

the steeple

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

March 2010

Mission

Disciples of Christ called to serve neighbors near
and far

In the Quiet of the Moment

“You are from dust and to dust you shall return”

These words from our Ash Wednesday liturgy invite us to think about many things we would prefer not to dwell on. Our spiritual shortcomings are usually what come to mind right away. However, there are other equally important issues that we just don't like to talk about, even when we recognize their importance for our families and friends as well as for our own peace of mind. Foremost among these is the matter of our dying – yes, we know that one day we too will die because everyone does; but we put off thinking about it because it is unpleasant. Nevertheless, Lent is a time when we are invited by the Church to take stock of our life situation to be sure that our practical affairs are in order as well as our spiritual lives.

For example, have you reviewed the terms of your will recently? Have your circumstances changed? And if so, have you made any adjustments to your will that may be required? Have you included the church in your beneficiary designations? If you prefer that memorial gifts go to the church, you will want to make this known to family or to the parish. What about your wishes concerning medical treatment? It is a fact that, unless you have a “living will” that sets out clearly how you want to be treated in your final days and specifies who is to make decisions for you if you are incapacitated, your wishes may not be met and carried out. There are also concerns about Power of Attorney to consider.

Finally, as we look ahead and are aware of the inevitable, I invite you to contact me at the church regarding your funeral arrangements. If we record your intentions at the church, when the time comes, there will be no question about how you want the final arrangements to be carried out. At the church we have forms to complete in order to have your burial service plans readily available. One of the kindest things you can do for your family and friends at a time of grief and mourning is to free them from the responsibility of planning your funeral. Sometimes even our closest relatives are not familiar with the liturgies of our church and they may not know what to expect, so please come in and discuss your wishes with me so that your desires will be respected.

These are some very practical ways that you can make good use of Lent as a time to take stock of your plans for your last days so that you and your loved ones can be free from unnecessary pressures, confusion, and burdensome concerns.

Now – on a brighter note – by the time you read this, we will be approaching the sacred days of Holy Week, which we will observe this year with several additional liturgies. Palm Sunday, or the Sunday of the Passion, begins our commemoration of the last journey to Jerusalem by our Lord.

Quiet, continued

On Monday, March 29, we will have a Choral Evensong at 7:00 p.m. with special prayers to mark the start of Holy Week. On Wednesday, I will be the preacher at the Community Ecumenical Prayer Service, following our 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist. On Maundy Thursday we will gather in the Parish Hall at 6:00 p.m. for a Seder Meal that recalls Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples and celebrates the "new commandment" (from which we get the term "Maundy" or "mandate"). Following this meal we will process to the church for the Stripping of the Altar. The Good Friday liturgies at noon and 7:00 p.m. will be meditative and take us through the last hours of our Lord's time on earth. The Stations of the Cross will take place in the nave at 5:00 p.m.

Our joyous celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection will begin on Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. with The Great Vigil of Easter. At that time, we will gather outside to light the new fire, process into the church with the Paschal Candle, reaffirm our baptismal vows, and sing praises to God for the renewed promise of salvation that is brought to us with the yearly remembrance of the Resurrection. During the liturgy of the Easter Vigil we will go from the darkness of the tomb into the new light and joy of the Resurrection. This will be the first time in quite a few years that the Great Vigil has been observed at Church of the Ascension so I hope everyone will make a special effort to be present. Finally, we will have two services of Holy Eucharist at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. on Easter Sunday.

Please make your plans now to share in these important days of special devotion.

See you in church....

Deedie+

From The Stewardship Chair

The matching challenge was a success way beyond what we imagined! We quickly received a total of \$16,500 in new money which includes the original \$5,000 offered by a generous parishioner. The Vestry, aided by the Finance Committee, will be able to put that added money to good use to help fill our coffers and keep things running smoothly here. Our Church of the Ascension is alive and well and filled with the most generous of people who are always willing to dig into their pockets. We should all be thankful for one another and remember always to thank God for what we have here at our church. I welcome fellow vestryman, Tom Davies, as co-chair of the Stewardship Committee this year.

Peg Stutsman

Wednesday Worship Time Change

The Liturgy and Worship Ministry Team has determined that, rather than canceling the mid-week Holy Eucharist due to the Ecumenical Lenten services, we will have our regular mid-week service at 10:00 am on Wednesdays. Please remember the Ecumenical Services each Lenten Wednesday at 12:00 noon. During Lent we are also offering Evening Prayer with Healing each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

The Steeple

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The Rev. Carol Anne Phillips Marshall, Rector

Editors:

Anne Cooke, Donna Hawkins,
Dee Smith

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Schedule of Services

Sunday - 8:00 AM - Holy Eucharist - Rite I
Sunday - 10:30 AM - Holy Eucharist - Rite II
Wednesday - 12:00 PM - Holy Eucharist

WELCOME

Doug and
Robbie Grider

For those who have not yet had the pleasure of meeting them, I am delighted to introduce Doug and Robbie Grider. The Church of the Ascension is most fortunate to have Doug and Robbie as members. In the short time they have been here they have become VERY active. They are both members of the Finance Committee, Robbie is the new church book-keeper and co-chair of the Christian Education Committee, they volunteer at many church dinner functions, AND they regularly attend the 10:30 worship service.

They are true southerners. Robbie was born in NYC but grew up in Jacksonville, FL and attended Emory where she met Doug who was born in Columbus, GA. Doug's career as a professor and Dean of various Schools of Business caused them to live in Georgia, Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida and South Carolina! Doug is still consulting and is on the board of two companies. Robbie is a tax accountant and works from home. They very much enjoy their present vocations. In his spare time Doug is an avid organic gardener---his love and hobby . Robbie belongs to a hiking group and enjoys reading and sewing if and when she can ever find the time.

Doug is a "cradle " Episcopalian and Robbie was brought up in the Presbyterian church. However to keep the family together they all attended the Episcopal Church. Robbie was finally confirmed by our own Father Wayman. The Griders have three children and seven grandchildren spread from Dallas to Philadelphia to Lancaster, SC. Their oldest son went to Clemson and his daughter has been accepted into the Honors Program at Clemson. They had originally decided to retire in Arkansas but when their youngest grandchild was born in Lancaster they decided to move to South Carolina and are absolutely delighted to be here.

They are also delighted to be part of the Ascension family. They feel that we are a friendly congregation and have felt most welcome. Even more serendipitously their son and his family are members of the Episcopal Church in Lancaster where Deedie was the priest; Deedie baptized their daughter-in-law and grandchild. The Griders feel privileged and blessed to be members of the Church of the Ascension and to have Deedie as our leader.

Eve Brooks



Helping Hands Update

The children's home has a steady number of children --around 40. Anyone interested in reading to the preschool children or mentoring the older children may call Nancy Andrews at 944-2882.

The Helping Hands Thrift Store will be putting out Easter related articles next week. The Thrift Store supports the children and total receipts from the store for the past five years were:

2004-2005	\$171,201
2005-2006	\$215,761
2006-2007	\$233,907
2007-2008	\$240,078
2008-2009	\$261,020

Thank you so much for all your donations and thanks to the ladies who donate their time each week to work in the store.

Nancy Andrews

The Steeple is published most months; the **deadline is the 15th** of the month. Please submit articles to the Steeple mailbox, or email to

Anne Cooke——perfectlady@charter.net
Donna Hawkins—hackhawkins@bellsouth.net
Dee Smith——chuckandee@bellsouth.net

NOTE: If submitting articles via e-mail, please check with the office to determine who is editing.



CHURCH STUDIES LIBRARY

In our BIOGRAPHY (**BIO**) shelf, of course we must begin with Jesus, a video endorsed by both Archbishop Fulton Sheen and Evangelist Billy Graham. Then Herod is the story of the King of Judea when Jesus was born. And Upon This Rock is the life of Saint Peter.

If you read only one book from this section, I recommend Glorious Companions by Richard Schmidt. It offers short biographical sketches of twenty-nine of the greatest persons in the history of the Anglican Communion, from “Father of the first Prayer Book” Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556) to Desmond Tutu (born 1931). I think this would be a great textbook for a Confirmation class, one every Episcopalian should have read.

The Parting Of Friends is the story of three priests of the Church of England, two of them brothers and the other their brother-in-law, in the mid-nineteenth century when they were struggling with decisions to follow the Evangelicals or the Anglo-Catholics or to become Roman Catholics.

David Livingston, His Life and Letters is our opportunity to meet that great African missionary, and of course to say, “Dr. Livingston, I presume,” as journalist Stanley said when he found him. Letters and Papers From Prison by Dietrich Bonhoeffer shows us the last years of Bonhoeffer’s life, leading up to his execution by the Nazis.

We have two biographies of Dorothy Sayers: Such A Strange Lady by Hitchman, and Maker & Craftsman by Dale. Sayers was a popular 20th century murder mystery writer and she was also an excellent theologian of the Church of England. Her theological writings on the Holy Trinity are some of the best I have read, and I always enjoyed her “Lord Peter Wimsey” mystery novels.

And Also With You by Will D. Campbell is the story of Duncan Gray, Jr., in his stand against segregation and racism when he was chaplain at the University of Mississippi in 1957-1960. He is now the retired Bishop of Mississippi, and his son, Duncan Gray III, succeeded him as Bishop there. Incidentally, some say the author of this book, Will Campbell, was the model for the comic strip character “Rev. Will B. Dunn.”

Member In Particular and That Reminds Me are both autobiographical memoirs of Girault Jones, late Bishop of Louisiana. Presences is an autobiography of Paul Moore, late Bishop of New York.

Mountains Beyond Mountains by Tracy Kidder is the story of the life and work of Dr. Paul Farmer, who now lives six months a year at Harvard Medical School where he teaches, and the other six months a year in Cange, Haiti, where he founded the hospital. Paul is the founder of Partners In Health, a world medical mission, and is perhaps the leading expert today on drug resistant infectious diseases, especially TB and AIDS.

May I add a personal note? Sitting in Ascension alone on a Saturday afternoon to write this article was like having tea with some very dear old friends. Of those whose biographies are in Glorious Companions, the great Bible teacher Verna Dozier was a friend, and I was very fortunate to meet Madeline L’Engle and Desmond Tutu. In the House of Bishops, I knew Girault Jones, Duncan Gray, Jr., and Paul Moore. I met Paul Farmer in Mirebalais, Haiti, the summer he had just graduated from Duke and was starting Harvard Medical School in the fall. Reading these biographies is like seeing old friends or meeting new ones. May we introduce you to all these wonderful people?

Rogers Harris +





Cookies for Kairos March 18 - 21 At McCormick Correctional Institution (McCI)

Why bake cookies for Kairos at McCI?

For many in prison, they have hit bottom – the lowest possible point in their lives. They feel isolated, cast out, alone and unloved. For many, their families and friends have abandoned them. Often the cookies you bake are the only indication to them that they have not become simply a South Carolina Department of Corrections number.

Each Kairos Weekend lasts 3½ days. At the end of each day a bag of homemade cookies is delivered to every resident in every dorm. Residents who have already experienced a Kairos Weekend bag the cookies, each day, and enclose a verse of scripture in each bag.

How do these cookies help?

Your homemade cookies tell the residents that someone who doesn't even know them still cares enough to give a part of their life – the time it takes to bake the cookies – without wanting something in return. Such selflessness is often a unique experience for them. It also teaches them to trust. Someone has said these cookies are “seeds of love” being sown in the hearts of those who know so little of the love God's children are commanded to show forth to the world. These cookies (expressions of God's love) have been observed as motivation to inmates to learn more about Kairos, consider applying to attend a future Kairos weekend or sustain and encourage prior graduates in their faith walk.

How many cookies are needed?

At McCI 6,000 dozen cookies are needed for a single Kairos Weekend. No cookies are ever wasted. If any are left over, they are frozen and used for future Kairos events.

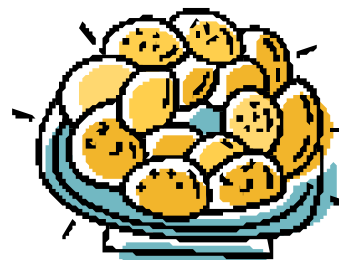
What kind of cookies can I make? Are there any restrictions?

All types of cookies are needed. Types of cookies that are acceptable: oatmeal, peanut butter, molasses, chocolate chip, ginger. All cookies should be no larger than 2½” in diameter. This size does not break as easily as larger ones. Do not make thin, crisp cookies as they break and cannot be used. **IMPORTANT:** No icing, sugar, or any other type of coating on the outside of the cookies. Also no type of fruit or nuts – for example, no raisins.

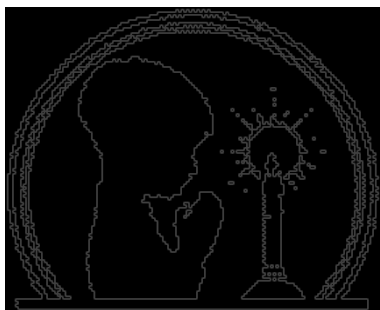
Place cookies in Ziploc bags, a dozen to the bag and label bag as to number of cookies and kind. Cookies can be made ahead of time and frozen. While you are preparing the cookies, we ask that you pray for the people who will eat them.

When are the cookies needed?

Cookies will be collected by a Kairos team member by noon on Tuesday, March 16. Just bring them to the church kitchen clearly marked “KAIROS COOKIES” or call to have them picked up.



Information submitted to The Steeple for publication must be dated and signed with the submitter's full contact information. If the information/article is a reprint, please so note the information on that publication and be certain that we need not get permission from the original publisher. All submissions will be reviewed and approved by the Rector prior to publication in The Steeple.



Remember Those on our Prayer List

Immediate Concerns:

Cheree, Noah, Audrey, Joan, Frankie, Flora K., Danny, Marion, Diane, People of Haiti

Our Servicemen and Servicewomen:

Chad, Benjamin, Paris, Jonathan, Jeremy, Brandon, Jason, Andrew, Patrick, Mike, James, Wesley, Paige, J.T., Robert, Michael

On-Going Prayer Requests:

Camilla, Bill, Lamar, Cecil, Jerry, Deborah, Frank, Charline, Wanda, Jane, Betty, Carol, Louise, James, Jim, Bud, Bronwyn, Wendy, Connie A., Maria, Jean, Sue, Todd, Linda, the Children at the Helping Hands Home

Prayers for the Dead:

Rhett Halsey died Monday February 22, at the age of 84. Ascension welcomed Rhett and Carol in to our church family in 2008. He will be sadly missed; a true Godly gentleman

Marion Kersting (Reta Miskov's cousin) died Monday Feb. 22, at her home in Phoenix, AZ.

Respectfully Submitted, Reta Miskov (ECW Sunshine Committee)

"Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation."



The Consents Are In for the Bishop-Elect!

The Rev. W. Andrew Waldo has ****received the requisite number of consents from diocesan bishops and Standing Committees**. Next step is his ordination and consecration as the eighth bishop of Upper South Carolina on May 22 at Christ Church, Greenville.

While bishops in The Episcopal Church are elected on the local level, they are not approved to serve as bishops until after the completion of a consent process by the leaders of rest of the Church, followed by ordination.

Upon election, the successful candidate is a Bishop-Elect. Following some procedural matters including examinations, formal notices are then sent to bishops with jurisdiction (diocesan bishops only) with separate notices to the standing committees of each of the dioceses in The Episcopal Church. These notices require their own actions and signatures.

In order for a Bishop-Elect to become a bishop, Canon III.11.4 (a) of The Episcopal Church mandates that a majority of diocesan bishops AND a majority of diocesan standing committees must consent to the Bishop-Elect's ordination as bishop. These actions - done separately - must be completed within 120 days from the day notice of the election was sent to the proper parties.

If the Bishop-Elect receives a majority (at least 50% plus 1) of consents from the diocesan bishops as well as a majority from the standing committees, the Bishop-Elect is one step closer. ****Following a successful consent process, ordination and celebration are in order.**

Clergy Contact Information:

Our Rector, The Rev. Marshall (Deedie) can be reached:

Church Office: 882-2006

Pastoral Phone: 985-8758

Email: deediem@bellsouth.net

or: ascensionworship@bellsouth.net



March Birthdays

Guttry, Gary	02
Marshall, Deedie	04
Propes, Ryan	05
Hawkins, Haskell	13
Ross, Lowell	13
Jenkins, Kathleen	16
Whitaker, Pam	16
Mango, Sam	24
Barre', Margaret	25
Cooke, Peter	27
Kochansky, Ellen	30
Spejewski, Gerry	30

Note:

Diocesan Convention recommends that each person contribute \$10 in thanksgiving for a birthday to the Diocese to provide support for new missions. Send checks to:

“Builders for Mission”, Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina, 1115 Marion St., Columbia, SC .

March Anniversaries

Propes, Kim & Anthony	5
Gilson, Lamar & Mark	8
Harris, Anne & Rogers	28
Mcintyre, Dodie & Bob	30

A Note of Thanks

It is a wonderful thing to have family and I am so fortunate to have a wonderful one. But my extended church family has been a blessing beyond my dreams.

I thank you all for the flowers, cards, phone calls, and prayers. God Bless you all.

Audrey Trinder



Important Weather Delay Information

The 8:00 am worship service on January 31 was cancelled due to the forecast of freezing rain on Saturday night. Parishioners should note that, in the event of inclement weather in the future, there will be a recording on Ascension’s voicemail regarding any cancellation. Or you may visit Ascension’s website where the appropriate information will be posted. Cancellation of all meetings and services due to weather conditions will be posted/recorded for your convenience

Budget Box	
January Year To Date	
<u>Income</u>	
Actual	Budget
\$ 37,098	\$ 16,417
<u>Operating Expense*</u>	
\$ 14,629	\$ 18,145
Outreach Committee	
January Year To Date	
Budget + Designated	
Offerings	Distributions
\$ 1,998	\$ 2,315

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension
214 Northampton Road, Seneca, SC 29672

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SENECA, SC

March 2010

PERMIT # 127

Return Service Requested

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