



# The Grapevine

## February 2009

A monthly newsletter of  
St. Bartholomew's  
Episcopal Church  
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Carolyn Ashford-Works  
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Lyn Sims  
Senior Warden

Saranne Wilson  
Junior Warden

Pierce Cassedy  
Treasurer

Elizabeth Haddix  
Clerk

Grapevine Editor—Nancy Simons

From our Vicar, Carl

### IN MEMORIAM

John Whiton Simons  
June 2, 1931 – December 30, 2008  
Priest, beloved friend and former Interim Rector of  
St. Bartholomew's Church

*May his soul and those of all the beloved departed rest in  
peace*

As he hoped would be true for all of us, John Simons valued more than anything else his baptism into the body of Christ or, said differently, his ordination as a lay person, or his call to be a disciple of Jesus. John was a leader among us by being a servant to us and others. He showed his passion through his involvements with service ministries of all sorts from CORA to Habitat to Kiwanis and even to Costa Rico. This fundamental witness to the good news of God in Christ was his best sermon by far. It gave shape and substance to his marriage, his family, and his general presence within the communities where he and Nancy lived. We are better – a lot better -- by his having lived in this community with us.

John also valued his ordination as a priest. It gave him distinctive avenues of service: as counselor, preacher, celebrant, cheerleader, community organizer, exemplar, and friend. He taught us a lot about life in the body of Christ. By word and example he made us stronger lay people, more fully committed disciples of Jesus, and more dedicated servants of one another and all who are in need.

We thank God for John Simons.

Yours in Christ,

Carl

## Vestry Actions on January 4 and 14

- Elected Kit Donner to the vacant one-year term on the Vestry and Elizabeth Haddix to be Clerk of the Vestry
- Elected Julia Haman to be Youth Representative to the Vestry
- Received a year-end 2008 financial report from Pierce Cassedy, Treasurer, showing that income exceeded expenses by nearly \$12,000
- Adopted the operating budget for 2009 recommended by the Finance Team
- Reviewed the history of clergy and lay leadership since 2004
- Made further plans for the Vestry Retreat on Friday evening, January 30 and across the day on January 31 at the RAFI center in Pittsboro

Our lives  
together

## Notes of appreciation

- To those who helped with the Cambridge Hills service on January 4
- To Lyn Sims for hosting the Vestry meeting at her home on January 14
- To Jane Pyle and Richard Simons for arranging for the video and audio transmission to the Parish House of the memorial service for John Simons
- To Ann Thomas, Ginny Gregory, Sara Wilson, Sledd Thomas, the Simons family and a whole host of other parishioners who pitched in to set up the Parish Hall and provide food for the reception after the memorial service for John Simons
- To Maclyn Gavin and Bev Donaldson for their reports to the congregation on the events and action of our Diocesan Convention

Our lives together  
in the wider  
church

## Shrove Tuesday on February 24

Our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will begin at 5:00 p.m.; we'll continue to serve pancakes, sausage and fruit until 7:00 p.m. The suggested donation is \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

Volunteers are needed for Monday night at church, beginning at 6 p.m., to set up tables and chairs, cover with tablecloths, wrap tableware, and help cut up dried fruit for simmering. Volunteers are also needed to cook sausage at home and have at church by 4 p.m. on the 24th.

Other volunteer spots are open for greeters, table hosts, crowd control (!), pancake cooking, and **clean-up**.

For more information call CR Townsend 919-542-5422 or email [crtownsend@embarqmail.com](mailto:crtownsend@embarqmail.com)

Our lives together  
in the community

## Preparations for Ash Wednesday on February 25

About 6:20 Shrove Tuesday night, we'll burn the palm branches from last Palm Sunday in order to prepare the ashes we'll use in our Ash Wednesday services of worship. If you have some of those branches at home, be sure to bring them to church on Sunday or to the Pancake Supper..

On Ash Wednesday itself we will have three celebrations of the Holy Eucharist, at 8:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 7:00 p.m. Each will include the special Ash Wednesday liturgy as the first part of the service. Come to one or all as you wish.

## Lenten Wednesday Suppers being planned

From Wednesday, March 4 through Wednesday, April 8, we will have congregational suppers, study, and worship from 6:00 p.m. until about 8:00 p.m. Families are encouraged to attend with their children. The programs for these evenings are in the planning stage now. If you would like to make suggestions about what we might do, please let Father Carl or Lay Leader Karen know of them.

### Altar Flowers

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 25, marking a season without flowers. But there are still 3 Sundays before then and many other Sundays beginning with Easter when altar flowers are used to glorify God. Check the calendar on the door from the parish house to the church to pick out your Sunday of celebration.

### Coffee Hour Hosts

My thanks to everyone who volunteered to be coffee hour hosts this year. There is one Sunday each month open for anyone who did not sign up to do this on a regular basis but would like to do it when it is convenient for them. The sign up sheet is in the parish hall outside the kitchen door, or if there is a Sunday you know you want to volunteer before I make up the schedule, just let me know. I make the schedule quarterly. Food should be out before the end of the 8:00 a.m. service. Thanks again for your support and getting and preparing the food.

Don Krombach 387-1287

Try as I might, I have not, as yet, been able to thank everyone for all the love, prayers, food, gifts and other outpourings in celebration of John's life and ministry. Please know that our whole family feels enveloped by your caring.

Your love and concern has reinforced our knowledge that he is in God's Hands.

Nancy, Rich, Karen, Bob and Andy,  
and all their families



### Postcard from the Pews, February 2009

Dear friends in Christ;

We have an untapped treasure in our parish library that I would like to share with you. There is a series of videotapes from the Efird Bible Studies Series, which are wonderful! And some of them are on the Acts of the Apostles! Mickey Efird is a great teacher and speaker, whose lectures on the Acts are interesting and thought provoking. So....for the next 2 months, I am inviting you to join our Adult Bible Study group on Sundays at 9:30 to watch some of the lectures with us in the parish parlor.

The lectures are between 20 and 35 minutes long, so there will be time for a short discussion before the 10:30 service. It will be helpful if you read the Acts of the Apostles, but not necessary to enjoy the tapes. Feel free to bring a cup of coffee and a treat. Come to all or one of the sessions.

Our Thursday Lunches are going well. The volunteer staff would be thrilled if you could donate a couple of hours once a month to wash dishes or serve beverages. Our wonderful dishwasher had to return to a full time job recently, and we miss her! Please call me if you can volunteer. It's a wonderful way to spend a Thursday, in the company of great people. If you cannot be there in person, we always welcome your financial donations, which are tax deductible.

The Taize services continue on the first Sunday of the month at 5:15, with a small but dedicated group of contemplative pray-ers and singers. If you are looking for a quiet time in the church before the start of the workweek, consider joining us for an hour of meditative prayer. Thanks to Mary Phyllis Home and Patricia McCarthy for your ministries of music and reading for the First Sunday service.

Walk in peace,

Karen

## *Seeing the Face of God in Each Other*

The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina held our 193<sup>rd</sup> Convention in Winston-Salem during the weekend of January 23-24. Convention is always a wonderful time of fellowship, worship and of discussing and doing the necessary business of our diocese – budget, program, and resolutions about everything from liturgy to environment to ensuring full funding of our diocese.

But Convention is also the time when Bishop Curry offers direction for the coming year, and makes requests of the 122 parishes, missions, and chaplaincies in our diocese.

Last year, Bishop Curry asked that we as a diocese dream, hope and pray that by 2017, our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the Diocese of North Carolina, “the Episcopal Church here will reflect the face of the peoples of North Carolina in all of our variety and God-given diversity. And that it will be known of us far and wide that, ‘All are welcome in this place.’” This year, the entire convention was designed around this theme, and we are asked to take very specific steps to reach this dream.

First, we are asked the simple and easy step of including a new hymn in our repertoire, to be learned and sung loudly, joyfully, and often. The hymn was introduced to Bishop Curry at the Lambeth Conference, where the bishops of the Anglican Communion (of which the Episcopal Church is a part) meet each decade. The hymn is included in the January 2009 copy of the NC Disciple. Bishop Curry was very moved by its words:

*Let us build a house where love can dwell  
And all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children  
Tell how hearts learn to forgive;  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
Rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
All are welcome in this place.*

Second, we are asked to reach out to a church of another culture or race, and to engage in conversation and partnership. Indeed, 20 parishes of the diocese are already doing this, and have become “Companions in Mission” with other Christian churches. The partner churches in this program are local, and the two churches decide themselves what form the partnership takes. Conversation and time are required to build trust and understanding. The purpose is to be involved together in bringing justice and healing to the world.

Thirdly, we at St. Bartholomew’s are asked to study our past and our history of the parish’s complicity in slavery. Our parish is one of 22 in the diocese that pre-date the Civil War. We and the others are asked to do so in order to further healing in our community and bring health to

our history. Assisting Bishop Chip Marble told us that a healthy history is one that is “owned, acknowledged, accepted and forgiven.” Included in our convention packets, and referred to in a report by Bishop Marble, was an address made by our Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Katherine Jefferts Schori, in a Service of Repentance offered in Philadelphia last October. In her address, Bishop Jefferts Schori states that, “We have hardly begun to look at the realities of our heritage.” She is speaking of our whole Church and our whole nation. She asks us to explore how we continue to benefit from the labor of slavery today, how we “ignore the image of Christ in our neighbors.” And also she asks us to know that the “great vision of liberation, redemption, and healing is indeed possible, if we join in.”

Finally, we are challenged by all the speakers at our diocesan convention to ask ourselves if we can truly say that “All Are Welcome” in our parish. We are asked to step out of our comfort zone, to reach out to our neighbors. At St. Bartholomew’s, we do welcome all who come through our door on Sundays. And we are reaching out to the community by providing our Thursday lunches to all who care to join us. But what more can we do to really reach out, to offer a “radical welcome” to those with whom we may not feel completely comfortable? What would the hospitality offered by Jesus look like?

The first Anglican baptism in America was the baptism of Manteo, a Native American and friend to English colonists, in what is now North Carolina, on August 13, 1587. A few days later, the baptism of the first infant born in here, Virginia Dare, was recorded. At Convention, we passed a resolution requesting the national General Convention of the Episcopal Church to commemorate these baptism dates in our liturgical calendar. Let us allow the significance of these first American Anglican baptisms to inspire us!

We have a practical opportunity to act upon these steps immediately. The Bishop’s Committee for Racial Justice and Reconciliation is sponsoring a full day seminar, “Seeing the Face of God in Each Other: A Seminar on Race,” on Feb. 7 in Laurinburg, Feb. 28 in Cary, and on Mar. 7 in Greensboro. I am committed to joining in one of these sessions, and invite each of you to also accept our Bishop’s invitation to join as well.

This Convention ended my three year term as delegate. I am honored to have been able to serve in this way, and intend to continue to share all that I have learned about our diocese and what it means to be an Episcopalian. Thank you for allowing me this privilege.

Please contact me if you have any questions or wish to attend one of the seminars.

919-548-6268 or [maclynahg@gmail.com](mailto:maclynahg@gmail.com).

Maclyn Humphrey Gavin

## Prayer Requests

### **Our Members**

Barb Alotis • Lee Bennett • Nan Capaldi • Jeff Clayton • Kit Donner • Bill and Virginia Dudenhausen  
Margie Ellison • Aleacia Fisher • Harvey and Nancy Harman • Valerie and Jim Hinkley • Steve Jenkins  
Lyn Sims • Susan Turner and Grandchildren • Wilson Family

### **Our Family and Friends**

James Acquaviva • Kim Archer • Dan and Joyce Arrasmith • Ludie Aycock • LeNoir Ayscue • Angela Baker  
Dave Bamberg • Cindy and Brad Barker • Sam Berg and Family • Ann Bickel • Marion and Sarah Jane  
Briggs • Shannon Bueker • LeVaughn Bullis • Roy and Theresa Church • Geneva Cooper • Stuart Dallyn  
Kevin Delaney • Art DeWeese • Jeane Ebert • Louise Eden • Cheryl Flicker • Nancy Foster  
Robert Earl Foster • Letia Gorski • Lee Griffin • Julian Hamer • Katherine Haworth  
Gary and Cindy Hogman • Steve Hollenback • Peter and Celia Homans • Mildred Humphrey  
Karl Kachergis • Mark Karan • Jennifer Krantz • William London • Killian Mansfield  
Diane Marie and Bruce Lucas • Olivia Grace Melville • Fern Mignon • Terri Moretz • Ruth Morgans  
Charlotte Owen • Lonnie Parcell • David Perkinson • Bill Pinner • Don Raleigh • Joan Reece • Kathy Restivo  
Christina Roche • Billie and Bill Sessoms • Family of Bonita Seymour • Bess Simons and Family  
Webster Simons • Millie and Allen Smith • Eric Starkey • Avery Stewart • Dewayne Stone  
Doyle and Vicki Stout • Bob, Kathy, and Bryan Swagerty • Nan Swagerty • Walter Swindells • Erin Tallman  
Dell Turner • Esther Volk • Bill Walton • Charles and Vicky Ward • Reuben Weiss • Dana Williams

### **All in the military, especially**

Ryan S. Baker • Peggy Davidson • Colin Foote • Trey Walters  
and all in harm's way

