louisiana so we can crown our own Kings and Queens for the evening. Varied entertainment is being planned. If you'd like to share a talent with the group, please call the Rector to sign up. All ages are welcome at this intergenerational event.

Young Adults

A new group is forming at St. Mary's for young adults, both married and unmarried, with children and without. All people 21-35 are invited to the Rector's home on Wednesday, January 27 at 6:00 p.m. for dinner. We'll organize ourselves and see what we're interested in doing as group. David wants to hear what St. Mary's can do to help young folks get further engaged in the life of the church, so come with ideas! Nursery will be provided at the church. The Umphletts only live a block away.

January 1

Happy New Year!
Church office closed

January 6

Epiphany Evensong 6:30 p.m.
Twelfth Night Covered Dish Supper
7:15 p.m.

January 10

Informal Worship Service, 9:00 a.m.
Christian Education Resumes, 10:00 a.m.

January 11

Staff Meeting 10:00 a.m.

January 18

Herald Deadline

January 22 - 23

Diocesan Convention

January 25

Staff Meeting 10:00 a.m.

January 29 - 30

Vestry Retreat

Christian Education

Lectionary Class

Dates: Jan 10 - May 30

Facilitator: Ed Crissman

Location: Rm. 115 Ed. Bldg.

This class discusses the lessons for each Sunday. Usually we focus on the Gospel lesson, since most of our sermons are based on the Gospel. Each Sunday you will receive a copy of the Synthesis, a lectionary guide, which gives background and additional information about the events going on in the lessons. A discussion then takes place inspired by the lessons and application to our daily lives.

The Bible and Theology

Dates: Jan 10 - May 30

Facilitators: David Idol and Craig Popalis

Location: Common Room

This group will continue their exploration of two facets of our faith: Soteriology (how we are saved), and Authority. Join this thought provoking and free thinking group of parishioners as they delve into matters of our deep faith.

Creation and Science: An Episcopal Understanding

Dates: Jan. 10 - Feb. 28

Facilitators: Dorothy Darr, Kitty Montgomery

Location: Parish Hall

St. Mary's Environmental Stewardship Committee will be hosting a series of adult education classes in 2010. The first of which is titled CREATION AND SCIENCE: AN EPISCOPAL UNDERSTANDING.

This class will cover the *Theology of Creation*, *Creation and Science*, and *Caring for Creation*, this 8-week adult Christian education course was prepared for study in congregations by the Committee on Science, Technology and Faith of the Episcopal Church of the United States. Facilitators are Kitty Montgomery and Dorothy Darr. Please join us Sundays, January 10-February 28 at 10 a.m., in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Youth

Classes resume January 10 at 10:00 a.m.

Grades	Curriculum	Room
K - 1st	Godly Play I	215
2nd - 5th	Godly Play II	217
6th - 8th	Making It Real	Youth House
9th - 12th	Making It Real	Youth House

We Welcome New Members

St. Mary's welcomes the following individuals to our church family:

Geordie Buxton (by transfer)

Lorinda Umphlett (by transfer)

James Umphlett (by transfer)

Margaret Manning Conaway (by baptism)

Paula Walker (by transfer)

Music Academy News

St. Mary's Music Academy has been awarded a grant from the HP Arts Council for \$1,000.00. The project is entitled "Music Scholarships for Talented Youth" and is a matching grant. The grant is funded through the Grassroots program of the NC Legislature, the NC Arts Council, Guilford County, City of High Point, and the High Point Area Arts Council. A portion of the money will be used to assist talented students whose parents may have lost their employment. This grant will enable the Academy to expand their outreach ministry in High Point. Anyone who would like to help a talented young person study music may donate to the ABC Fund set up by St. Mary's.

St. Mary's Youth Choir Activities

The Young Adult Choir sang Advent and Christmas selections as part of the Y's Holiday Home Tour on December 4. Their performance took place in the home of Ann Lynch at 1313 Overland Drive.



On Tuesday, December 8, the Young Adult Choir sang for the High Point Christian Women's Club at the HP Country Club. They provided seasonal music for their Christmas banquet. Lauren Howard, violin student at the Academy, played several selections on her violin as part of the program.

The choir also visited High Point Christian Home, and sang for the residents there on December 14. One of the choir members provided candy canes for the audience as a special treat.

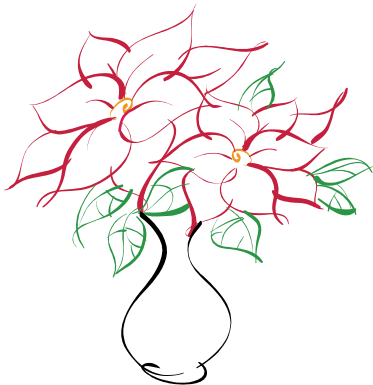
The Youth Choir traveled to Pennybryn and presented a program of music for their residents on December 14. The children, accompanied by Thelma Sasser, encouraged the audience to "sing-a-long" with their Christmas carols.

Table Fellowships

We have many St. Mary's folks who will be enjoying each other's company when Table Fellowships begin in January, and we hope that you will consider joining us. Table Fellowships is a social time with members of our church who want to get to know their fellow worshippers. Groups meet for dinner once a month, hosted in turn by group members. The host plans a menu and usually provides the main dish. Others in the group bring the side dishes, bread, drinks, and dessert. Dinner is served informally, often buffet-style, on paper plates to keep the meal easy and relaxed. The only requirement for membership is a commitment to your group. It is not necessary to be able to host, and groups will work around individual schedules and needs.

Please join the fun by contacting Joyce Manning at 510-9820 or manningj@gcsnc.com.

Altar Flowers



The 2010 calendar for dedications of the main altar flowers is now available. It's time for you to make plans for the dedication of the altar flowers to someone whose gifts have been given to you or whose memory you wish to recognize.

There will be no flowers on the altar during Lent (Feb. 21-March 28). If you wish to mark a date that happens to fall within Lent, you are invited instead to add your memorial to Easter Day. Easter is THE feast of feasts and a wonderful day to remember our loved ones. Arrangements can be added in many locations throughout the church, if there are those who wish to give them. The more flowers on Easter, the more magnificent!

Most of the work is handled by the Flower Guild. We will prepare the flowers, enter your desired dedication in the Sunday bulletin and bill you \$60.00 to cover the cost of the flowers (or you may order from the florist of your choice and there will be no fee). After the Sunday services, you may take the flowers from the altar and pass them along to whomever you wish.

Please take a little time soon to call and make your choice of dates known to Kay Brower or Judy Straight, 664-9728. All you need to do is call to select a Sunday date you would like to reserve for your dedications. Then all of the other arrangements will be made for you.

Christmas Offering

Loose offerings received during Christmas worship services will go to support the Community Clinic of High Point, providing free medical care and partially subsidized prescriptions for adults (age 18-64) who do not qualify for Medicaid or Medicare.

Charity Knitting Group

Do you knit or crochet? Let's make blankets one square at a time!



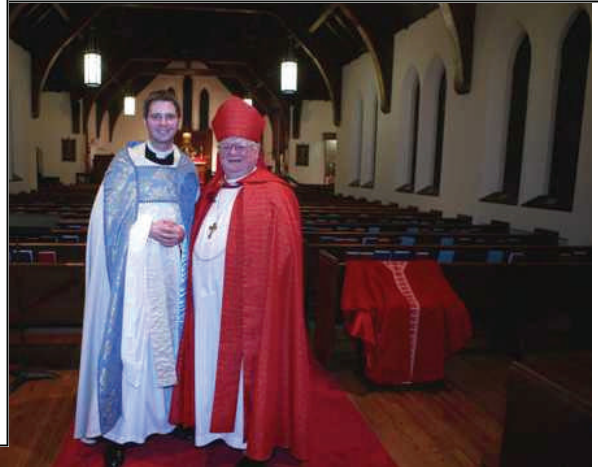
I would like to invite you to join me in the Common Room the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. beginning January 13th. We will be knitting or crocheting 12" x 12" squares. Once the squares are completed, they will be sewn together to make blankets. We will then donate the blankets to the Hospice House in High Point. I have templates available, so you know the size of the square. I am looking forward to lots of fellowship and some knitting or crocheting! Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sandra Vernon email - sandra.vernon@philips.com or home - 883-7228

If you have had a change of address, phone number and/or e-mail address, please notify the office so we can insure that you receive all publications. Thank you!

Celebration of New Ministry in Pictures

The Rt. Rev'd Alfred "Chip" Marble, presiding; The Rev'd J. Barney Hawkins, PhD, preaching; The Rev'd David Umphlett, assisting



Youth Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Youth Pilgrimage to the Holy Land
(July 24-August 7, 2010)



Kanuga Conferences is partnering with Province IV of The Episcopal Church and St. George's College in Jerusalem to host a Youth Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Participants will be joined by George Carey, Lord Carey of Clifton and archbishop of Canterbury from 1991-2002, Lady Eileen Cary and the Rev'd Canon John Peterson, Washington National Cathedral's first Canon for Global Justice and Reconciliation. Our rector, the Rev'd David Umphlett, will serve as the chaplain for the trip and Beth Crow, youth missionary for the Diocese of North Carolina, will be a chaperone.

Visit the City of David, walk through King Hezekiah's Tunnel, see the Dead Sea Scrolls, go to the traditional site of the Nativity, ride a boat on the Sea of Galilee, float in the Dead Sea and pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. The Trip includes a meeting at the Peace Center with Palestinian youth from Bethlehem and an evening of Palestinian folk dancing. The Scripture will come alive as you visit the Jordan River, Nazareth, Masada, Qumran, Bethany, the Mount of Olives, Emmaus and much more!

Applications must be received by Feb. 15. More information is available from the rector and on the Kanuga website (www.kanuga.org).

When the New Year Begins

In 46 B.C., Roman emperor Julius Caesar first chose January 1 as the date of the new year. Six hundred years later, the Roman church proclaimed that the new year would henceforth be March 25, the date of the Feast of the Annunciation (when the angel spoke to Mary). March 25 was the accepted New Year's Day for almost 1,000 years. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII moved it back to January 1.

Olive Branch



The Olive Branch is a symbol of peace, harmony and healing. Olive trees provide shelter, as well as oil used for ointment and consecration. The Olive Branch also represents deliverance from hardships and anxiety because a

dove brought an olive leaf back to Noah's ark after the flood ended (Genesis 8:11).



The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ

The word epiphany comes from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, which means a sudden appearance or manifestation. The Feast of the Epiphany is observed annually on January 6. On the Epiphany, we commemorate the arrival of the wise men in Bethlehem. In Matthew's account of the gospel, the magi were the first Gentiles to see the manifestation of God's appearance in the baby Jesus.

In its original form, Epiphany was the commemoration of the baptism of Jesus by John. Therefore Epiphany has long been associated with baptism and remains a principal day for baptisms in the Eastern church (where Epiphany is still the feast of the baptism of Jesus). The central significance of Epiphany is that Christ came as the Light of the World, not just for one specific group of people, but to all people. Christ's light is for all.

In some French homes, to celebrate Epiphany, children from Christian homes often put oats in their shoes on the evening before January 6. The oats are for the camels of the wise men. When they awake the next morning, the children hope to find the oats gone and gifts left in their shoes.

-adapted from The Newsletter Newsletter

Wednesday's Saints

At the Wednesday Eucharists this month, we'll commemorate the following:

January 6 – The Epiphany. **January 13** – Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers (367) – Hilary “was a prolific writer on Scripture and doctrine, an orator, and a poet to whom some of the earliest Latin hymns have been attributed. Augustine called him ‘the illustrious doctor of the Churches.’” (*Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, 2006, p. 128). **January 20** – Fabian, Bishop and Martyr of Rome (250) – “In 236, an assembly was held at Rome to elect a pope as successor to Antherus. In the throng was Fabian, a layman from another part of Italy. Suddenly, according to the historian Eusebius, a dove flew over the crowd and lighted on Fabian's head. In spite of the fact that he was both a total stranger and not even a candidate for election, the people unanimously chose Fabian to be pope, shouting, ‘He is worthy! He is worthy!’ Fabian was ordained to the episcopate without opposition.” (*Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, 2006, p. 136) Talk about being the wrong place at the wrong time! **January 27** – John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople (407) – “John, called ‘Chrysostom,’ which means ‘the golden-mouthed,’ was one of the greatest preachers in the history of the Church. People flocked to hear him. His eloquence was accompanied by an acute sensitivity to the needs of people. He saw preaching as an integral part of pastoral care, and as a medium of teaching.” (*Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, 2006, p. 150)

Episcopally Speaking is new to the Herald this month. If you know of a word or concept you'd like to see here, please let Shannon (administrator@stmarysepisc.org) or David (davidu@stmarysepisc.org) know.

We're All in the Same Boat

The new signs around the church label the place where we gather on Sundays simply as “Worship.” This word was chosen because it is easy for all people to understand, especially visitors who may not be used to Episcopal or “churchy” words.

Sanctuary is a word that often gets used for the worship space, but in our style of architecture actually means only a very specific part of the worship space. In Gothic architecture the sanctuary is technically only the space immediately around the altar, behind the rail. Therefore St. Mary's has two sanctuaries in the same space, one at the main altar and one in the chapel. The section where the choir sits is called the chancel or simply, the choir.

The largest portion of the room, where most people sit during worship, is known as the nave. Nave comes from the Latin word *navis* for ship. If you look up at the ceiling of the nave, you'll notice that it looks like the inside of a ship's hull turned upside down.

However complicated the names of all these parts of the building may seem, if you say, I'll meet you in the church, most people will know what you're talking about. Just remember though that the church is most correctly the people, not the building. Without you, it's just a big empty room.

Prayers & Milestones

Dot Forward
 Williams Family
 Kathy Brown
 Anne Howell
 Ann Hampton
 Alice Jordan
 Michael Cody
 Natalie Congdon
 Lily Blackman
 Spencer Wilson & Family
 Edward Benz



Kate Thornton
 Melissa Anderson
 Esker Amos
 Barry Myers
 Tim Foster
 Alice Whitehorne
 Mary Lou Vitek
 Anthony Williams
 Lois May
 Sis & Jack Smith
 Connie & Terry Strader

“O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen”

January Birthdays



01	Joseph Hayworth Stacy Hoots	11	Alan Chaney Jessica Henderson	22	Barbara Crowell Mary Eliza Duckett
02	Kimberly Chaney Lindsey Finch Judy Straight	12	Lorna Brown Stephen Farshing		Natasha McClellan Madeline Rhoton
03	Tim Yates	14	Evie Cottam	23	Louise Foster
05	Cece Biesecker Ann Crowell	15	KC Grieser Patti Saunders	24	William Moore
06	Candice Greig Lorinda Umphlett	17	Joan Betsill	25	David Farshing
07	Kerie Beth Scott	18	Barbara Farshing Adair Smith	27	Jeff Brown Sam Duckett Avery Higgins
08	Sarah Grieser Melanie McNamara James Snow	19	Paul Miller		Suzanne Lea
9	Paul Zander	21	Kitty Congdon Laura Johnson Margaret McDonald	29	Marita Gates
10	Peter Biesecker Robert Hoots Frann White		Larry Warlick	30	Julie Adams Ma-ziah Watakila

To notify the church of illness, hospitalization, birth, death, or prayer request, contact Shannon in the church office: 886-4756 x21 or administrator@stmarysepisc.org.

Serving This Month

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTES	READERS	CHALICERS	GREETERS	USHERS
03-Jan 2nd Sunday After Christmas	8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Madeline Rhoton Alex Hill Emory Howell Lindsey Tripp Adam Howell	Dorothy Darr	Bob Bender Barry Collum Kim Gay	Carroll Ann Miller	David Moore Dudley Moore Jr Bill Morris David Penley
10-Jan The Baptism of our Lord	8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Sam Duckett Jessica Zander Trevor Gay Christian Witcher Carter Gay Spencer Witcher	Kay Brower Denise Reagan	Bryan Noah Bryan Noah Stephen Greig Kim Gay	Cathy Kuhn Bob Kuhn	David Moore Dudley Moore Jr Bill Morris David Penley
17-Jan 2nd Sunday After Epiphany	8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Sam Stalder George Lindner Asia Brown John Drake Karcher Sarah Lindner	Jon Baird	Marty Purser Alicia Archibald Diane Popalis	Rebecca Henderson	Marty Purser Jamey Reagan Bill Schermerhorn Gus Schwenk
24-Jan 3rd Sunday After Epiphany	8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Braeden Moore Katie Cottam Carolina Cottam Alex Hill Madeline Rhoton	Nancy Robinson	Rick Manning Famatta Deshield Sam Duckett	Ollie Wall John Wall	Marty Purser Jamey Reagan Bill Schermerhorn Gus Schwenk
31-Jan 4th Sunday After Epiphany	8:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Jessica Zander Jackson Fetner Lindsey Tripp John Drake Karcher Sam Duckett	Mary Wolff	Alicia Archibald Diane Popalis Marty Purser	Beth Tuttle Sheila Cochrane	Robert Slate John Wall White Watkins Sonny White

COFFEE CONNECTION

January 3 - Ushers

January 10 - Choir

January 17 - EYC

January 24 - Wedding Committee

January 31 - Newcomers



**ST. MARY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

108 W. Farriss Avenue
High Point, NC 27262

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Fax: 336-886-6150

We're on the Web:
www.stmarysepisc.org

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We Pray for the Health and Wellness of:

The deadline for the next Herald is January 18th.
Please e-mail your submissions to: administrator@stmarysepisc.org

Services at St. Mary's

Sundays

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m. - Informal Worship
11:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist

Wednesdays

12:00 noon – Holy Eucharist



Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

CLERGY & STAFF

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musicacademy@northstate.net

Artie Ross

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