

THE EPISTLE -FEBRUARY, 2010

The Episcopal Churchwomen: The ECW held their first official meeting on January 7, 2010. The following officers were elected:

Mary Jane Lever	President
Patti Palmer	Vice-President
Margaret Murtaugh	Secretary
Patti Palmer	Treasurer

The meetings will be held the first Thursday of each month (September – May) at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

The group is in the first stages of planning its projects for the year. If you have a particular project or speaker you would like to hear, please let Mary Jane Lever know at the next meeting. All women of St. Stephen's are considered members of ECW and we hope all of you will join us at our next meeting on February 4.

The ECW's cookbook is a tremendous success. More than ninety percent of the cookbooks were sold within a month of publication. We have ordered an additional fifty, so if you would like to purchase a cookbook they are on sale in the Parish Hall and are \$12.00 each. Karen Kuehner chaired this project and we would like to thank her for all of her hard work and dedication to this project. *Frances DeBerry*

Note: The 88th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church Women will be held February 13th at York Place. Sign up sheet is in the Parish Hall.

February Birthdays: *O God, our times are in your hand: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives. BCP*

Gen Palmer	2/2	Amaris Cobb	2/20
Buck Rowe	2/2	Tyshaun Cobb	2/20
George L. Langdale	2/6	George S. Langdale	2/20
Terry Murtaugh	2/16	Tom Willingham	2/27
Bob Arndt	2/18	Patti Palmer	2/28

On his birthday, please also remember Steve Lever (2/19) who left us for the Greater Life. *We give you heartfelt thanks for the good examples of your servant, who, having finished his course in faith, now find rest and refreshment. BCP*

Lenten Study: Reminder - "The Bible and Handel's Messiah" will be offered Tuesdays during Lent at 10:30 in the morning and 6:30 in the evening, in the parish hall. If you wish to

join the evening group and haven't signed up yet, please let the Senior Warden know (spalmer@truvista.net) by February 12th so that enough resource books will be ordered.

Souper Bowl of Caring - February 7th: "Come you that are blessed by my Father...for I was hungry and you gave me food..." Don't forget to bring your offering, or send it with a family member or friend.

February Dates:

- 4 ECW Meeting, 6:00pm, Parish Hall
- 4-7 Cursillo #115, and Epiphany Weekend
- 7 Souper Bowl of Caring
- 10 Healing Service – 6:00pm
- 13 The 88th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church Women, York Place
- 14 Midlands Convocation Meeting – 3:00pm, Trinity Cathedral, Saterlee Hall
- 16 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 17 Ash Wednesday Service – 6:30pm
- 23 Lenten Study: 10:30am and 6:30pm
- 24 Holy Eucharist and Healing Service – To be determined

From Snail's Pace to the Department of Juvenile Justice - How one member lives into our Diocesan Mission "To Love with the heart of Christ, think with the mind of Christ, and act in the world as the body of Christ." Amanda Ford spent the weekend of January 15-17 at Snail's Pace, a Christian ecumenical spiritual retreat center in Saluda, NC. While there she received spiritual direction and spent time in silent retreat. "It is a wonderful place to get away and also offers retreats for groups." (Find out more about Snail's Pace at www.snailspace.org) On Saturday, January 23, Amanda and Valarie Lopez spent the morning at the Department of Juvenile Justice in Columbia participating in an Epiphany Girls' Reunion Group. They have served on many Epiphany Teams, and feel truly blessed to be part of this ecumenical Christian ministry, which offers incarcerated juveniles the opportunity to change their lives and values systems.

An Interview with the Rt. Rev. W. Andrew Waldo, 8th Bishop of EDUSC

The Rev. W. Andrew Waldo was elected eighth Bishop of EDUSC at Trinity Cathedral, Columbia, on December 12. The following interview, published on the Diocesan Web site was conducted by Crosswalk editor Peggy Van Antwerp Hill.

Jonathan, Amber, James, Benjamin, Mary & Andrew Waldo – Christmas Day, 2009



Have you yet had a chance to think about when the Waldos might be making the move to Upper SC?

Our last Sunday at Trinity Church will be Last Epiphany, 14 February. And in the meantime, we're beginning to say our good byes to parishioners, diocesan friends and friends in larger community around us here in Minnesota. We've had more than 15 extraordinarily happy years here and look forward to some joyful celebration of our shared ministry and many heartfelt farewells. In between 14 February and the beginning of my work among all of

you, we hope to take some time to make an inner transition from the home in which we raised our children, to leave behind those things that can be left behind, and to move to Columbia. March? April? We're still working out the details.

Tell us about your family.

Mary and I met at New England Conservatory of Music in Boston during graduate school, where she was a Performance of Early Music major (recorder, Baroque flute, historical dance) and I studied recorder and choral conducting. We spent the first years of our marriage commuting from our home in the woods of New Hampshire to teach and perform in Boston, where I conducted a choir specializing in 16th century music and coached early music instrumental ensembles at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge. Mary is a freelance performer and has taught flute, recorder, and early childhood music over the years. Mary makes annual teaching trips to Canada and Latin America (Lima and Bogota), where she has trained teachers and taught students from diverse economic backgrounds. So our three sons couldn't exactly avoid having music in their lives! Playfully, the question was not, "Would you like to play an instrument?" but "Which instrument do you want to play?" So, Jonathan, our eldest who is now

26, studied viola, electronic music and sound production. His primary musical outlet is his indie folk band.

He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, Lacrosse, where he majored in Management and Information Systems, and he is now an information security analyst for Bremer Bank, headquartered in St. Paul. In 2005, Jonathan married his high school sweetheart, Amber Houck, a native of Woodbury, Minnesota who works as an auditor. Our second son, James, studied cello and recorder, and is now in graduate studies in cello performance with Timothy Eddy at Mannes College: The New School of Music in New York City. He performs extensively in New York and throughout the region. He also plays the viola da gamba in early music ensembles, and performs in a Minnesota contemporary folk band, Spirits of the

Red City, together with his younger brother, Benjamin. Our youngest son, Benjamin, studied viola, recorder, and has also become an expert mandolin player, performing in Spirits of the Red City. But his real love is green architecture, and he is now a sophomore at the University of Minnesota, College of Design, pursuing that passion. This past summer, when Spirits of the Red City was on a West Coast tour, James and Benjamin made outreach trips in the San Francisco area to perform Irish fiddle tunes mixed with Bach and Britten suites for inmates in two juvenile detention centers, one of them a maximum security prison for major offenders. Occasionally, we all play Baroque music together, enlisting someone to play the accompaniment on our harpsichord. Our extended family on both sides is huge and spread

all over the country, many of whom will be present for the consecration on May 22.

Tell us about one or more of your favorite pastimes and the source of your passion for that particular activity.

I make N scale models (1:160) of central Alabama railroad rolling stock and especially buildings (1947-1954) in extreme detail, enjoying the research as much as the making of the models. That research has taken me to the National Archives in College Park, Maryland several times during vacations, where I've uncovered and scanned thousands of little-known documents and photographs of southeastern railroads from the WWI era. I'm hoping to make one more trip and gather some of the South Carolina photographs from countless small towns in the diocese. My interest and passion for railroads was shamelessly encouraged by my maternal step-grandfather, who memorized railroad timetables.

What liturgical season do you love the most and why?

Advent. I live my life in expectation of possibility and hope and Advent music, scripture, prayer and worship enlivens and energizes that sense for me. When I pray the Anglican rosary, "Come, Lord Jesus, draw me near to you" is at the center of my rhythm. Waiting eagerly. Expecting the Lord to come. Rejoicing at his presence in my life. Making room ("a mansion prepared for himself") for Jesus and anticipation of being made new is my deepest joy.

Do you have a favorite passage of Scripture? How about a favorite hymn? Why do you think these especially speak to you?

I never want to answer this question because there are so many, but since you've pressed, there are two passages that are most often on my lips: Psalm 63:1 (BCP version) and Philippians 2:5-11. The Psalm verse articulates both the urgency of my need for God, the deep thirst and longing for God and the anticipation of that thirst being slaked and that longing rewarded. The Philippians passage places my need to surrender to the sovereignty of Christ in my life, my need to let go in order to let God in to the very center of my life. Naming a favorite hymn is next to impossible for me, but again, there is a relatively little-known hymn based on one of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's last letters from prison, Hymn 695, "By gracious powers." It articulates musically and textually the sacramental power of Christ's love in the life of a man who risked and gave everything for the sake of it—"thankfully and without trembling."

What do you like to read for fun? Are you reading anything especially good right now?

I'm pretty eclectic, but it ranges from Civil War, Civil Rights and WWII histories to Ferrol Sams' novels about growing up in northwest Georgia, to various novels. Right now, I'm absorbed in the Patrick O'Brian "Master and Commander" series, and am at volume 15 of 21. I wanted to start Anthony Trollope's "Barchester Towers" back in July, just to keep myself honest (it's about a bishop election in 19th century England), but I couldn't put O'Brian down. Trollope's next.

From what you know so far about the diocese, what do you think will be your greatest initial challenge as bishop?

Earning trust is always the first challenge when entering a community, and I never take that for granted. It's all about relationships and takes time, authenticity and persistence. It means not taking sides but proclaiming the Great Commandment as the plumb line of literally everything we do. It means bringing us together over time to engage the differences among us with that plumb line before us, in our doctrinal differences and in our relationships simultaneously, one inextricably informing the other. "If I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing." There will be pragmatic challenges for me personally, too. Learning what it means to be a bishop. Taking what I learn from you as I come to know you and beginning in time to articulate a common call to service in the name of Christ. Getting to know you by name as brothers and sisters in Christ. Understanding your joys, your hurts, your challenges, and your successes. I can see before I start that it's a big job. But it's an even bigger job to be a faithful community, and that job belongs to each and every one of us. As Paul wrote to the Ephesians, each of us is called to "lead a life worthy of the calling to which [we] have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." That is a challenge I embrace with eager longing as we begin and live out our ministry together.

Our retiring bishop is a dog lover. Will you be bringing us any new Episcopal pets?

Mary and I are dog people, too. Jefferson ("Jus'-fer-sin" on certain occasions...), a mixed-breed from the New Hampshire woods, joined us early in our marriage and lived to about the end of my tenure in LaGrange, Georgia. He was followed by Sally, a yellow Lab, at the beginning of my tenure in Minnesota, a going-away gift of friends in LaGrange. Sally died 18 months ago at about the same time our youngest was heading off to college, and we decided to hold off on new pets for a time. But pressure is building from within and without, and a new dog is likely. But not yet.

How did you spend election day? What was your reaction when Bishop Henderson called to tell you the news? What did you learn during your discernment process about this diocese that especially interested or surprised you?

I was struck by how members of the search committee who held strikingly different perspectives valued staying in relationship with each other. "Civility" was the word they used to describe relationships within the diocese, and in spite of the anxieties that were evident in the walkabout, your desire to stay together seemed deeply authentic. It made me think that you might be willing and able to answer in love the question, "Am I willing to bear the cross of Christ for the sake of my relationship with my brother or sister, even if I profoundly disagree with her?" Whether conservative, traditional, liberal, progressive, this is the real question of our time, and I believe that you have the spiritual strength and vision to answer it well.

Bishop Henderson's new address: 965 Fairview Ave., Mt. Dora, FL 32757