

Saint Mary's Messenger

February 2009



Beloved of Saint Mary's,

Lent is several weeks away. I draw your attention to this now, so you will make plans to form your Lenten discipline among our numerous excellent offerings. Remember the daily office in the chapel as an adjunct to these offerings. For example, you might attend evening prayer prior to the Hosanna Bible Study.

We traditionally refer to special programs in Lent as a discipline, but we might also call them a blessing, a blessing to prepare our hearts and minds for a glorious Easter. I like to think of these opportunities for prayer, study, and worship as cleaning out the cobwebs in the garage of our souls, or straightening the cluttered closet of our minds. This is a spring-cleaning we all need with resurrection on our horizons.

Hard to believe, but I once put my foot in my mouth announcing a Lenten program to another parish I served. I said that if you don't keep a Holy Lent, you ought not show up for Easter Sunday. I was roundly criticized for manufacturing guilt and sorely limiting Easter Sunday attendance. Perhaps so. On the other hand, the work of our hearts and minds during Lent says much about what we believe in our Lord's Resurrection and what we hope for our own. Faithful observance of Easter is more than April 12. It begins with Ash Wednesday on February 25. This is a venerable Christian tradition which has been a blessing for disciples throughout the ages. See for yourself.

Your brother in Christ,

Blaney+



St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 170 St. Andrews Road, Columbia, SC 29210, 803 798-2776
Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 and in Spanish at 12:30, and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.;
Morning Prayer: Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.



February 2009

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Tom Hayden | 10 Stephen Matthews |
| 1 Sarah Edwards | 10 Elizabeth Henry |
| 1 Michele Scollon | 11 Leonard Stokes |
| 2 Kay Causey | 12 Sue Netzloff |
| 2 Jake McKellips | 16 Lynn Fralick |
| 3 Rebecca Taylor | 18 John Gray |
| 3 Eryn Deveau | 18 Steve Darnell |
| 4 Jim Hooten | 19 Lesley Sercer |
| 4 Jenny Tarpley | 20 Frank Ballard |
| 4 Emsley Laney | 20 Christopher
Blanchette |
| 4 Marshall Christian
Harless | 21 Barbara McFadden |
| 5 Bill Ingbretsen | 22 Stephen Hirsch |
| 5 Lyn Parks | 22 Erica Deahl |
| 5 Bill Carrion | 23 Susan Koch |
| 5 Joan Johnston | 24 Ginny Wiggins |
| 5 Aaron Strobel | 24 Mary Wachowski |
| 5 Caroline Henry | 25 Julie Gardner |
| 6 Elizabeth Mugo | 26 William Burn |
| 7 Caroline Mobley | 27 Jim Causey |
| 8 Stephanie Smith | 27 Margaret Silliman |
| 9 Brandon Dante Price | 27 Patrick Head |
| 10 James McDaniel | 28 Fred Soland |
| 10 Kara Marsh | 28 Kimberly Luthren |
| | 29 Jean Lantz |



Births in the Church Family

We pray for all newborn babies, especially: Marshall Scott Ward, born to Meghan and Nathan Ward and new grandson of Tom and Meg Sponseller; Ryan Jacob Abrams, born to Lane and Todd Abrams, and grandson of Bob and Jerri Hayden; Harper Trafford Cannon, son of Jordan and Katie Cannon, and grandson of Diana and Birch Cannon; Gabriel (Gabe) Keller born to Jamie and Rudy Keller; and Alexander Stanley Livermont born to Liz Livermont, and grandson to Mona Livermont.



IN MEMORY OF

We pray for all who have died especially: Conrad Godshall, father of Patti Gambill; Joseph Danilowicz, brother of Jeanette Macchiaverna; Kathryn A. Hook, cousin of Lessie Bailey; Ann Pengelly, former member of Saint Mary's and friend to many members; Jessie Williams, sister-in-law of Louise Alford; and Joseph Daniel Boone, uncle of Allen Boone and great-uncle of Brody Boone.



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|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Billy Schaefer | Wiley Alford |
| Marilyn Jenkins | Matthew Brooks |
| Stephen McDaniel | James Guillerault |
| Alston Middleton | Joshua Chastain |
| David Bland | David Weinke |
| Edgar Martin | Quentin Parker |
| John Burdett | Leighton Cornish |
| Jim Blanchette | Talcott Nichols |
| Jonathan Withington | Eric Aliffi |
| Gene Limehouse | William White |
| Robert S. Gonzalez | Brick Bailey |
| Jasper Varn | Stan Sheftall |
| Marc Fowler | Kyle Beaver |
| Clint Hundley | Lonnie Richards |
| Greg Vaughn | Adam Rosenbaum |
| Jonathan Guillerault | Michael Graham |
| David Gray | Jeremy Russell |
| Samson Chastain | Jay Kirkland |
| John Nethercutt | Matt McCollum |
| Mallory Rebecca McKendry | Kurt Love |



We pray for all expectant mothers, especially: Amanda Livermont, Amanda Romano Hollis, Sarah Lynn Wilhelm, Michelle Wheeler, Jill Willhoft, Jennifer Clyburn McMaster, Monese Estil, Lizabee Rone Ciesar, Meredith Mims McTigue and Bonnie Middleton Lindsay.



Reflections from the Senior Warden given at the Annual Parish Meeting January 13, 2009

Fifty years ago, Edward R. Murrow, the acclaimed journalist, created a radio program called *This I Believe*. The program was a popular series of short essays written and read by the likes of Eleanor Roosevelt, Jackie Robinson, Helen Keller, and Harry Truman, as well as corporate executives, cab drivers, scientists, and secretaries. Murrow said the program sought "to point to the common meeting grounds of beliefs, which is the essence of brotherhood." *This I Believe* has been revived and new essayists can be heard these days on National Public Radio.

Here is my three-minute *This I Believe* essay for you:

I believe Saint Mary's actually *is* what so many churches *claim* to be--a *real* family of Brothers and Sisters in Christ; the roots, which bind us, are stronger even than blood ties. *I believe* that this new church building is beautiful, but that God's love is evidenced here--more importantly--through our community in action.

I believe we strive to find common ground. Our discussions and decisions about the missions, ministries, and administration of our parish are not any one person's or one group's ideas. Sometimes we disagree, but we remain actively engaged. No one member possesses our parish. Rather, *I believe* we strive to find a common voice when we interact, and we leave one another with tolerance and with love on at least some level because of this strongest of bonds we share in Christ.

I believe we are inextricably bound in service to other parishioners and to those outside these walls. We laugh, celebrate, and share with each other. We give comfort, counsel, and support to each other. We know we need each other, that the people in our local, national, and global communities need us, and that we are meant to serve them.

I believe we are blessed with strong clergy who faithfully and capably lead us in the worship of, and to relationship with, Christ. Blaney and Chris are authentic with us, and keep us rooted in scripture, tradition, and honest discernment.

I believe we also strive to remain open to newness to which God may be calling us. *I believe* we are open to the Holy Spirit's revelations about God's love, revelations about the wholeness and value of our potential and our relationships, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation.

We consider ways in which, as the Prophet Isaiah put it, God may be saying, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" *I believe* we are willing to consider something that may seem different or uncomfortable to us because we know that the Holy Spirit sometimes calls us, both as individuals and as a church, to change our minds and actions.

I believe that our parish community is deeply rooted and actively engaged in tolerance, service, worship, and openness, and that is why God's love is evident in this community.

For this *I believe*.

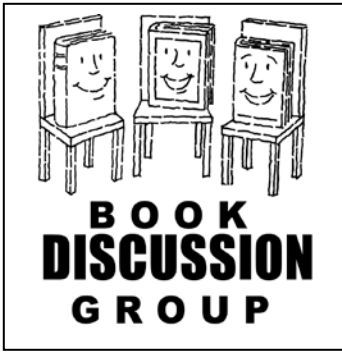
Kathy Gettys, Outgoing Senior Warden



New Vestry Officers: Pat Stout, Senior Warden; Bob Hayden, Jr. Warden; Michele Lyerly, Treasurer; Harriett Mobley, Assistant Treasurer; and Clerk TBA

New Vestry Members: Brent Driggers, Martha McDade, Janice Smith and Pam Vazquez

Vestry Retreat: January 30 -February 1



Book Club Responds to Two Very Different Books

On December 14, Saint Mary's Book Club gave an enthusiastic award of 4.6 Crowns to Ariana Franklin's *Mistress of the Art of Death*, a mystery set in twelfth-century England. The novel is a thrilling read about an Italian woman physician, Adelia Aguilar, sent to Cambridge to help solve the murder of several children. As a mystery, the novel comes under the heading of "I couldn't put it down" and as historical fiction, it gives a full, rich picture of the time.

Initially, the novel may seem anachronistic—too much CSI and not enough Chaucer to be a valid reflection of the medieval world. But our discussion leader had done research into medical practices of the period: we learned that Adelia was based on a real woman physician, Dr. Trotula, and that many of Adelia's advanced ideas about health care, surgery, and autopsies were in fact the real practices of Dr. Trotula at the University of Salerno, the only medical school to accept women as students and faculty at that time. Medical training and practice in Sicily in the twelfth century were the most rigorous in the West. Indeed, they had not been equaled until the late twentieth century.

We also enjoyed picking up the details of early court procedures in England as King Henry II was in the process of transforming the justice system. Instead of trial by combat or testing (dunk the accused in the river and the guilty float while the innocent sink? Some justice!), Henry developed the practice of trial by a jury of peers and asked them to make judgments based on English common law. What a major step forward!

Our book for the January 11 meeting was straightforward history: *The American Plague* by Molly Caldwell Crosby. *Plague* is the story of yellow fever and how it shaped American history. Crosby opened with a vivid and chilling account of the yellow fever epidemic that almost destroyed Memphis in 1878 and, says Crosby, prevented Memphis from becoming the center of the south that Atlanta later became.

Our discussion leader began the meeting with a prayer for "The Martyrs of Memphis" who are commemorated by the Episcopal Church every September 9. These ten persons—mentioned in the book and so recognized by our church—stayed behind to nurse the victims of yellow fever, even as they knew they were likely to succumb also. We especially felt the shock of recognition because several of the martyrs were clergy and sisters at Saint Mary's Episcopal Church on the edge of the infected area.

Yellow fever arrived in this country with slaves from Africa in the eighteenth century. The Africans had developed immunity because of early exposure, but the Americans with no immunity were very susceptible to the disease. Death rates were high (90% during the epidemic in Memphis) and the kind of death was especially agonizing as the disease 'dissolves' the body's organs. The U.S. struggled with ways to combat it, but early efforts were thwarted by the limited medical knowledge of the period.

The second half of *Plague* follows Walter Reed and his colleagues in Cuba in the early 1900's as they slowly and painstakingly learned the cause (virus), method of transmission (mosquito), and prevention (vaccine). We found the picture of dedication to be fascinating and almost incredible: men willingly agreed to be exposed to the usually fatal disease in the name of science or humanity. We owe much to people most of us have never heard of!

Crosby's book received 3.4 Crowns from the group. Most of the club liked the historical content, but some found the writing less than stellar. We should pay attention, though, to the fact that the group's resident biologist gave it a resounding 5!

Both books are well worth your reading time. And book club is worth your thinking and talking time.

On February 8, we will discuss *The Billionaire's Vinegar* by Benjamin Wallace, an account of the most expensive bottle of wine ever sold. Snacks that night will be a wine tasting, but *not*, sadly, of that particular wine. Plan now to join us!

Carol McGinnis Kay, Bookkeeper



Sweet Music from a Sweet Lady!

Judi Shirley has been bringing sweet music to Saint Mary's for about 12 years. One of our newest members, Judi plays the oboe periodically at Saint Mary's on special occasions. The talented musician grew up in Mississippi and moved to Columbia in 1988 to complete a Masters in Music at the University of South Carolina. A friend of Frank Ballard's, Judi moved her membership to Saint Mary's from the Church of the Good Shepherd in Columbia last spring.

Raised Baptist, Judi was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 1984 while living in Mississippi. Over the years, Judi has taught many children how to play both the oboe and the clarinet. She is married to another talented musician, Barry Shirley. Barry plays guitar and belongs to the Presbyterian Church. He plays in a popular band, "Toyyz," and they perform at weddings, conventions, and a variety of places. Judi and Barry have two grown sons, Scott and Darren.

At the dedication of our new worship space, Judi played the oboe. She also plays regularly with the Florence Symphony, the Long Bay Symphony in Myrtle Beach, and the Lake Murray Symphony. Judi is the sheet music buyer for Musicians Supply in St. Andrews.

Judi enjoys the structured service at Saint Mary's. She finds the congregation engaging, warm and friendly. Judi said, "I just love Father Pridgen and everyone at Saint Mary's. I can't think of any better place to be!"

Jan Jernigan



February will bring the visit of the Midlands Convocation to Saint Mary's on February 15. We are expecting a group of about 80 priests, deacons and delegates that form the Midlands Convocation. This group

is having their quarterly meeting at Saint Mary's in conjunction with a visit to the Hispanic service and a lunch. The menu, the cooks and the cleaning crew will be provided by some of the Hispanic ladies in our congregation. General help is needed in setting up the Parish Hall and in decorating. If you are willing to help, please contact Luisa Gonzalez or Carmen Burgos.

Luisa Gonzalez



Parish Network

In times of crisis we all want to call on our compassionate and supportive clergy, and there are parishioners eager to help. Please call the church office,

798-2776, let them know the situation and someone from the Parish Network will contact you. We want to be there for you, whether with just a card or meals to help in your time of need.

Chairs for February are Cathy McLeod, 787-6555 and Lauren Darnell, 345-5647

Team Members for February are:

Marilyn Becker	561-0342
Jeanie and Bill Beckham	732-0616
Pat and Tom Bowles	407-4267
Pam and John Brown	781-4273
Pat and Bill Carrion	798-5387
Julie and John Gardner	732-0708
Luisa and Fred Gonzalez	772-7109
Marlise Guillerault	732-1987
Lorna King	732-0277
Karen and Arthur Lumpkin	731-0515
Lyn and Blair Parks	750-1185
Jen and Bruce Prunty	407-6692
Barbara Ryan	749-0021
Laura and Patrick Truesdale	808-4026
Mary and Jeff Wachowski	356-0348



A new group is forming at Saint Mary's! Come be a part of something new and exciting! Target Age Group is between **20 - 40** years old, single and/or married. The Recharge group has monthly meetings to encourage you in

your daily walk with Christ. We will meet just once a month for about an hour each month. One month we will do a service project, the next month we will do a devotional and one month we will enjoy fellowship together with something fun. We need volunteers to help plan and organize the events. Please contact me if you are interested! There is a sign-up sheet in the Hospitality Hall. Our first meeting in January was a huge success with FREE Line Dance Lessons!! Everybody had such a good time, learned something new and got some exercise. In February we will do a service project. Watch the service bulletin for the date and time. Contact **Tammy Bingenheimer** for more information or questions - **794-5377**.

Haiti Mission Update: November 2008 Trip



During the first week in Port-au-Prince, I attended a networking conference of U.S. mission partners from the Episcopal and Presbyterian churches along with Haitian clergy. This bi-annual conference always provides valuable

opportunities to exchange reports, ideas and needs. Prior to the conference, a friend and fellow member of the Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) from Macon, GA, and I hosted a breakfast meeting for 25 women and clergy from existing or potential DOK chapters throughout Haiti. Currently, there are 85 members of the DOK in Haiti, with over 100 additional ladies in several parishes interested in beginning a Daughters study preparation program. You may remember that the first official DOK chapter in Haiti was instituted during one of our mission trips in 2005 with 26 members at the main parish of St. Sauveur Church, our mission in Les Cayes. While in Port-au-Prince on this trip, I also met with 29 ladies from the Holy Trinity Cathedral parish community, who are very eager to begin their study preparation. What a blessing it was to see the excitement in their eyes as they talked about the honor of membership in the DOK.

On Sunday, November 17, we had the privilege of attending a special Eucharist Service held at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince celebrated by Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori and attended by all the clergy and seminarians of the Diocese of Haiti and visiting clergy. This marked the first visit to Haiti by a Presiding Bishop since 1933! At the Offertory, several little girls dressed in their Sunday best dresses led the Offertory procession, twirling down the center aisle to festive native Haitian music. They were followed by another group of girls and a large group of participants of the agricultural project from Cange in the Central Plateau of Haiti, who "shuffled" down the aisle of the Cathedral wearing colorful native clothing. It was quite moving to see the girls and ladies carrying huge hand-woven baskets on their heads filled with the fruits of their labors-- vegetables, fruits, flowers, breads, chickens and even a turkey--and the men carrying their farming tools. This was one of the most touching and memorable events I have attended in 8 years of visits to Haiti and so very representative of the Haitian spirit of giving all they have for the glory of God. Details of this special event and about Bishop Katharine's visit to Haiti can be found on <http://www.episcopalchurch.org>. After the Eucharist, we and other partners from the U.S. were invited to a courtyard reception at the nearby Convent of The

Sisters of St. Margaret, where I had the honor of personally visiting with our Presiding Bishop and sharing our excitement and thankfulness for her visit.

For the remainder of our trip I joined a team of friends from the Kansas City area, who sponsor another of the six schools under the responsibility of our partner priest, Father Colbert Estil. After the special Eucharist Service, we had a 4-1/2 hour drive with Father Colbert to Les Cayes, during which we saw many effects of the recent hurricanes on the communities and roads. As in the past, in Les Cayes we stayed in the guest rooms of the St. Sauveur Parish Rectory where Father Colbert lives with several of his cousins. His wife, Monese, is expecting their first child in early February (she is on our parish prayer list) and will be staying with her mother in Port-au-Prince for at least a few months, as is the tradition for new mothers in Haiti.

Over the next few days, I visited the countryside school of St. Esprit in Cavaillon, sponsored by Saint Mary's Haiti Children's Education Fund. *The school is now in its fifth year of operation thanks to our support.* Since September 2004, when classes began for just 86 children, attendance has now grown to 335 students (100 more than last year!). This includes 55 orphans of this church community, the poorest of the six congregations of the Mission des Cayes. The continued education of these children, along with sponsorship of 108 students from St. Sauveur Parish, is the result of the very generous contributions of Saint Mary's members, their families and friends to the 2008 Haiti Children's Education Fund. I wish each of you could have been with me to hear all the parents, teachers, and students talk with great eagerness about the goat project, new ideas for self-sustaining farming, and even such little things as having class photos taken.

God has been extremely powerful in the ministries of Saint Mary's in the South of Haiti. Your support, whether by prayer, financial donations or service to help us prepare for our trips, is deeply appreciated and seen in the eyes, smiles and voices we witness during our visits! We are blessed to be the instruments of hope and God's love to the people of this tiny nearby island nation that is viewed as 'hopeless' by far too many.

Please contact me (phone 413-3128 or email jpfllys@mindspring.com) if you are interested in joining one of our upcoming mission trips to Haiti: early February, July (for VBS), and November. All are invited to "COME AND SEE!"

Faithfully in His Service, Joyce Pipkin

This all sets up a handy checks-and-balances system for all concerned. It also explains why I hear an interesting combination of raised voices and lots of laughter on those Thursday nights. My friend Precious (don't ask—she hates the name too), who lives at another Episcopal church, tells me she hears more heated debate than laughter at her vestry meetings. But we seem to have a group that works together well and all thirteen people seem to be contributing to the decisions.

The Senior Warden helps the rector establish an agenda and goals for the vestry and takes over if the rector drops dead or leaves town. There's also a Junior Warden, who looks after the property and grounds. Now, I don't mean to butt into human affairs, but I really wish some of you would speak to the current Jr. Warden. He insists on bringing that giant brown dog with him every single time, and he makes my life miserable. I mean, really, have you seen the size of that monster?

As to the Twelve Commandments, they seem to exist only in the Episcopal Church. From my eaves-dropping, I've gathered that they are the usual Ten Commandments, plus "Thou shalt not be tacky" and "Thou shalt not share thy faith in any pushy way." The vestry seems to like to remind the rector of those two extra ones.

Remember, leave your questions—serious or frivolous—in the Box on the Wall on the Table. I can fish it out. 'Fish' reminds me, I think I'll go check out the kitchen....

P.S. Please, please, please sign up for the Valentine's Day Dinner in droves! And order the fish or the beef. Thanking you in advance,

Dear Abby Tabby,

I have heard of the twelve disciples, the twelve tribes of Israel, and the twelve days of Christmas, but what are the twelve members of vestry? Can I find that somewhere in the Bible or the *Book of Common Prayer*? And while you are at it, is there really such a thing as the twelve commandments? *Signed, Hung Up on Twelves.*

Dear Hung Up,

Great questions. I've been wondering when someone would finally ask me a question again. Where have you inquiring minds gone? Remember, just leave your questions in the 'Box on the Wall,' which is now on the side table in the Hospitality Hall. (Sometimes you humans are funny.)

For these questions I had to do a little research to be sure that I could explain more than the irritation I feel on third Thursdays when "Vestry Meetings" are held and my sleep is interrupted by their loud talking, although sometimes they do drone on and that lulls me right back to sleep. (And why don't they serve food? The least they could do is leave me some crumbs, the way that nice new book club does.)

Anyway, I consulted the *Constitution and Canons for the Episcopal Church* and found that the vestry are the elected fiscal (that means 'money') officers of the parish. They have the sole authority to raise and spend money in the church. They also serve as a body of advice and counsel to the rector. The rector is the President of the Vestry. Now, when I looked up the rector's full responsibilities, I found that he is authorized to establish the worship and program of the parish; to hire, supervise and fire a staff; and to determine the use of church property and buildings. Whew, no wonder he needs advice and counsel and money! The rector can't do anything without money and the vestry can't meet without the rector or his designee, usually the Senior Warden, presiding.



ECW NEWS

Upcoming Events:

February 8 - ECW Planning Meeting, 4:00 p.m.

February 24 - St. Margaret's Guild, 10:00 a.m.

April 23 - Spring Branch Meeting & Salad Supper

ECW Planning Meeting: We will meet for planning on **February 8, at 4:00 p.m.** in the Mary room. We will be planning for our Spring Branch Meeting & Salad Supper. Please come with some ideas!

St. Margaret's Guild: Plans tentatively have been made for a **February 24** visit with the Charleston Silver Lady. **March 24** will be a trip to St. Peter's Catholic Church downtown; no meeting in April due to the Spring Branch Meeting (April 23); and **May 26** will be a trip to the Orchid Farm in Newberry. Please mark your calendar with these dates and plan to join us.

Officers for 2009: Officers elected in December are: Sarah Ellen Hammond, President; Bev LaLiberte, Vice-President; Barbara MacWilliam, Secretary; and Michele Lyerly, Treasurer. We look forward to a great year!

Jerva Applegate, Promotion & Publicity



A pearl earring was found on the sidewalk after church January 18. Please call Judy Stephens in the church office if you think this might be yours.



Lent is almost here

Saint Mary's Lenten Program has been expanded, and we hope that there is at least one study, event, or class for everyone. **Ash**

Wednesday is just around the corner - **February 25**. As always this program includes traditional Church services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Easter in addition to the regular Sunday and Wednesday evening Healing Services. The calendar for other classes and events is posted in the Hospitality Hall along with sign-up sheets for each activity. Take a look and begin planning an exciting and God-filled Lent.

Father Pridgen will continue to offer his 180 class and his Men's Bible study (Exodus) during Lent. Even if you have not attended one of these classes but are interested, please feel free to join one of the classes during Lent. Father Pridgen will also lead us through the Stations of the Cross every Friday evening.

Brent Driggers will lead a six-week, Kerygma, Bible study: "Hosanna: A spiritual Journey through Holy Week." This class will meet Tuesday evenings beginning **March 3**.

Jack Burdett will facilitate a three-week study of "Mary, the Mother of Jesus" on Monday evenings beginning **March 2**.

Carol McGinnis Kay will offer two Thursday evening classes - **March 12:** Theology in Stone: Medieval Cathedrals and **March 26:** Theology in Stone: Renaissance Cathedrals.

Deacon Susan Parlier will offer a **Quiet Evening** on Thursday evening **April 6**.

The **Labyrinth** will be placed in the Parish Hall on **Friday morning, March 13** and will be available for use at 1 p.m. The Labyrinth will remain in the Parish Hall **until 9 p.m. on Thursday, March 19**.

Please check the Lenten Program Bulletin Board for event/study dates, times, room assignments and sign-up sheets.

This is a full program and one that we believe offers something for everyone. Again, we encourage you to study the calendar and sign-up for events that interest you. We are excited about the program and look forward to seeing you there.

Jack Burdett, Christian Formation Ministry



CHARITY SUNDAY – MARCH 1, 2009

Sistercare is our designated charity for Sunday, March 1, 2009. Saint Mary's and many parishioners are actively involved with Sistercare. As a member of Mission & Outreach, I have learned just how important Sistercare is to our community.

Sistercare is a program of services for battered women and their children residing in Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Fairfield and Kershaw counties. Sistercare is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) United Way member agency providing services to domestic violence victims since 1981.

The services provided by Sistercare include emergency shelters, which provide protection for victims and their children, food, clothing, rooms, laundry facilities, transportation, counseling and legal advocacy. Sistercare also provides children's counseling services, shelter follow-up program, transitional housing, support groups and community education and awareness.

Fully eighty-four percent (84%) of all donations to Sistercare go to direct service care. The majority of all funds are spent on shelter and counseling. Did you know that it costs Sistercare an average of \$34.00 per day to provide shelter for one individual and the average length of stay is thirty days? It is essential that at-risk women and children have immediate access to shelter and counseling, and Sistercare has served more than 30,000 victims of abuse during the past twenty-three years.

By your contribution on Sunday, March 1, you can help Sistercare provide the services that can change the lives of thousands of battered women and their children in the Midlands. For more information, please visit their website at www.sistercare.com or see Terry Henshaw.

Joanne Leonard, Mission & Outreach



The parents of the Junior and Senior EYC met on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 and established programs for the youth for the next several months.

Set out below is the schedule for **February**:

February 1 - Junior and Senior EYC will meet in the Parish Hall for a Super Bowl Party immediately after the 10:30 a. m. service. Parents are invited.

February 6 - Junior EYC - Cosmic Bowling at 11:00 p. m.

February 8 - No meeting of either group – Diocesan Youth Leadership Training Conference

February 15 - Junior EYC at 5:30 p. m. - 7:30 p. m. (Janice Smith and Tracy Matthews)
- Senior EYC at 5:30 p. m. - 7:30 p. m. (Greg Smith and Philip Wall)

February 20 - Junior and Senior EYC Winter Jam Concert

February 22 - Junior EYC - meet in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 service to set up for Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- No Senior EYC
- Confirmation Class with Fr. Blaney Pridgen - 5:00 p. m. - 8:00 p. m.

February 24 - Junior and Senior EYC - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – Check with Youth Leaders for time
Cecile Strait