

THE EPISTLE

RIDGEWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
JANUARY, 2009

OF ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Dear people of God,

Happy New Year!! I hope that this month's issue of The Epistle finds you all in good health and full of God's grace and peace. I have often spoken to you about how the Lord has never stopped creating and how he is constantly about doing something new.

This year promises to provide us plenty of opportunity to participate in all that God is doing new. It is a new year with new priorities, opportunities, challenges, joys, successes and even failures.

The good part is that if we will walk in the light as children of the light, then God will always bless what we are involved in. Whether it is in our professional life, our personal life or our parish life. God will fulfill his promise to bless those that act in and out of faith. If he can not bless it, then he will redeem it, and that is good news indeed.

I look forward to what this year will bring. Without even knowing what new things God has planned for us, I am excited about the things he will call us to do in his Holy Name. I believe that we should and can expect the best from this year, particularly if we work together to discern what God's will is for us. And so I leave you with prayer number one from page 814 of the Book of Common Prayer.

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God bless you and keep you,
and hold you always
in the palm of his hand,
Fr. Tommy+



**HERE'S TO ALL
THE SAINTS CELEBRATING
BIRTHDAYS IN
JANUARY**

Lynn Dwyer	01/05	Gloria Hood	01/19
Robert Ellison, Jr.	01/12	Dee Dee Branham	01/22
Kathy Rogers	01/16	Sallie Lindsay	01/22
Tommy Dwyer+	01/16	Mary Jane Lever	01/30

**"EQUIPPED FOR ACTION:
CHANGING LIVES," VOLUME II**

A day for continuing leadership development for congregational ministry will be convened at Heathwood Hall, Columbia, February 28, 2009 from 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. This is a direct continuation of our work at Diocesan Convention last Fall.

Online registration will begin in mid-January. (Cost \$15) Visit the diocesan Web site for more information; where you can download details of the day and Basic agenda. Workshops and plenary sessions focused on healthy church leadership and healthy congregations, with opportunities for dialogue among same-size congregations and a wealth of workshops focused on topics ranging from finance, leadership of vestry and wardens, assertive evangelism and formation for all ages, effective communications and outreach, and much more. (Workshop descriptions coming soon!) Delegates to Convention and Wardens of the church need to plan to attend. The keynote speaker is the Rev. Dr. James Lemler. He is currently serving as priest-in-charge of Christ Church, Greenwich, Connecticut. A former director of mission for the Episcopal Church and dean of Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Lemler has served the Church as pastor, preacher, and consultant in the areas of philanthropy, stewardship, and congregational development.

YOUR MISSION COMMITTEE

Sr. Warden:	JoAnn Palmer	2011
Jr. Warden:	Tom Willingham	2009
Member:	Mike Autry	2010
Member:	Bob Moore	2010
Member:	Ben DeBerry	2011
Member:	MJ Lever (one year term)	2009
Treasurer:	Carolyn Babb	2009
Secretary:	Vacant	2009
Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday, 01/28/2009, 7:00PM		

RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR THE ELECTION OF
THE 8TH BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF
UPPER SOUTH CAROLINA

Whereas the Rt. Rev. Dorsey F. Henderson, Jr., has this 13th day of December, 2008, called for the election of a successor Diocesan Bishop;

Whereas it is with great regret that the Standing Committee accepts the wishes of our dearly beloved Bishop that an election of a successor be called;

Whereas the Standing Committee wishes to express its deep gratitude for the faithful and constant service of our dearly beloved Bishop;

Whereas the Standing Committee accepts the challenge before us to continue to work to fulfill the vision of bringing all parishes and missions of the diocese into full participation in the Healthy Church Initiative, so that a seamless transition from one bishop to another may be accomplished;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina calls for the election of a successor Diocesan Bishop to take place no later than December 31, 2009, and that a Nominating Committee of 12-15 members be established and charged with submitting to the Standing Committee the names of 4-6 qualified candidates.

Furthermore, be it resolved that a Transition Committee comprised of 12-15 members be established.

DAY OF PRAYER

Bishop Henderson designates a day of prayer for Upper South Carolina "For Peace, Nation, World." In a letter to Clergy, the bishop said (in part), "I am designating Sunday, January 18, 2009, as a Diocesan Day of Prayer for "Peace, Nation, World". The occasion strikes me as particularly appropriate as we commemorate the life and witness of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; Absalom Jones, the first black Episcopal priest in the United States; the inauguration of a new President, Vice President, Governors, Members of Congress and Legislators—and anticipate the Ecumenical Week of Prayer beginning the following Sunday."

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

GRAVATT CHAPEL CONSECRATION

Gravatt's new, free-standing Chapel of the Transfiguration, built to replace the chapel that burned with Cullum Hall in 2003, is ready for action. Designed by John Powell of LTC & Associates and constructed by Pizzuti Builders, the chapel will be consecrated by Bishop Henderson on February 16, 2009 (details TBA). Gravatt continues to seek donations to help with completion of the chapel. Chairs can be dedicated for \$250 each and funds are needed for landscaping and construction of a labyrinth. To make a donation, visit www.bishopgravatt.org or contact Lauri Yeargin, executive director, 803.648.1817.

CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN

EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

Thank you one and all for supporting the efforts of Buck and McKinley. The sale of the Christmas tags and decorations have generated enough money to purchase a pig, a goat, 2 geese and a bee hive. The boys have made the leap from a local mindset to a world view. Their prayers call for God's help for people, places and problems worldwide. I also want to thank Donna Guess for her creative ideas and the many hours she spent working on our projects.

Again---many thanks,
Carolyn Babb

CAMP GRAVATT



Register for Camp Online. To register online for Camp Gravatt 2009, you must have an online registration account. Just follow the steps below and have your credit or debit card ready to make your initial deposit or your payment in full. Your reservation is NOT guaranteed without your deposit.

1. FOR 2008 CAMPERS, PLEASE DO NOT CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT.
 - a. If you registered online last year, use your username and password from last year.
 - b. If you registered by mail last year, we have created an online account for you. Use this formula:
Username: [First Two Letters of Camper First Name][First Two Letters of Camper Last Name][Zip Code]gvt
Password: [Camper Last Name]09
For example, if your camper's name is Jane Smith and your zip code is 29805, your user name is jasm29805gvt, and your password is smith09. (You can change it once you log in.)
 - c. Much of your information will already be entered for you. You can just verify it is correct and then continue with registration.
 - d. To begin, click the first link on the webpage. Call our office at 803-648-1817 if you need assistance.
2. FOR NEW CAMPERS ONLY, to set up a new account, click on the second link of the webpage.
 - a. On the page that pops up, create a Username and Password. Keep these for future use.
 - b. Then fill out YOUR name and contact information (not your child's).
3. From there, you will see instructions on how to complete registration.
4. You will receive an email that confirms your child's successful registration. The email has important attachments, so if you do not receive it, please call our office.

February 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL

RIDGEWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA
(803) 337-2905

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 	2	3
4 9:30am Church School 10:30am Holy Eucharist	5 8:00pm AA / Parish Hall	6  EPHANY	7 6:30pm Healing Service	8	9	10
11 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i> 9:30am Church School 10:30am Holy Eucharist	12 8:00pm AA / Parish Hall	13 6:30pm Adult Study Group	14	15  Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16	17
18 9:30am Church School 10:30am Holy Eucharist	19 8:00pm AA / Parish Hall	20 6:30pm Adult Study Group	21 6:30pm Healing Service	22	23	24
25 9:30am Church School 10:30am Holy Eucharist	26 8:00pm AA / Parish Hall	27 6:30pm Adult Study Group	28	29	30	31
1  BOY SCOUT SUNDAY 9:30am Church School 10:30am Holy Eucharist	2  February	3 6:30pm Adult Study Group	4 6:30pm Healing Service	5	6	7

JANUARY 2009

JANUARY 2009

ALTAR GUILD FOR JANUARY: BETH AND BETTY BRANHAM, AND PATTI PALMER

DAY/DATE	CHALICER	LECTOR	CRUCIFER / ACOLYTE	GREETERS/ OBLATIONERS	CHILDREN'S CHAPEL	HOSPITALITY	ALTAR FLOWERS
January 4 2 Christmas	Bitsy Milling	Bitsy Milling	Kayla Branham	Sarah Arndt Jennifer Autry	Donna Guess	Donna Guess JoAnn Palmer	Lynn and Tommy+ Dwyer
January 11 1 Epiphany	JoAnn Palmer	Ann Ellison	Matthew Langdale	Carolyn and Don Babb	Jo Milling	Sharon and Mike Swofford	Betty Branham <small>(E.G. Palmer IV/Joey Townsend)</small>
January 18 2 Epiphany	Tom Willingham	Bob Ellison, Jr.	Ashley Lever	Phyllis DeLoach Ken Baldwin	Carolyn Babb	Bonnie and Doug Bryant	Betty Branham
January 25 3 Epiphany	Marjorie Pratt	Donna Guess	Jacob Upchurch	Cathy Beale George Langdale	Donna Guess	Beth and Betty Branham	Donna Guess
February 1 4 Epiphany	Don Babb	Tom Harwood	Jenna Upchurch	Betty Branham Karen Kuehner	Jo Milling	Cathy Beale George Langdale	Frances DeBerry Karen Kuehner
February 8 5 Epiphany	Bitsy Milling	Bitsy Milling	Kayla Branham	Jennifer and Mike Autry	Carolyn Babb	MJ and Ashley Lever	Sara Faucett

ALTAR GUILD FOR FEBRUARY: FRANCES DEBERRY, AND KAREN KUEHNER

Important Note: If you cannot serve when assigned, please: 1) Swap with someone or a find a substitute. 2) Inform the church office of any changes for inclusion in the service leaflet. Thank you.

DAY/DATE	FIRST READING	THE PSALM	SECOND READING	THE GOSPEL
January 4 2 Christmas	Jeremiah 31:7-14	84	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a	Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
January 11 1 Epiphany	Genesis 1:1-15	29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:4-11
January 18 2 Epiphany	1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]	139:12-17	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
January 25 3 Epiphany	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	62:6-14	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
February 1 4 Epiphany	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28
February 8 5 Epiphany	Isaiah 40:21-31	147:1-12, 21c	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39

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