

the steeple

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

June 2010

Mission Statement

*Disciples of Christ called to serve neighbors
near and far*

In the quiet of the moment...

What comes to mind when you think about leadership? A president or military commander, a corporate ceo, a committee chair, or perhaps a bishop? Do you automatically think about someone who tells you what to do? Or do you think of someone who guides, or teaches you what to do, and then walks with you as you continue to learn and grow in confidence? The reality is that leaders come in all shapes and sizes. There are leaders who are tall, short, old, young, soft-spoken, or very noisy at times.

I believe that what is most relevant to us in our context is leadership in the church, and more specifically in a parish or mission. The Diocese is sponsoring Leadership Conferences that bring congregations together according to size, by Average Sunday Attendance. Church of the Ascension falls into the category of a Pastoral Size Parish – one with 50 to 150 people in church on an average Sunday. A group from our parish leadership met for seven hours on Saturday, May 1, at All Saints Episcopal Church in Clinton with the representatives from other pastoral size churches, members of the Bishop's Staff, and Bishop-elect Andrew Waldo. In fact, of all the churches present, we had the largest contingent. Prior to this meeting in Clinton, we received the agenda for the gathering and were asked to think

about and formulate responses to the following three questions: Who are you? What makes you unique? How are you known in your wider community?

The Ascension group met to discuss our responses. We felt that our Mission Statement begins to tell who we are. We also emphasized that our congregation includes many retirees with the time, talent, and resources to have an active and creative parish. We have completed the Healthy Church Initiative and are in the process of implementing our strategic plan. Two things that are unique about us is that we are the only Episcopal Church in Oconee County and we have a long Episcopal history in Seneca. Our leaders also pointed out that during the past year we have observed our first Quiet Day, Seder Meal, and Easter Vigil. We have also emphasized Christian Education and Outreach, and are now branching out into World Mission endeavors. In the wider community of Seneca and Oconee county, we are known for our delicious meals, Annual Trash And Treasures Fair, Outreach Ministry Fair, and participation in the Ecumenical Lenten Services. That list does not include everything, but those

were a few items that the group singled out to share with the other parish representatives at the Leadership Conference.

We were also asked to identify some challenges. We stated that we want to reach beyond the borders of Oconee County, to do more hands-on outreach and fund raising, to function more like a pastoral size church rather than a family size one, and to attract more people into our parish with additional initiatives for worship and spiritual formation.

At the end of the Leadership Day, we divided into interest groups and discussed more topics about leadership and congregational development, focusing on such subjects as growth, stewardship, outreach, strategic planning, evangelism and incorporation.

One topic that all the parishes mentioned as a way to draw people was “food” and a challenge shared by all was “burn-out”. Together with many other congregations, we share a need to gather more active members and for those who are on the sidelines to become more involved.

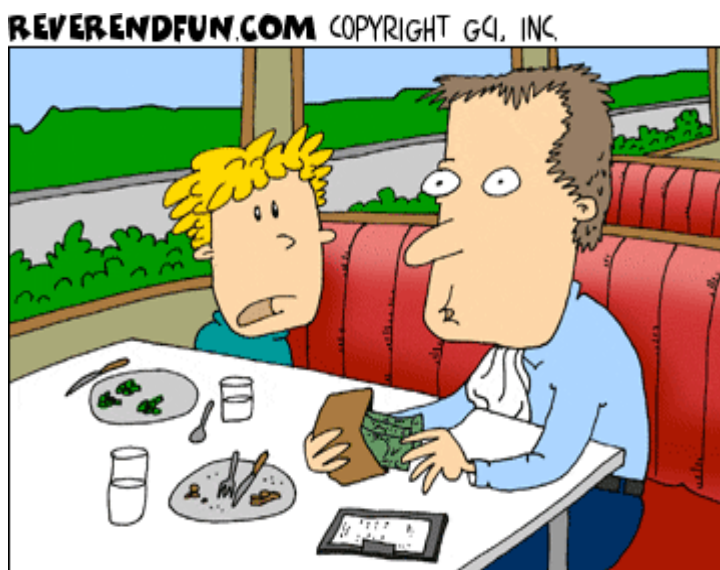
So, how will we answer the question, “What is leadership”? Max DePree, the author of the book, “Leadership is an Art” compares it to the core message of Luke’s gospel which is “serving others”. This is what we call “servant leadership”. I would add to this that leadership in the Church is not about power, authority, or directives, but about work together for the common good of the community which is our church home; it involves agreeing to disagree and staying at the table to seek solutions to our problems. Leadership is about welcoming the stranger and speaking the truth in love, to not force one’s own way, but to forgive and reconcile, and to discern, worship and pray together. Leadership is also about facing reality head on, with a sense of self-understanding

and self-awareness that makes a place for the other.

In conclusion, those of us at the Sharing the Hope conference were asked to pledge To Do ONE THING that will make a difference and strengthen ministry of Christ’s Church in Upper South Carolina. I invite you to also answer that same question, What is that ONE THING that you pledge to do?

See you in Church!

Deedie+



Thanks to Shirley Ostrander

01-15-2004

HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

The Steeple

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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



Foothills Pregnancy Care Center

The Mission: The Foothills Pregnancy Care Center exist to uphold the sanctity of human life by sharing Christ's love with those facing a pregnancy related crisis through spiritual, physical and emotional support, and by proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, the source of all life.

The Foothills Pregnancy Care Center has seen an increased need for their services over the course of the past two years. The increased need is mainly due to the economy. More and more mothers cannot provide for themselves during a pregnancy.

The material needs of mothers are listed below. The Foothills Pregnancy Care Center is always thankful for your gifts. A collection basket is located in the narthex.

Diapers and Wipes Baby & Toddler clothes
 Bottles and bibs Maternity Clothes
 Baby Wash, Lotion, Power High Chairs
 Diaper Ointment
 Strollers
 First Aid Items
 Booster Seats
 Formula & Baby Food
 Walkers
 Bassinets
 Bouncy Seats
 Pack-n-Plays New Cribs
 Blankets & Crib Sheets Baby Toys

In addition to material gifts, monetary gifts are always welcome. Ascension's Outreach Committee supports the Foothills Pregnancy Care Center, as limited funds permit.

Donnie Davenport

Many years ago when I was in college we took a trip to France and visited Chartres Cathedral.. I remember walking over the labyrinth there and being told that it was a "Labyrinth". I thought it was a neat design but had no idea as to its purpose. In fact at the time the labyrinth was partly covered with folding chairs and no additional info was provided. Not that a teenager at my age would have cared anyway.

Many years passed and I ran into my second labyrinth at Kanuga. My interest was caught and I looked into it. I walked it that day and came out somewhat confused. I did notice a certain quieting of the spirit but did not notice God speaking to me. At the time I did not know that one has to listen if one wants to hear God.

Over the years I have returned to the labyrinth at Kanuga and walked it. Each time I felt a deeper understanding about the true meaning of it. Each time my spirit would settle, the outside world would seem to back off and I would gain peace. I cannot say I have ever heard God speak while walking the labyrinth but each time I gained a deeper understanding of myself and my relationship with God. It is a truly cleansing experience.

This last time at Kanuga Theresa and I walked down to the labyrinth and found a young man walking it. He had brought his dog and tied it to a tree while he was there. He walked very slowly, savoring each step. He reached the center and stopped there. He was still there some 10 minutes later when we left. I don't think he ever realized we were there. He was communing with his God, much better than I have ever been able to.

Now we have the possibility of having our own Labyrinth. I am very excited about it and hope others will feel the same way I do. You only have to walk it the first time to notice a difference.

Sid Bryson

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

Sid Bryson——sdryson@bellsouth.net

Dee Smith——chuckandee@bellsouth.net

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

CHRISTIAN FORMATION MINISTRY

COMING THIS SUMMER: SUPPER AND SHOW

Mark your summer calendars for our upcoming Supper and Show evenings. Each evening we will be serving a light supper followed by an inspirational movie. Our first event will be held on TUESDAY, JUNE 15TH. Come at 6:00 and enjoy a meal of pizza, salad, dessert and beverage. Our fellowship will be followed by the movie, ONE NIGHT WITH THE KING, the story of Queen Esther of Persia. During her life, the state has decreed that all Jews be put to death. Come and hear Esther's story and learn about her courage and faith as she struggles to save her people.

On TUESDAY JULY 13TH we will hold our second SUPPER AND SHOW evening. Our film will be AMAZING GRACE. We are showing this again by popular demand.

Our final evening will be held TUESDAY, AUGUST 10TH and we will be showing the film, FACING OUR GIANTS.

You can read more about our July and August evenings in future Sunday bulletins. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board at church for each evening. Please let us know if you will be joining us. We hope you will bring family and friends along with you.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS NEWS- The purpose of this class is to have a wonderful Christian learning experience. This goal is accomplished by using Cooke's "Understand the Bible" study guide. For the next 13 weeks class members are furthering this goal with a study of St. Paul's letters to the Philippians and Colossians. (There is still time for you to be part of this enlightening experience). The letters were probably written while St. Paul was under house arrest and latter in a Roman prison. These letters are the most enduring statements faith and hope and shared his most penetrating insights about the divine nature of Christ. For example, Philippians 2:6-11 is considered by Bibli-

cal scholars to be an early Christian hymn. From the earliest days of the church, Christians sang songs expressing their devotion and faith in Christ (Col. 3:16). Most of the early hymns are lost, but a few are preserved in Paul's letters. Besides Philippians, parts of other possible hymns may be found in Ephesians 5:14, Colossians 1:15-20, and in Timothy 3:16. Class members will learn early Hebrew origins of "The burnt offerings", "The grain offering", "The fellowship offering", "The sin offering", and "The guilt offering. Also time will be spent on how Timothy was selected by Paul to be a part of his evangelistic "band". In addition the 12 Hebrew Tribes will be studied. Paul came from the tribe of Benjamin and Jesus was a descendent of the tribe of Judah. You are invited to experience this happy class every Sunday from 9:30 am. to 10:15 am.

For information call Bob Andrews at 518-963-7825.

The Adult Christian Education Class II will meet on Sundays at 9:15 to continue reading of the Book of Acts and play the game, Episcopopoly. Come and join the fun and fellowship as we all learn together. Also, another confirmation class will begin soon. If you are not yet a member at Ascension, please plan to attend this class. More information will come to you soon.

Save the date: Reedy River Convocation Chili Cook-off set for October 3

Proceeds to benefit the diocesan [Bread & Water Campaign](#)

The Reedy River Convocation Chili Cook-off is set for Sunday, October 3, at the Holy Cross Picnic Pavilion in Simpsonville.

Two entries of chili are invited from each of the 11 churches in the convocation. First and second place trophies awarded by judges +Andrew and Mary Waldo.

And it's all for a good cause: proceeds benefit the [Bread and Water Campaign](#) to support our diocesan ministries in Cange, Haiti.

Make your plans to attend now!

Helping Hands Update

The home has 23 children at the present time. The home is in transition from an emergency shelter and group home to just a group home with an occasional child for emergency shelter. In the near future we hope to have some of the children visit our church again and participate in our Sunday School class. Three Ascension ladies, Marsha Cabbage, Sue Doplnr, and Kim Payne, visited the home last week. Helping Hands loves to have visitors come and see the home and find out more about this wonderful mission to the abused and neglected children in the upstate.

The Helping Hands Store could use some more volunteers to help keep the flow of donations reaching the waiting shelves. You can volunteer any day and as many hours as you can give. A group from Ascension goes to the store every Wednesday morning then at noon meets for lunch and fellowship. Please join us. Call Carol Pope at 886-8788 or Relia Spencer at 944-5466 for more information.

To My Dear Friends in Christ

It was the best of times, the worst of times... Rhett's too-brief, abruptly-ceased sojourn at Ascension. The joy he felt in serving God and all of you was immeasurable, but so was the wracking, unrelenting pain that rushed ever more swiftly to claim his life. It was because of you, with your endless expressions of love and encouragement, that he found the courage to carry on until the very end. With all my heart, I thank you for this. The funeral mass was solacing beautiful, the reception heart-warming. Both sent forth, through the prevailing sorrow, the joyful message of God-given immortality. Kudos must go to rector, Eucharist minister, verger, volunteer choir, organist, server, acolytes, ushers, and the wonder-working women of the ECW. With deepest gratitude, I thank you for this.

My very special appreciation goes to these dear friends, who, in addition to their constant show of caring, walked the extra mile to demonstrate their love: Barbara and Robert, for, first, introducing us to the church, and for continuing with a spirit-lifting showering of cards, calls and copious containers of delicious, home-cooked food. Lou, for the many miles he traveled, taking Rhett to doctors offices and hospitals at all hours of the day and night, and for staunchly bearing his ashes on his final journey down the church aisle. Gwin, for taking time from her last busy days as verger to teach Rhett the workings, customs and traditions of a church new and unfamiliar to him, and for bringing communion to us on her last Sunday with the church. And, of course, Deedie, for appearing almost daily at Rhett's bedside, a guardian angel, and for sitting with me through long, tedious hours of anxiety during each of Rhett's many operations and procedures. With enduring love, I thank you for this.

As Rhett fought his way through exhausting days of trial treatments and painful procedures, he continued to defy death with a rigid determination to reach his two goals... return to his work at the church and get back to writing his memoirs. This story of his life is dramatic... scaling the bright heights of happiness, wading through dark depths of woe. But all of it is bound together with reverent appreciation of this adventure on planet Earth, given him by God, in whom he had absolute and abiding faith.

Both his book and the church, however, were pushed from his thoughts on one particular day in the hospital. In mounting misery, he lay on his bed, eyes closed, utterly still except for the gentle pressure of his hand on mine. He was in the throes

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*.

of making a momentous, mind-struggling decision. Should he go ahead with an operation, scheduled for the following morning; that would lengthen his life but could not lessen his pain? The hours crept by, the day grew long, the decision was finally made; but not by Rhett.

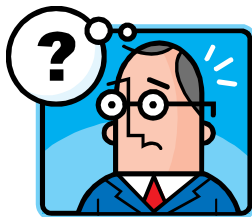
As the shadows of night softly enclosed the Earth, quietly and unexpectedly, God reached down and slowly, tenderly lifted him up... out of the region of torment, into the realm of peace.

His work at Ascension is done. Unfinished, his book has died. But, freed from pain forever, Rhett lives on.

So, finally... although with an aching heart... I thank you, God, for this.

May the Lord bless all of you with His everlasting love.

Carol Halsey



EPISCOPALOGY FOR JUNE:

- **Who wrote the Gospels?**
_____, _____, _____,
_____, and _____.
- **Name 8 New Testament Books** _____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____ and
_____.
- **How many missionary journeys did Paul make?**
- **Who was Jesus' cousin?**
- **Who do you think is the Beloved disciple in John's Gospel?**
- **What are the books of the Apocrypha?**

- **Which Gospel do we believe was written last?**
- **In which Gospel do we find the story of the "Good Samaritan"?**
- **Name the first book in the Bible:** _____
- **Who do you think wrote the Book of Revelation?**

Extra Credit: What is our bishop's name?

Thanks for your work on these. Please have fun with them and look for the answers in the next edition of the Steeple.

Episcopalogy:

Answers to the questions for May:

1. Thomas Cranmer; 2. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; 3. Purple, or Lenten array; 4. Alleluias; 5. Altar guild; 6. Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist; 7. Laity, bishops, priests and deacons; 8. Grace; 9. False; 10. True.

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

Remember Those on our Prayer List

Immediate Concerns:

Kim T, Dodie L, Tula Henson+, Doug H, Martin, People of Haiti, People of Chile

Our Servicemen and Servicewomen:

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

On-Going Prayer Requests:

Jeanne, Bob, Dawn, Flora K, Lamar, Danny, Joan, Diane, Camilla, Bill, Deborah, Charline, Wanda, Louise, Bronwyn, Wendy, Connie A., Maria, Jean, Sue, Todd, Children at the Helping Hands Home

Prayers for the Dead:

Colleen Robinson, Deedie's friend, died Friday April 30 in her home of Columbia, SC. Her memorial service was held on May 4.

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.”

Budget Box	
April Year To Date	
<u>Income</u>	
Actual	Budget
\$90354.88	\$69000.00
<u>Operating Expense*</u>	
\$67294.29	\$72579.92
Outreach Committee	
April Year To Date	
Budget + Designated Offerings	Distributions
\$16405.00	\$ 7250.00
(includes \$10,000 to be paid from special gifts)	



Birthdays

COLLINS, Clifton	06/01
CURTIS, Bruce	06/01
SPENCER, Connie	06/02
TRINDER, Audrey	06/03
SHOOT, Lynn	06/05
PARKER, Mark	06/06
MCINTYRE, Bob	06/07
TESKE, Bill	06/07
STEPHENS, Betty	06/08
HAYDEN, Alexander	06/10
WALTON, Jim	06/10
DAVIES, Virginia	06/12
FULLER, Jim	06/13
HUGGINS, Pat*	06/14
CABBAGE, Marsha	06/18
SAMPSON, Muriel	06/18
CHRISTENSEN, Lou	06/20
MCGUFFIN, James	06/21
BROOKS, Eve	06/23
TESKE, Dot	06/23
WILSON, Robert	06/23
GRAY, Sally	06/26
STEINBRINK, Davida	06/29
LEFFLER, Lou	06/30

Anniversaries

<u>June Anniversaries</u>	
MARSHALL, Bruce and Deedie	06/02
STAMEY, Raymond and Maria	06/10
STANTON, Russell and Charline	06/11
PATTON, Chad and Joy	06/14
DUNN, William and Jacqueline	06/15
LEWIS, Robert and Barbara	06/17
RICHARDSON, Kenneth and Louise	06/17
BRYSON, Sidney and Theresa	06/18
BALLENGER, Benny and Ruth	06/19
GRIDER, Doug and Robbie	06/19
CHRISTENSEN, Lou and Christine	06/20
BREWER, Dick and Joyce	06/21
PAYNE, Bobby and Kim	06/26
GALLIMORE, Wayne and Marty	06/29

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2010

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Return Service Requested

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