



**The mission of St. John's Episcopal Church
is to be a loving and diverse community
celebrating the Good News of Jesus Christ
by word, example, and service to others**

October 2008
Volume 4, Issue 7
Season of Pentecost

St. John's Episcopal Church

Eagle Notes

Dates to Remember

October 1

- Speeders

October 3

- Blessing of the Animals

October 4

- Healing Prayers;
- Taizé Service

October 5

- Holy Grounds cancelled;
Fall Priests' Conference

October 11

- 2nd Sunday

October 18

- Nat'l Children's Sabbath
- Liturgy Commission Mtg.
- Annual Bargain Shop
Dinner

October 20

- Vestry Meeting

October 24

- Night of Talent

Looking Ahead

*Please check announcements for the upcoming **Church Workday***

November 2—Holy Grounds

November 5—Speeders

November 6-7—Annual Council

November 11—Veterans' Day

**November 15—Music
Traveler's Group Trip**

November 26—Thanksgiving Day

From the Rector

It seems that we are...entering a post secular period in which our perspective on the world is being refashioned in response to contemporary economic and environmental challenges and in which we search for a more holistic understanding of reality.

If the reference to God is edited out of our perspective then the world simply becomes a theatre of human willing. We come to regard our wills as sovereign. We no longer experience ourselves as participants in an animated universe but as detached exploiters of mere matter. Dominance is substituted for connectedness in our relations with the world around us. Choice becomes the highest good, not *what* we choose.

Jesus Christ...came in the form of a servant to convey the truth that the first step in becoming a human being is to refuse to be a little god. St Paul invites us to a great humility which must embrace a care for the frail and the poor of the earth and a detestation of every form of slavery and oppression. Genuine conversion to the way of Jesus Christ consists in turning away from deifying our own will; turning away from life as a consumer of the world and turning towards being a communicant; a citizen and a contemplative.

We have witnessed in the experiments of the political religions of the 20th century, Communism and National Socialism, attempts to explore just what Christian ethics without Christian faith might be in practice. But the serious consequences of atheism are still largely hidden from our contemporaries and indeed we are all caught up in a society shaped by the sovereignty of human willing and choice untrammelled by any higher good.

Now after half a century of the consumerism, which has replaced the discredited political religions, we have entered not a metaphorical wasteland but a real one in which we are drowning in our own rubbish.

Will the church in these new circumstances be enabled to become what it was intended to be – **a school of relating**,

(Continued on page 2)

Parish Life

**Our deepest sympathy
To Georgie White, on the death of
her mother, Ruth.**

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Please call the church office by **Thursday, October 29**, with the names of those who have died since last All Saints'. They will be remembered on **All Saints' Day**, November 1.

(From the Rector, Continued from page 1)

in which God meets us and draws us into a communion with him and with one another, and revises our understanding of what is valuable in life through his human expression Jesus Christ? Will the church become a foretaste of a new way of being in the world in which we become increasingly aware that loving our neighbour today involves a care for the Creation and care for vulnerable communities of those least able to adapt to the economic and environmental changes that are occurring?

It is undeniable there has been a certain loss of nerve in the church, even an excessive desire to entertain rather than insist on a radically different way of life. But the Church is one of the places where we can with seriousness explore the consequences of the great crisis of the 21st century: an interlocking crisis in which denying God, despoiling the earth, and diminishing humanity are an anti-trinity which we are called upon to unmask and against which we are called together to struggle, as members of the body of Christ.

From a sermon of the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres

Annual Council

We are pleased to announce that **Jackie Berlin, Janet Standen, and Paul Brady**, along with **Fr. Troy Beecham** will be St. John's representatives at the Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta in November. These are exciting and interesting times in the church, dealing with weighty issues. Thank you each for your service!

Why It's Important

-From Debbie Reeves, Senior Warden

At last night's vestry meeting, we discussed the fact that it is time for the annual stewardship campaign. The discussion turned to pledges, pledge cards and how to make this year's campaign so dazzling that you could not wait to complete that card and start writing those checks! Unfortunately, we did not come up with anything dazzling. There is nothing dazzling about it. Making a pledge to your church is not dazzling. It is a commitment. We are all committed to something. The commitment that you have made to your spouse, your partner, your children, or to God is a choice. It's personal.

I chose this church over 20 years ago. Most of you know our story. I wanted my daughter to go to St. John's Episcopal School and I felt that if she was going to school here then we should go to church here. I made a commitment. My husband had never set foot in an Episcopal church but he made a commitment to St. John's School. (The church came later for him!) He painted walls, went on field trips, cooked hot dogs, dressed up like a pirate, whatever. He was committed. Then he had a terrible accident that changed our lives forever. It took a long time for him to feel comfortable going anywhere in his wheelchair. But he came to St. John's. He came to love this church so much in fact, that he would sing all the way here on Sundays. God's grace and this place gave us back our lives. For THAT I am grateful. For THAT, I feel blessed to give back whatever I can to God and this church.

It feeds my soul to write that check. It's not dazzling. It's personal.

Each month in this space, a member of the vestry will share their story of why making and keeping a financial pledge to the church is important to them.

What's Happening?

October 1**10:30 a.m.*****Speeders***

Speeders resumes this month! Join us for Holy Eucharist, followed by lunch and a presentation. Speeders is held on first Thursdays. This month, we will see a presentation from the **High Museum of Art on Leonardo DaVinci**. Special thanks goes to **Joe Barthelette** for preparing the meal this month.

Saturday, October 3***Blessing of the Animals & Fall Festival*****Sunday, October 4****8 & 10:30 a.m.*****Healing Prayers***

The first Sunday of every month, we offer healing prayers and anointing with holy oil at both services. Do you need physical, mental, or spiritual healing? Does someone you love need that healing? Do you know of a condition in the world that needs healing? Come pray with us and know the love that surrounds us all.

Sunday, September 6**7 p.m.*****Taizé Service***

Taizé is held the first Sunday of each month at 7 p.m. It includes music, silence, scripture and prayer, and provides a time to experience the presence of God in a unique way. The name for Taizé comes from the Latin meaning Spring - a time of renewal and new life.

Sunday, October 11***2nd Sunday Brunch***

After the 10:30 a.m. service, join us downstairs for the monthly 2nd Sunday brunch. Bring a dish to share and enjoy food and fellowship together.

October 18***National Children's Sabbath
Liturgy Commission Meeting*****October 18****5 p.m.*****Bargain Shop Dinner***

Bargain Shop volunteers, come enjoy a catered dinner on the Bargain Shop, in appreciation for all your hard work! You and one guest are invited to a catered meal in the Parish Hall. Please RSVP to **M.E. King** (770-461-7343).

October 20**6:15 p.m.*****Vestry Meeting******Have something to share?***

**Send in good news or needs,
thoughts, thanks, and prayers!**

Submissions for the next *Eagle Notes* are due by **Wednesday October 21**. E-mail parishadmin@stjohn-collegepark.com or mail to 3480 Main Street, College Park, GA 30337.

We want to hear from you!**October 24****5:30 p.m.*****Night of Talent*****October 22****5:30 p.m.*****Pride Service***

All Saint's invites you to the Annual Pride Service, beginning at 7:30 p.m. You are also invited to sing in the joint choir that evening; if you would like to participate, the choir, please be present in the All Saint's choir suite by 6:30 p.m. The service begins at 7:30pm. For more information, call All Saint's parish or e-mail bruce.garner@att.net.

Tuesdays**6 p.m.*****Yoga***

Hylan Scott's class introduces and explores standing postures, flow sequences, and breathing practices to expand flexibility, strength, circulation, vitality and peace of mind. Please bring an exercise mat and a bath towel. Classes meet in the parlor. \$5 for parishioners/\$10 for all others.

Wednesdays**6-8 p.m.*****Adult Spiritual Formation***

Dinner begins at 6 and Bible study at 6:30 p.m. All kids are invited to come and play. As usual, please call in advance if you will be with us. Would you like to help with meal planning? Call **David Houser** (404-873-3184).

A Thought from Gerry O'Connor: *'To get something you never had, you have to do something you never did.'* When God takes something from your grasp, He's not punishing you, but merely opening your hands to receive something better. Concentrate on this sentence... *'The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you.'*

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 3
10 a.m.-2 p.m.

We're looking forward to seeing you
(and all your furry, feathery, leathery, scaly, and
stuffed friends)
in celebration of the life and ministry of St. Francis!

This service, traditionally observed in association with the day commemorating St. Francis of Assisi, also coincides with World Animal Day. It is a wonderful way for us to remember our connection with nature as we give thanks to God for the animals which enrich our lives.

The Blessing will take place at 1 p.m. Stuffed animals are also welcome! All (live) animals should be properly restrained on leashes or in boxes. In addition, we bless *in absentia* using pictures, and will pray for departed pets.

The Festival is from 10 a.m. through 2 p.m. Bring your friends and neighbors to enjoy the barbeque and bake sale, the flea market selling untold treasures, a raffle, face painting, bounce house, and other fun family-friendly activities.

Come hungry! Delicious smoked pulled pork barbecue plates and sandwiches with fixins' will be for sale in the Parish Hall at the festival. You can also buy BBQ by the pound, so you can take home some more for dinner! There will be a variety of delicious baked goods available for dessert, too. For those with four paws, free doggie treats will be available.

Raffle tickets are just \$2 each (3 for \$5!) and will be available for sale in advance each Sunday after the 10:30 a.m. service or the day of the event. Some wonderful raffle items have been generously donated by:

- **Urban Pet Supply, The Atlanta Zoo, High Museum of Art, the Center for Puppetry Arts, the Alliance Theatre, The Brake Pad, Noodle Restaurant, Chili's, Atlanta Park 'N' Bark, & more!**

Can you help? Contact **Carl Cheely** (770-739-7851 / ccheely@comcast.net) to volunteer on one of the festival committees, such as the set up/break down or children's activities teams, or to provide items for the bake sale or raffle items. Also, please take a flyer to post at your vet's office, pet food store, coffee shop, hairdresser's, school, or other local hangout. Flyers are available in the church foyer.

Prayer attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

*Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.*

*Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive; but is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

A NIGHT OF TALENT
PRESENTED BY ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2009 5:30PM

We've got

TALENT!

**A Showcase of Performers and Performances
from within the St. John's parish family**

AND

DAVID at 50:
The Final Concert

**The Final Concert Performance
by St. John's own David McLeod**

- ◆ **Spaghetti Dinner will be served beginning at 5:30 PM,
with the first show beginning at 6:30**
- ◆ **Tickets will be \$10, with ALL PROCEEDS from ticket
sales going to St. John's**

TICKETS ONLY \$10 ON SALE NOW

ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
COLLEGE PARK
GEORGIA

*MagicOne
Communications*

PRAYER LIST

MEMBERS

Caroline Patrick & Joy Lopez
 Laura Vance
 Bena Sue Livsey
 Martha Mercure
 Helen Scarbrough
 Hank & Neva Frese
 Jonathan Reed
 Carl Cheely

FRIENDS & RELATIVES

Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl,
 held captive in Afghanistan
 Ray Pawlik, serving us in Afghanistan
 M.E. King's friend, Adam Steed,
 wounded in Afghanistan
 Debbie Reeves' sister, Kelly
 The Springs' family, Renetta & Chip Lynch
 Becky Rivas' father, Norman
 Calvin Fields' cousin, Randy
 Harriette and Jane Foster's family,
 Raymond and Scott
 Marian Tillman's family's friends,
 Sam & Bryan Kirby
 Sue Johnson's grandson, Jared

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Georgie White's mother, Ruth
 All those who have died in war,
 or from preventable diseases,
 or from malnutrition last week

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR were given to the glory of God and

in memory of my precious daughter,
 Jan Chamblee, and my father, John T. Sanders,
 with love from Jackie Berlin;
 in memory of Jack Miller McLeod
 and Rosa Lynne Morgan McLeod,
 by the McLeod and Housel Families;
 in honor of my granddaughter, Jenna Livsey
 Carrick, and my dear friend, Joe Massey,
 on their birthdays,
 with love from Bena Sue Livsey;
 in memory Teddy Hyatt,
 with love from Randy and Mark;
 in honor of Tom Elston
 and the St. John's Music Department;
 and in thanksgiving for Carl Cheely and the
 entire Blessing of the Animals committee!

On the Verge

-Martha V. McLeod, Verger

The Cats and the Lady (another Parable)

In that same country there was a lady whose name was Ginny, a pious widow whose children had married and dispersed, leaving her alone. She believed in God, studied the scriptures and prayed, and regularly attended a house of worship near her home.

The lady Ginny often rescued and adopted stray cats, caring for their health and well-being and finding new happy homes for many. And as did many in the community, each year she brought her cats to be blessed by the priests, and to ask for prayers for their good health and happiness during the coming year.

The lady Ginny also went out into the community and invited teens and youth to assist her with the cats and the care of her home, and ministered to many, sharing with them her widow's portion for their care, feeding them and paying them for their work, and clothing such as had need. And as they worked together, she told them of God and of the stories in the scriptures, teaching them and inviting them to the place of worship, and their parents and families as well.

And it came to pass that one lad began to argue with the lady Ginny. (This was the same lad who had assisted her in bringing the cats to the blessing, and who, when one escaped, chased it into the nearby village and returned with the wrong cat, followed by the wrong cat's alarmed caretaker.) He said to the lady Ginny, "My folks don't go to worship, everyone works on the last day of the week and so must rest on the Sabbath. I been telling them what you said, and inviting them to the worship, but they are not interested, being tired from their work and wanting to do other things."

But the lady Ginny gently persisted, bringing the lad to assist her with the cats a third time, making known to him the friends and fellows and other good and godly folk who brought their animals to the blessing. She asked him to bring his mother and sisters to the market of fleas and sale of baked goods the same day, and felt that the lad might be wavering in his resolve. So she asked him again, and his mother and sisters, to come worship with her. In desperation the lad said, "But Ms. Ginny, ain't that a white church?"

Immediately the lady Ginny answered, "Actually, it's a red brick church." And the next day the lad and his family attended the worship, and the lady Ginny sat with them and smiled and smiled, sharing her happiness with all the folk at the worship, and with the God who loved her stray cats and teens.

For the last 10-13 years, most new parishioners first came to St. John's when invited to bring their pets and friends to our Blessing of the Animals.

Go thou, and do likewise.

Parish Life

The Mysterious Case of the "Missings"

-from Keith Huffstetter

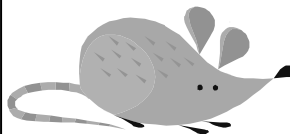
At the bottom of the church's bell tower stairwell, there is a chair rack filled with metal folding chairs. There also used to be a row of metal chairs on the floor adjacent to the full rack. The row of chairs has vanished. Does anybody know anything about them? Who took them, why, does he/she plan to return them? I believe the current policy is that most things in the church are available for loan to parishioners, as long as they are cleared and signed for with the parish administrator.

Something else is also missing from the church. I only come to the 8 a.m. service on Sundays, Taize services, and some midweek services, but over time, I have come to know a number of people I've not seen lately! You know who you are, and I convey to you how much I miss the honor of your presence. Hope to see the "missing" soon!

You are invited

Sunday evening, October 4

Those attending the annual Bargain Shop dinner were invited to also come to the Taize service. About 17 people responded to the invitation, and afterwards, most expressed how much they enjoyed the service and music. It doesn't take much to confuse me, but I have wondered why no one has come back if they enjoyed it so much! All will have an opportunity to come and participate in a lovely Taizé service on Sunday, October 4, at 7 p.m.. Please considering honor with your presence.



Observations of a Church Mouse

News travels fast! I was talking with the rat from next door, and in a matter of minutes I was up-to-date on all the rodent happenings in College Park. Communication is so very important in our world. Someone knows who has the cheese! I have noticed the same thing about you guys, too.

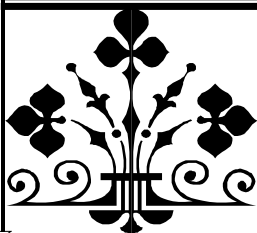
I know the bulletin serves as a major means of sharing information. But how do other people know what we are doing? I am sure that someone heads up public relations for the church. Yet communication is not their sole responsibility. Like mice hunting for cheese, we all share in the responsibility to reach out to people.

I talk about St. John's every chance I get. Do you? Do you reach out to people you've not seen at church in a while? Do you mention our church and its activities to others? (In the beauty shop/barber's? At the hardware store? To your favorite waitress or waiter? To the grocery clerk? To your doctor and nurses? To your cousin twice removed?) Expressing your love of St. John's will draw others.

I heard Fr. Troy say "what would Jesus do"? This is a good thought for communication. We know that Jesus used a wide variety of communication tools to reach his disciples and followers. He spoke clearly and directly from his heart, responding to questions with respect and charity. The Christ in each of us will do the same.

Lee is coming so I better stop for now. Thank you for the cheese at second Sunday Brunch!

Sincerely, *The Church Mouse*



The Flowers on the Altar

We have flowers on the altar each week—dedicating flowers is a good way to commemorate birthdays, anniversaries, and other special days for loved ones. If you would like to donate altar flowers, please sign up by sending a check and a notation as to whom you want to honor or remember.

Name: _____ I would like to dedicate flowers for Sunday, (date) _____

The notation in the bulletin should read: *The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in*

Please return this form with \$40 check attached to the church office or mail to 3480 Main Street, College Park, GA 30337.

St. John's Episcopal Church

The Rev. Troy C. Beecham, *Rector*
Lee Barthelette, *Parish Administrator*
Tom Elston, *Organist/Choirmaster*
Keith Huffstetter, *Rite I Organist*

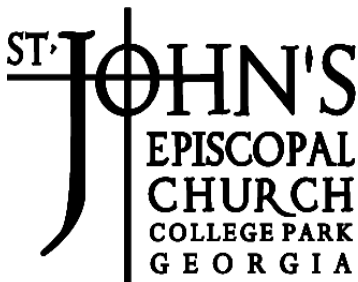
Dennis & Verlyn Luck, Yamily Gilbert, *Nursery*
Martha V. McLeod & Mark Robertson, *Vergers*
David McLeod & Bruce Braxton, *Vergers-in-Training*
John Brady & Dennis Luck, & Scott Fields, *Sextons*

Schedule of Services

- **Holy Eucharist Rite I**
Sunday 8:00 a.m. & Thursday 10:30 a.m.
- **Holy Eucharist Rite II**
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
- **Morning Prayer (Parlor)**
Tuesday & Thursday 9:15 a.m.
- **Wednesday Evening Programs**
6 –8 p.m.—Bible Study (childcare available)
- **Taizé Service**
1st Sundays of the month at 7 p.m.

St. John's Vestry

Debbie Reeves	<i>Senior Warden</i>
Sue Johnson	<i>Junior Warden</i>
Donn Blosser	Paul Brady
Kei Breedlove	Carl Cheely
David Houser	Robbin Iddins
Andy Korta	Janet Standen

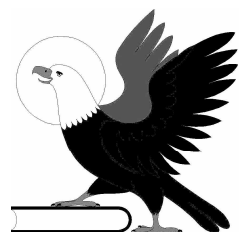


3480 Main Street
College Park, GA 30337
Phone: 404-761-8402
Fax: 404-761-8403
www.stjohnscollegepark.com
parishadmin@stjohnscollegepark.com

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