



**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**

September 2009
Volume 4, Issue 6
Season after Pentecost

St. John's Episcopal Church

Eagle's Notes

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From the Rector

We all have cherished ideas about ourselves. Some of our ideas revolve around how everyone knows us for our kindness, our openness to others, our willingness to serve others, etc.

Sometimes, though, our deeply held self-perceptions do not stand up to the test of others' experiences of us. When confronted with that disparity, we have all kinds of choices to make, among them: denial, avoidance, panic, separation, and acceptance. No matter the response, the revelation stings or hurts, and requires of us some soul searching.

I find myself in just such a place of soul searching today. As it turns out, some folks do not find me reliable. Others find me downright hard to reach. It seems that I sometimes get easily side-tracked and lose sight of commitments. This piercing revelation of my shortcomings, and how some feel disconnected from me as a result, catches me totally unawares and by surprise, and leaves me feeling grief. That I have short-comings does not surprise me, only that they reveal a critical blind-spot in my life and ministry where I think myself strong. I feel like Alice after Ralph actually walloped her 'to the moon'.

So, what do I do with that? Promise never to fail, or to have short-comings? I wish that I could. I know myself well enough to know that disappointment will surely come, sometime, somewhere. I have not yet learned, as Paul boasted, to be all things to all people, though I do strive towards it with all that I have.

While I cannot promise never to fail, I can ask for forgiveness, and I do. I can continue to strive for excellence, to do my best; and my best, all of our best, means that I also need a loving community of people who will speak and minister to me in love, gentleness, and honesty. You can count on my always doing all that I can do to love and serve our Lord and you the people of our

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Christian Formation

Children's Sunday School



The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Classes Begin 9:15 a.m., Sunday, September 13. Please Join us!

Please register children for classes before September 13. Families can pick up a registration form from the narthex, Bott Hall,

or downstairs foyer. Return registration forms to the parish office, Sunday School classrooms, or the teachers.

Preschool-Level I Atrium (ages 3-6)

- 9:15-10:25 a.m. 1st Floor

Elementary-Level II Atrium (ages 6-9)

- 9:15-10:25 a.m. 1st Floor

Elementary-Level III Atrium (ages 9-12)

- 9:15-10:25 a.m. 1st Floor

Level III (ages 9-12) Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) will officially open this year to complete our curriculum! CGS is a Montessori-based Christian Formation program and requires many different levels of involvement from the parish. We have craft opportunities and teaching assistants or substitute opportunities. This school year, classes will run through May 17.

Looking to learn more about our children's Christian Formation programs, thinking about volunteering, or have ideas that need expressing? Please contact Martha Spring at marthaspring@comcast.net or call 770-996-0573. We welcome curious, interested parents or reluctant volunteers to schedule a tour of classrooms.

Polly Hopkins is the catechist in the Level I Atrium
Martha Spring is the catechist in Level II/III.
Angela Barringer Level I certified, will teach & assist.

Nursery

- **(Children < 3) 9 a.m.-11:30 2nd Floor**
 Come play and explore with Yamiley Gilbert and Dennis Luck! Parents with children in the nursery: if it works for you, please feel free to pick up children during or after the Peace; we welcome children during Communion.

Acolytes/Youth

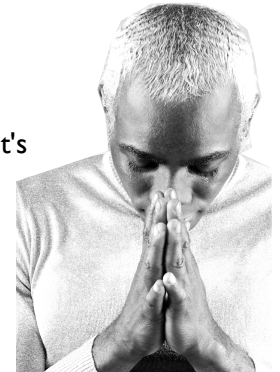
Robbin Iddins & Denise McLeod, Acolyte Directors. Calling all Youth (8+): our Youth/Acolyte ministry depends on YOU! Come see what's new and lend a hand by being an Acolyte. Training is FREE and so are snacks!

Adult Spiritual Formation

Ichabod

Sunday mornings, 9:15 a.m.
In Bott Hall

What's wrong with the church? What's wrong with what we believe? Join Mike Spring's course called "Ichabod" (Know what that means?) for a weekly discussion based on readings that will be made available on the website."



Fall Inquirer's Class

2 opportunities!

- **Rector's Forum**
Sunday mornings, 9:15 a.m. in the Parlor
- **Evening Dinner & Discussion Classes**
Wednesday nights, 6-8 p.m. in Bott Hall

Inquiring Minds Want to Know: would you like to

- transfer into St. John's,
- be confirmed as an Episcopalian,
- renew your baptismal vows (if you're already confirmed),
- or get a "tune up" on the unique nature of our faith?

If so, please call the church or speak with Fr. Troy after services. He is starting a new 6 week long **Inquirer's Class**. It will be offered at 2 separate class times: Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.

Whether confirmed, soon-to-be-confirmed, new to the faith, cradle Episcopalian, or just curious, ALL are invited and encouraged to join us. Remember—faith formation is a lifelong process!

What is confirmation? The Prayer Book tells us that "...in the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop." Confirmation is required by a person wishing to serve as a vestry member, Lay Eucharistic Minister, and other church offices.

For those being confirmed, the confirmation service will be at the Cathedral of St. Philip at 4 p.m. on **December 13**.



Looking for a few good men / women / children / pets

We're looking forward to seeing you
(and all your furry, fuzzy, feathery, leathery, scaly, slimy, and stuffed friends)

at the **October 3rd** **Blessing of the Animals & Fall Festival!**

- **Please take the enclosed flyer** and post it at your vet's office, pet food store, coffee shop, hairdresser's, or other local hangout. More flyers are available at church.
- **Bake Sale:** If you have a special recipe you can make, please see Betsy Daniell or Melissa Brady (lento1@bellsouth.net).
- **BBQ:** If you can help make or serve food, please contact Janet Standen (jdstanden@mindspring.com).
- **Flea Market:** The following types of items for the Flea Market. They seem to do particularly well at the festival: Small appliances and electronics, Christmas items, furniture, movies, linens, toys, and jewelry (no clothes, please). Please bring items to church or see Jane Holloman (robhollo@aol.com) or Will Manders (404-768-5519).
- **Raffle:** Do you (or does your company, your friends, your next-door neighbors) have a unique item to donate for the raffle and/or silent auction? Please contact David Houser (david_houser@att.net/404-873-3184) if so!
- **September 13th and 27th Planning Meetings:** Can you help set up, break down, serve food, clean up, publicize, or otherwise help? Many hands make light work! Please meet for a brief meeting in the parlor after the 10:30 a.m. service, or see Carl Cheely (770-739-7851 / ccheely@comcast.net) to volunteer. Let's make this the best festival yet! *Thank you!*



A NIGHT OF TALENT

Saturday, October 24, 2009 — 5:30 p.m.

WE'VE GOT TALENT:
A SHOWCASE OF PERFORMERS AND PERFORMANCES
FROM WITHIN THE ST. JOHN'S PARISH FAMILY

Open Auditions for *We've Got Talent* to be held September 26

- and -

DAVID AT 50:

THE FINAL CONCERT PERFORMANCE BY ST. JOHN'S OWN DAVID MCLEOD

- ♦ **Spaghetti Dinner will be served beginning at 5:30 p.m.**
- ♦ **The first show begins at 6:30 p.m.**
- ♦ **Tickets will be \$10, with ALL PROCEEDS from ticket sales going to St. John's**
- ♦ **Tickets on sale beginning October 3 at the Blessing of the Animals**

MagicOne Communications

What's Happening?

August Eagle Notes

Welcome, Members!

We are pleased to welcome:
**Cindy Coleman &
Stephanie McKinnell**
to St. John's parish family

Would you like to be baptized, confirmed, or officially transfer your membership? Please contact the church office!

Thursday, September 3

10:30 a.m.

Speeders Resumes

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 **Mike Spring**. Special thanks goes to **Robert Gregory** for preparing the meal this month.



Sunday, September 6

8 & 10:30 a.m.

Healing Prayers

The first Sunday of every month, we offer prayers for healing and anointing with holy oil at both morning services. Do you need physical, mental, or spiritual healing in your life? 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. One way to experience this reflection and renewal is to deliberately slow down and consciously make the effort to draw near to God.



Wednesday, September 9

5:30 p.m.

Holy Comforter Visit & Meal

This year, our Holy Comforter Ministry, which serves meals to approximately 80 mentally disabled adults in East Atlanta, will require some additional help — shoppers, cooks, drivers, servers, a clean-up crew, and donations. We have committed to just 3 visits.



Church of the
Holy Comforter

Will you volunteer to organize one visit?

Can you commit to attend?

It is a rewarding effort and always a meaningful visit. Please call **Jackie Berlin** (770-960-0022) or **Gwen Fields** (770-944-9709) to sign up. We meet to carpool from the horseshoe parking lot at 5:30 p.m. If you cannot spend your time on these dates, donations for food are always needed! Please make out checks to St. John's marked Holy Comforter.

Monday, September 7

Labor Day

Office closed; Holy Grounds cancelled

Saturday, September 12

9 a.m.—noon

Final Sunday School Workday

Come lend a hand to prepare the classrooms for our Sunday School children! Many hands make light work!

Sunday, September 13 **Sunday School Begins;
2nd Sunday Brunch**

Sunday School meets at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Children's classrooms are on the 1st floor of the Education Wing; adults meet in the parlor and parish hall. Let's celebrate the start of our Christian Formation classes! Please bring your favorite dish to share enjoy fun, food, and fellowship after the 10:30 service.

Sunday, September 13

Blessing of the Animals Planning Meeting

How can you help with this fun annual parish event? Join us after the 10:30 service for a brief meeting in the parlor, or see **Carl Cheely** (770-739-7851 / ccheely@comcast.net) to help with part of the event, such as children's activities, bake sale, barbecue, flea market, silent auction, set-up/break-down teams, and more. Please bring ideas!



What's Happening?

August Eagle Notes

Tuesday, September 15

**6:15 p.m.
Vestry Meeting**

Wednesdays beginning September 16

Inquirer's Class

Inquirer's classes are a staple of Episcopalian congregational life. They are the portal through which most adult persons find their way into the Episcopal Church. If you have recently transferred into St. John's or are considering doing so, please make it a point to join us for some lively discussions!

Inquirer's classes also provide an opportunity for many who are seeking clarity about their own religious loyalties to explore questions of faith.

Participation with either intention, or both, is invited.

Dinner begins at 6; class at 6:30 p.m. All kids are invited to come play, thanks to **John Breedlove**. As usual, please RSVP for dinner or childcare before Wednesday. To help with meals, call **David Houser** (404-873-3184).

Have something to share?

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

Submissions for the next *Eagle Notes* are due by
Wednesday, September 16.

We want to hear from you!

Sunday, September 20

Race T-shirt design deadline

Have you submitted your T-shirt design yet for the 1st annual **End Hunger ...one step at a time** 5K/10K Run/Walk? All proceeds from this event will help alleviate hunger both in our city and beyond. Submitted designs will be voted upon announced in September. All designs must include the words: "End Hunger...one step at a time," "St. John's Episcopal Church, College Park, GA" and "Run/Walk." Send submissions to **David Houser** (david_houser@att.net/404-873-3184) or to the church (parishadmin@stjohnscollegepark.com). Please contact David to volunteer on the race planning committee. Watch for further announcements coming soon!



Sunday, September 20, 3:15 p.m.

Music Department Travelers

Group Trip

This is our first group trip to the Cathedral for Choral Evensong and Contemporary Worship. Carpools will depart from the horseshoe parking lot at 3:15 p.m. Monthly trips will be set on third Sundays. We will enjoy dinner together at local restaurant between services. MARTA rail drop-off and pick-up can be arranged for those wishing to leave early or arrive late. Please join us!

Sunday, September 20

Liturgy Commission Meeting

This commission meets on third Sundays in the parlor after the 10:30 a.m. service to discuss and plan details pertaining to worship and services at St. John's. All those interested in participating are invited to attend.

Saturday, September 26. 10 a.m.

Night of Talent Open Auditions

- Please come prepared with the following: a Compact Disc (CD) with any background music or accompaniment, or a copy of any sheet music you may require, and any props or equipment you will require for your act. Costumes are not necessary, unless required for your act. Please try and limit your act to five minutes or less, if possible. All acts will be considered.
- St. John's Organist/Choirmaster **Tom Elston** will be available to accompany musical performances on piano.
- This is a fundraiser for St. John's, and is intended to be FUN! Please come and be a part of the show!

Saturday, September 26, 11 a.m.—5 p.m.

College Park Arts Festival

As always, this fun annual festival will showcase the city of College Park with art exhibitions, live music, auctions, raffles, a parade, great food and children's activities.

We need volunteers!

Please come out to join in all the fun, and sign up to staff a shift in the St. John's booth to tell folks about our church and life together. Sign up sheet is posted in Bott Hall, or contact **Donn Blosser** (404-765-0452/dobloss@bellsouth.net).





Loving Our Neighbors in Need

In food pantries and family shelters, in AIDS groups and prison cells, in job centers and health clinics, **Episcopal Charities Foundation** helps to make the love of Christ incarnate and tangible. ECF has supports the work of many ministries and nonprofit organizations locally in Georgia, providing grants and creating dramatic, positive differences in the lives of thousands. ECF relies on the generosity of individuals around the diocese to fund these efforts. On behalf of the entire Diocese, ECF responds to the Christian imperative that...

THE HUNGRY BE FED, THE NAKED CLOTHED, THE HOMELESS HOUSED, AND THE POOR BE SHARERS IN THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL.

There is more work to be done, and you can help. For more information, please contact us: 800-537-6743.

2744 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta, GA 30305

The Rev. Canon Debra Metzgar Shew, Director
dshe@episcopalaclanca.org

Robbin Iddins, St. John's Parish Representative
riddins@hotmail.com

For a list of 2008 grant recipients and further details, find us online at: www.episcopalatlanta.org under "Outreach".

PRAYER LIST

MEMBERS

Martha Mercure	Julia Paris	Caroline Patrick
Joy Lopez	Laura Vance	Bena Sue Livsey
Fred Daniell	Jonathan Reed	Helen Scarbrough
Hank & Neva Frese	Martha McLeod	Blanche Shropshire
Dennis Luck	Thomas Hughes	Nee Odoi

FRIENDS & RELATIVES

Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl, held captive in Afghanistan
Drew Allen, and Frank Ayala, serving us in Iraq
Debbie Reeves' sister, Kelly

The Springs' family, Renetta & Chip Lynch
Harriette and Jane Foster's family, Raymond and Scott
Becky Rivas' father, Norman

Georgie White's family, Veronica, Ruth, and John
Carolyn Pierce's sister, Johnny
Ruth Healy's friend, Judy

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

in thanksgiving for my youngest grandchildren,
Sam & Hannah, with love from Bena Sue Livsey;

in memory of Pauline H. Sanders, mother of Jackie Berlin,
with love from Jackie;

and in loving memory of Roy Brady,
from Melissa Brady and family.

Millennium Development Goal # 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

"Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray." -Proverbs 22:6

The Goal: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

Let us pray for schools and centers of learning throughout the world, for those who lack access to basic education, and for the light of knowledge to blossom and shine in the lives of all. Eternal God, the author and source of all knowledge and truth: bless all who seek to learn and those who teach them, and inspire us to break down barriers that withhold education from your children; that, enlightened with the bright beams of wisdom, all may be equipped to seek the blessings of liberty, justice and peace. Amen.

Did you know? 77 million school-aged children are not in school: 56% are girls and 94% are in developing countries. In five African countries, less than half the children of primary school age are enrolled. 1 in 4 adults in the developing world (872 million people) is illiterate; 2/3 are women. Young people who have completed primary education are less than half as likely to contract HIV as those missing an education. Universal primary education would prevent 700,000 cases of HIV each year – about 30% of all new infections in this age group.

What else do children learn? To share, be tolerant, to compromise, to listen, negotiate, to live in harmony with others and to resolve issues peacefully.

Universal primary education would cost \$10 billion a year – *half what Americans spend on ice cream annually.*

Good news! The number of children not in school is down from 115 million when the MDGs were adopted (though this figure represents enrollment; not all enrolled children attend).

Episcopal Relief & Development is taking action now to educate children. You can help support ERD's work from home. Visit www.er-d.org today to donate or for more details.

You can also donate towards MDG #2 through one of St. John's outreach missions: **Bethlehem Ministries**, which builds schools, feeds, and educates needy children in Haiti.

"Education is not filling a bucket but lighting a fire." - William B. Yeats

(From the Rector, Continued from page 1)

parish family. And I know that I can count on you for the same. If I fall short, I have to trust that you will come to me, fulfilling your part of our relationship. How else will any of us know where need to grow?

So, the question for you...have you learned difficult things about yourself? How did you handle that? Did your response serve you well? How would you want to respond to self-revelations to come? Thankfully, blessedly, in all things, we have our Lord Jesus to walk with us, share with us in our humanity, allowing us to share in his grace to redeem all things for our growing in faith, hope, and love.

Thank you for this amazing and truly wonderful first year as your rector. Thank you for your continuing presence of love, and challenge, in my life. I have had to stretch and grow, and it has come in fits and starts, and I look forward to many years of fruitful and joyous life, worship, and ministry together here at St. John's!

Faithfully,

Fr. Troy+

“That we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good”

-Collect for Vocation in Daily Work

July Attendance Numbers

	2009	
Service/Event	# of services	Attendance
Holy Eucharist – Sunday	8	418
Holy Eucharist – Weekday	2	13
Morning Prayer	12	47
Burial	2	70

	2008	
Service/Event	# of services	Attendance
Holy Eucharist – Sunday	8	360
Holy Eucharist – Weekday	4	35
Morning Prayer	10	52
Burial	1	35

Buy One, Bring One



Now that fall is in full swing and the busy season is upon us, please remember the church's day-to-day needs. Every little bit helps! Each time you shop, please consider helping out by donating one or more of these items to the church:

- Colored pencils for Sunday School
- 8 1/2 x 11" (letter-sized) paper, both colored and white
- 11 1/2 x 17" (ledger-sized) paper
- General office supplies (pens, tape, misc.)
- Coffee Cups (10 oz)
- Drinking cups (16 oz, 12oz and 8 oz)
- Napkins (dinner and beverage size)
- Plates (large and small)
- Utensils (heavy duty plastic – forks, knives and spoons)
- Coffee filters
- Coffee creamer
- Coffee stirrers
- Sugar packets & Sweet 'n' Low/Splenda
- Tea (family sized bags)
- Flavored tea bags
- Bottled Water
- Trash bags—large (>42 gallon sizes), small, & medium sizes
- Paper towels (rolls and multi-fold)
- Toilet paper
- Cleaning products (Pinesol, Pledge, Windex, bowl cleaner, etc.)



No experience necessary.
**Acolytes, Sunday School Helpers/
 Catechists, Bargain Shop Volunteers,
 and Coffee Hour Hosts**

These are all important ministries! Time commitment does not usually exceed one Sunday a month. Please contact the church office to volunteer: 404-761-8402 or parishadmin@stjohnscollegepark.com. **You're hired!**

Music Department News

A Message from the Organist-Choirmaster & Director of Music

Let me begin by expressing my thanks to all of you for giving me such a warm welcome as your new Organist-Choirmaster & Director of Music.

I am thoroughly enjoying getting to know you and look forward to nurturing talents, formulating approaches, and finding the resources to embark on developing musical life at St John's in a way that will glorify God and nourish the soul.

Thank you for giving me this wonderful opportunity.

In this month's Eagle's Notes and on our website's new Music Department page, you will find a range of new projects going this fall. If you have questions or want to participate, feel free to talk to me or send me an email.

Please know that my door is always open to hear your thoughts and desires for enriching our musical life and to channel your interests and energy in helping to make it happen. In just a short time, I have learned that St John's is a place where music and the arts matter; I hope that together we can work toward success.

-Tom Elston

West African Music School Slated To Open

Negotiations with the African Performing Arts Association, a confederation of West African musicians and dancers, has led to the possibility of opening a branch of APAA's music school at St. John's. The school, which will teach students the rich history and traditions of West African music and dance, will offer lessons to members of St. John's and the larger College Park community. Several full and partial scholarships will be made available; all that is needed is a strong level of interest from the St John's community to successfully launch this program.

World Music Concerts Planned

Negotiations are underway with Atlanta-area music groups to bring a series of world music concert events to St. John's, which will include performances from the Indonesian Gamelan, Native American, West African, Chinese, North/South Indian, Russian Balalaika, Sacred Harp/Shape Note, and Mexican Folklorico traditions. Volunteers and supporters are needed to make these proposed events possible.

Friends of Music at St John's

A strong music program relies on the talents of many: musicians, non-musicians, singers, players, organizers, and donors all make the whole larger than the sum of its parts. The Friends of Music is a new "umbrella" organization that will pull together the many different resources present in our parish so that together we may work to enrich the musical life of St. John's and the community.

Monthly Travelers Group

Because the cathedral is a wonderful resource for music and worship, efforts will be made to enable us to regularly enjoy cathedral offerings:

- *Choral Evensong*: Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. The evening prayer service is a delightful combination of meditations on scripture and fine music-making by the cathedral's most elite group of choral musicians.
- *Contemporary Worship*: Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. The evening Eucharist service celebrates the use of contemporary music within the Anglican liturgical tradition.

Our first trip is scheduled for **September 20th at 3:15pm**. Monthly carpool trips will be set on third Sundays. (Dinner occurs between services at local restaurants. MARTA rail drop-off and pick-up can be arranged for those leaving early or arriving late.)

Open Invitation to Join the Choir

The Adult Choir is a non-auditioned choral group dedicated to leading the congregation in song and providing choral music at the 0:30 a.m. Rite II service and other special services. All are welcome to join! The Adult Choir meets regularly on Thursdays from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. No prior experience or audition is necessary. Feel free to come to rehearsal anytime or contact the Music Department.

Fall Choir Project: Gounod's Messe Breve

Most people know the nineteenth-century composer Charles Gounod as a master of French Grand Opera, but he also wrote a significant number of sacred works. One of these, *Messe Breve*, is an accessible, tuneful setting of the main parts of the Eucharistic service (Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei) for choir, organ, and instruments. The choir's special musical project this fall will be to offer *Messe Breve* at the Rite II service on October 25th.

Taizé Service Relaunch

St John's monthly Taizé service will be relaunched this fall. Plans are underway to improve ties with other Taizé communities in the Atlanta area, to obtain a permanent listing on the Atlanta Taizé website, and to cultivate the local media, cultural, and religious institutions. Volunteers, participants, and attendees are requested!

St John's Song Book Revision

The blue song book used to provide additional musical resources for worship at St John's is slated for revision.

New Musical Settings for Psalms

A diverse array of musical settings for psalms will be added this fall. Some settings will occasionally feature simple instruments; those interested in playing are welcome!



Visit the Music Department's new page at www.stjohnscollegepark.com! For more information on the above, to donate, or to volunteer, contact Tom Elston: stjohns.atl.musicians@gmail.com.

Pilgrimage of the Mind

-From Keith Huffstetter

A pilgrimage is defined as a journey made to some sacred place, as an act of devotion. Fr. Troy is going on a pilgrimage during the first part of September in Spain. I invite you to also go on a pilgrimage during this time.

However, I invite you to a different kind of pilgrimage, one not in the usual understanding, but one of the mind. Jesus teaches that the Kingdom of God and heaven is within each of us, that Jesus and God both dwell within us. I invite you to venture inward to this sacred place where God dwells by setting aside a special time each day for prayer and mediation. It will be a journey of the mind where you set aside the cares of the world and the business of our lives and enter into the mind of Christ where we become fully aware of the presence of God and Jesus. We need to remember that God has always been and has not gone anywhere. It is us who have strayed like lost sheep from the presence of God.

Like every activity that is practiced in a regular and consistent way, we become stronger through daily prayer and mediation in our ability to walk and talk with God.

You are also given a special invitation to attend the Taizé service at St. John's on September 6th, at 7 p.m., where the service will focus on light and prayer and mediation through a period of silence.

On the Verge

The Cat and the Collar: A Parable for Our Times

by Martha V. McLeod, Sr. Verger

In those days a family found a kitten and brought it home. They offered it food, water and a safe, comfortable place to live, and the animal repaid their kindness by attending to mice and other vermin around their home and livestock. Cat and family took care of each other, and all were content.

As the cat grew, the family noticed numerous small leaping insects infesting the cat and their home. The pests caused the cat to claw at its own body and to bite itself, crying in pain and bleeding from its own scratching; and also the family began scratching and rubbing their own bodies as the insects leapt upon them. They took the cat to a learned scholar and said, "O Scholar, we welcomed this animal into our homes as a kitten, and now that it is grown it is infested with these little biting insects, and the insects have invaded our home and are attacking us as well. What can we do?"

The scholar examined the cat and family and said, "It is common to find these insects infesting dogs and cats, and they will attack people if they can. You must obtain for the cat a special harness called" (in their language) "a flea collar, for it is said, 'The insects shall flee from the collar.' You must make sure that the cat cannot escape the collar, for the properties that banish the insects can be displeasing to the cat, at least at the beginning. In time you will find that the insects will leave your home and yourselves as the cat accepts the collar." The family thanked the scholar and quickly obtained such a collar for the animal, and as the insects did flee from them, all were content.

In the fullness of time the cat aged and died. The family mourned its passing, and, being kindly affectioned toward the feline race,

sought and adopted a kitten. They obtained a flea collar and made sure it fit snugly around the neck of the kitten, so it could not escape, and rejoiced to find no insects infesting the kitten. As time passed, however, they noticed that as it grew the kitten continued to claw at the collar, then became listless and depressed, refusing to eat or drink, and in time it died.

The family took the animal to the scholar and said, "O Scholar, our cat aged and died, and we sought and adopted a kitten. And we

purchased a flea collar for the kitten and fitted it snugly so it could not escape, yet the kitten died, and we know not why it died."

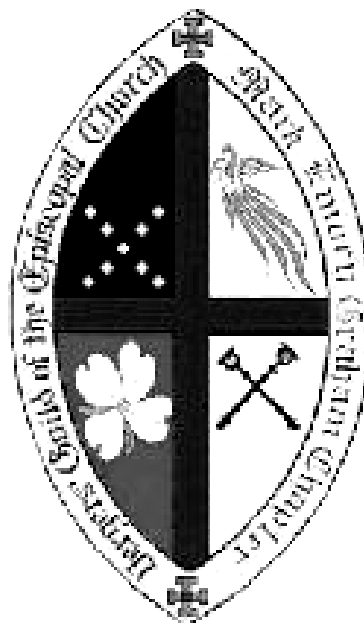
The scholar examined the kitten and said, "The collar has killed the kitten."

The family was confused, and said, "How can this be?"

The scholar answered, "A collar for a kitten will not fit a grown cat. The collar must grow as the animal grows, or the cat will choke and die." But the family were dismayed, and left the scholar and cat, for their hearts were hardened, and they did not understand the saying. And they kept no more cats in their home.

Being a living creature, churches must evolve as they live and grow. St. John's is a very different church from the parish of 1960, when my family came to College Park. We must evolve with it. What will He make of us in 2009?

"Watch, therefore, for you know not when the Master of the house is coming: in the evening, or at midnight, or at cock-crowing, or in the morning; lest coming suddenly he finds you sleeping." -Mark 13:35-36



Observations from a Church Mouse



At church something shiny caught my eye. I scampered over and found a dime. On Sundays, I see people going down the aisles with baskets. Mostly they contain money, sometimes food.

We mice ask ourselves why are people giving? I overheard in the counting room someone say, "How people contribute to St. Johns is not as important as why they contribute". Some of us can give money. Some of us can only offer our time and talents and skills. Each gift is perfect in God's loving eyes and heart.

Church studies I have read state that Episcopalians give when they understand the need. In a community founded in love there are no secrets. We are informed how the money is used. We witness how the money given is put to use and how it benefits those who come to us in need.

From where I sit, I know St. John's gives to the hungry. Sometimes I find the church very hot, so we might need to fix the A/C.

We give to the church to support our shared responsibility in carrying on Christ's mission on Earth. Our gifts show commitment to building the Kingdom of God.

We give abundantly of what we have so that others may benefit from God's generosity to us. Other than money, there are many ways we can contribute to the health

and growth of our church. After years of service, many become homebound. These people need a human voice and touch and to know that they are cherished and missed. Likewise those that are homebound can make phone calls on behalf of the church. The church also always needs volunteers: perhaps volunteering to look after children at the church, working in the choir room to file, creating a monthly cooking, book, or sewing club, organizing trips, etc. There are so many gifts we can share, limited only by our imaginations.

This Sunday take a look at the people sitting around you. Before they took their place in the pews, there were others who have kept St. John's financially solvent. They gave countless hours of energy, humor, and wisdom. We are here today because of all those who came before us who have participated in the life of this parish.

We are called to welcome all who come to our doors with out judgment, everyone who seeks what we have found: a loving and forgiving God. We may never see the gifts they bring but that does not mean they are not there. Our challenge is to build the Kingdom of God with the talents and resources that we have now, today.

-The Church Mouse

P.S. I left the dime I found in the basket; others may need it more. Thanks for the cheese sticks at second Sunday brunch!

Holy Humor

-from Gerry O'Connor

The minister was preoccupied with how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money for repairs to the church.

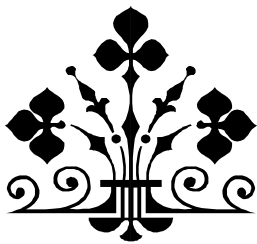
Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute asked what to play.

'Here's a copy of the service,' the minister said impatiently. 'But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances.'

During the service, the minister paused and said, 'Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up.'

At that moment, the substitute organist played 'The Star Spangled Banner..'

And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!



The Flowers on the Altar

Dedicating flowers is a good way to commemorate birthdays, anniversaries, and other special days for loved ones. We have flowers on the altar each week to remind us of the beauty and wonder of God's creation; later they go to those who are sick or homebound. 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.

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.

Who would Jesus tweet?

The Episcopal Church on Facebook, Twitter

*Forgive us our tweets
as we forgive those
who tweet against us.*



The Episcopal Church media hub website
for General Convention.

www.episcopalchurch.org/gchub

Madison Avenue has long known that word of mouth is the best ad-vertising — a truth regularly played out on Facebook, the online social networking site.

Brandon Mozingo, 32, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, became a fan of the Episcopal Church on Facebook after noticing a friend became a fan. The same with Ann Redmond, 54, of Tallahassee, Florida, a member of St. John's Episcopal Church and a singer in the choir.

As of August 16 the 2.2 million-member Episcopal Church had 7,455 Facebook fans. Another 883 people follow the Church on Twitter, the social net-work/micro-blogging online instant messenger.

The Episcopal Church created a Facebook presence in early 2009 and began sending "tweets" via Twitter in April. Initially the Facebook page saw a huge spike in fans, but adding new fans now trends toward gradual growth. Tweets from the recent 76th General Convention in July in Anaheim, California, spiked the number of followers on Twitter, said web producer Barry Merer.

Elizabeth Apgar Triano, 45, of Patterson, New York, became a fan through Episcopal Café, an online source of aggregated Episcopal news, blogs, visual arts and spiritual readings produced by the Diocese of Washington.

"One of the reasons I signed up for Facebook in the first place was to keep track of Episcopal things," she said in a telephone interview. "I like it because when something gets posted it is sent straight to me, I don't have to go over and check. I love my church and it's very handy."

It works like this: top stories posted to Episcopal Life Online and news posted to the Office of Communication's News Line are fed automatically to the church's Facebook. The article's headline appears on the main page. Clicking on the headline takes you to a "note." The full article can be viewed by clicking on the "View Original Post" link on the note page. Fans of the page can also share links, news stories, photos, videos, etc.

Merer administers the site, which so far has policed itself, with fans respecting the open, unedited dialogue approach, he said.

Rex Tomb, 59, of Arlington, Virginia, posts stories to the Episcopal Church's Facebook page to draw attention to the suffering and persecution of Christians worldwide.

"It [Facebook] provides tremendous freedom," Tomb said, adding that he sticks to posting stories from credible news sources like the Washington Post, the Christian Science Monitor, and United Press International (UPI).

Redmond said Facebook is a good way to "get better in touch with the lay community," and likened it to the old days when "people went to the town square to pass information around."

In a church as widespread as the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, it's nice to hear members' voices in an open, insightful dialogue, said Mozingo, who is also pursuing the priest-hood in the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee.

A drawback, however, Mozingo said, is that people don't always read the articles they post comments on.

An article in which the Episcopal Public Policy Network requested that Episcopalians support healthcare reform drew a record number of responses: 95 people "liked" the story and 89 people posted individual responses ranging from "The Episcopal Church should try spreading the Gospels and should stay out of politics," to "Every tax-paying American should have affordable health care coverage."

Ginger Mortimer O'Connell, 60, of West Virginia, said she follows the Episcopal Church on Facebook because, she says, "I think it is the most convenient way to be daily reminded that the church is a living organism in transition."

-By Lynette Wilson, Episcopal Life Online

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/episcopalian>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/iamepiscopalian>

Episcopal Life Online: www.episcopalchurch.org/elife

The Media Hub: <http://gchub.episcopalchurch.org>

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, *Sextons*

Schedule of Services

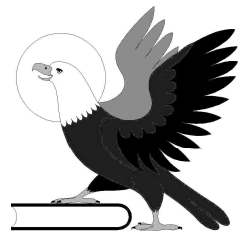
- **Holy Eucharist Rite I**
Sunday 8:00 a.m. & Thursday 10:30 a.m.
- **Holy Eucharist Rite II**
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
- **Morning Prayer (Parlor)**
Tuesday & Thursday 9:15 a.m.
- **Wednesday Evening Programs**
6 –8 p.m.—Bible Study (childcare available)
- **Taizé Service**
1st Sundays of the month at 7 p.m.

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



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