

Saint Mary's Messenger

November and December, 2009



Beloved of Saint Mary's,

We are blessed to have many new members and serious inquirers among us. I count them as a gift God has entrusted to our parish community. The Holy Spirit sent them to us to make new Christian friendships and to realize their gifts as disciples among us.

A small majority of us have been here awhile, from thirty-five years to two. To those of us in that category, I charge you to greet, meet, invite and involve our new folks. This is as serious a gospel calling as you will ever have. Remember, the Lord sent them. We receive them.

A large minority of us are either brand new or relatively new to Saint Mary's. Some are new to the area. To those of us in that category, I charge you to get involved in something more than arriving on time for worship and then immediately leaving. Sign up and show up. Make yourself known among the people. Discover your Christian potential among and with us. The Lord sent you here. Help us receive you.

One great way among many to involve and get involved is service in one of our six Ministries: Christian Formation, Financial Stewardship, Parish Development, Parish Life, Property and Grounds, and Outreach. Be sure to attend our Ministry Fair on Sunday, November 8. Each Ministry will have a display and hospitality. Other ministry opportunities will also be on display. Some of us will discover new persons to invite to service. Some of us will discover a new call to service.

Calling ourselves brothers and sisters in Christ sounds good, but it does not mean a thing if we do not do fellowship together, serve together, pray together, and study together, in addition to worshipping together. I believe with all of my being that just as God calls us as individuals, God also calls us into vital, effective, and faithful Christian communities. Some of us receive the individual call first and then realize it in the community. Others will become part of a faithful community first and then realize an individual calling. It does not matter which. It does matter that both happen, and happen continually in our life journeys. This is precisely why our intentional involvement with each other is as serious a gospel calling as we shall ever have.

Your brother in Christ,

Blaney+



Saint 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 with Healing Service at 6:00 p.m.

Evening Prayer: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.;

Morning Prayer: Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays at 9:30 a.m.

www.stmaryscolumbia.org

One Woman's War

Is it just me, or is anyone else appalled by the fact that some stores are selling Christmas trees, ornaments, wrapping paper, etc. already? I even saw this in two stores during the first week of October. Then I recalled that the TV shopping channels had already had entire days of Christmas stuff for sale. And today I overheard a few shoppers discussing Christmas presents they are already buying. All of this set me to thinking about two great American C's, commercialism and consumerism. We must buy things we don't need, buy early, and buy a lot. I believe we are a nation built on short-term gratification and quick obsolescence. Then we move on to the next widget.

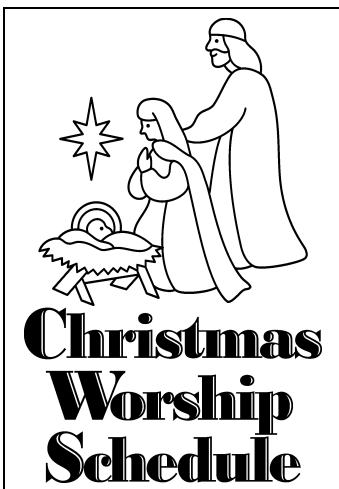
Well, quite frankly, this woman is not going to participate in that world this year. I have decided to launch my own "one woman war" against the two C's. I am here and now speaking my intention to concentrate on the message of Advent, and the gift it brings. That gift is Jesus, the Christ. This is down to earth, everyday, long-term gratification. He was not then, is not now, and never will be obsolete.

We live today in a world of constant advertising. Can one drive anywhere without seeing a vehicle shrink wrapped with catchy graphic designs and logos? How many commercials for food, drugs, automobiles, and insurance are we subjected to during a couple of hours of evening TV time? My one-woman war, counter strategy is this. I'll keep my Bible next to the TV remote. As soon as a commercial begins, I'll hit the mute button, open my Bible to one of the gospels and read something that Jesus either said or did. He is the food, the pill, the vehicle, the insurance I need.

Over the past couple of months, two key things have really stuck with me. First, words from a song: *Keep your eyes upon Jesus, look full into His wonderful face; and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and praise.* Second, words from the gospel of John: *... Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'If anyone is thirsty, come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within them.'*

These may be the two most important things a warrior needs: a good leader and potable water.

Pat Stout, Senior Warden



Sunday, **December 20** – 5:00 p.m. Los Posados, Traditional Spanish Celebration and Mass of Christmas

Thursday, **December 24** – 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist,
a special liturgy for families with young children

9:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with music program

Friday, **December 25** – 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Christmas (Bi-Lingual)

Sunday, **December 27** – 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Christmas
(NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)

Wednesday, **December 30** – 6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with healing,
Holy Innocents (Transferred)

Sunday, **January 3** – 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Christmas 2 10:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist with Epiphany Pageant



York Place Episcopal
Children's Home

The designated charity for the first Sunday in December is York Place, an Episcopal Church Home for Children. It was established in 1850 in Charleston, South Carolina, as an orphanage and in 1910 was relocated to York, South Carolina. The agency

has been expanded to now serve as a residential treatment facility for adolescents who are "most in need" and who without residential treatment may require psychiatric hospitalization.

An impressive array of educational, medical, therapeutic, recreational, and religious services are available for youth from ages 6 to 16. The Residential Treatment Facility accommodates 36 residents, and the High Management Group Home (for children with less acute impairment) accommodates 12 residents. Thousands of children and families – and thus all of us in South Carolina – have benefited from this non-profit agency owned and operated by the Episcopal Dioceses of South Carolina.

For 150 years, York Place has remained true to its mission of helping children and families to become spiritually and emotionally whole and healthy. Let's remember these children with our December contribution.

Martha Leonard



We are still looking for many of you to volunteer to be a Shepherd for some of our many new parishioners. The main purpose and responsibility is to be a friend for about a

year to get them acclimated into the life of the church. We try to match families and individuals with those of similar interests; e.g. a family with young children, older couples, singles, etc.

There will be a sign-up at the Ministry Fair on November 8, or you may email me at thenshaw@bellsouth.net. Thank you in advance for helping with this important ministry.

Terry Henshaw

For all Bakers, especially Newcomers Who Bake

Every December the ECW offers a Holiday Bake Sale as part of Santa's Market at the Seven Oaks Park. This is our major fund-raiser of the year. What do we do with the money raised? We support a number of outreach activities, such as

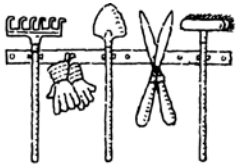


Sharing God's Love, Women's Community Residence, Finlay House, and so forth, plus we support the Saint Mary's family in a variety of ways. For example, we make sure the church kitchens are supplied with utensils, linens, coffee and other beverages, and even small appliances; we give cradle crosses to all newly baptised in the parish, and we assist with a variety of church projects as needed.

This year the Holiday Bake Sale will be on Saturday, December 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. You will be given a handout later describing how to wrap and when to deliver the goods, but let me ask you now to start thinking about how you would like to be part of this event. Of course, we need lots of people to bake cakes, cookies, pies, or muffins, make fudge or cocoa mix, and offer a few jars of their homemade pickles—in short, we need any yummy homemade food item that is non-perishable. We also need folks to help price the items as they are delivered on Friday, December 4, and we need lots of folks to sell items on Saturday. Newcomers, please don't wait for someone to ask you – just sign up for a job that appeals to you!
Become part of the team!

As anyone who has participated will tell you, this sale is a wonderful experience. You get to know other parishioners, and it's a delight to serve the pleasant and appreciative people who drop by our sales tables. Many come back year after year for their favorite items! It's all great fun and it's for a good cause. Watch for the sign-up sheets on the ECW bulletin board. Meanwhile, let me know if you have any questions: 750-7147 or carolk@sc.rr.com.

Carol McGinnis Kay, Chair of Bake Sale



Help Us Maintain the Church Grounds

Our second **PARISH WORK DAY** of the year is happening on **Saturday, November 21, at 9:00 a.m.** This is an opportunity for hands-on service and faithful stewardship of our wonderful campus.

We have many items that need attention on the church grounds providing an opportunity for folks of all skill levels to participate in a very productive and fun day. We invite you to sign up in the Hospitality Hall and come ready to tackle some much needed projects.

The Property and Grounds Ministry is hard at work addressing the physical needs of our campus. If there is a maintenance issue that you have observed in or around the church we invite you to report it to the ministry. Please visit the workroom and fill out a Maintenance Report form and drop it in the Junior Warden's box. We count on our parishioners to be our eyes in alerting us to any situations that need attention. We will even notify you of the action taken to resolve the problem.

Finally, we are still building our Guardians teams. These teams volunteer to be on call for one month out of the year for small fix-it jobs as needed. By providing labor from within our congregation, we give Saint Mary's a tremendous cost savings in repair service fees. So, if you are handy with a screw driver or drill, or you know someone who is, please consider becoming a Guardian. We have several of the fall months that still need two-person teams. It's a really rewarding way to contribute to God's presence in our community. For more information, please contact Bob Hayden or Cindy Burdett.

Property and Grounds Ministry



PARISH NURSES

The Parish Nursing Ministry and the Mature Adult Ministry are proud to offer a program on Grief and Loss presented by Helen and Blaney+Pridgen. The program will be held in the Parish Hall on Monday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m. Many of us experience grief differently, and our losses are as varied as death of a loved one, loss of a job, and financial concerns.

Please bring a friend who might be in need to this program.

Sue Netzloff and Jody Davidson



Since our last newsletter the Hispanic Ministry has been busy. The statistics say it the best: **21** confirmed by Bishop Henderson in September; **20** First Communions in September; **7** attended Cursillo

112, including Deacon Ann Pilat serving on Staff as Spiritual Advisor, Jennifer Pilat, Anny Colorado, Laura Colorado, Beatriz Colorado, Mercedes Santiago, and Khrystal Galvan, and **9** attended the Diocesan Convention in Greenville joining Deacon Ann Pilat and Father Gonzalez.

Upcoming Events:

December 6 - First Communions

December 11 - Rosary in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, followed by Hot Chocolate and Pastries in the Hospitality Hall, which is open to anyone wishing to attend.

December 20, Sunday at 5:00 - Las Posadas, re-enactment of Mary and Joseph in their pilgrimage looking for Lodging. Candlelight Procession, with chants and Mass. Las Posadas tradition is to end with a full meal of tamales, rice and beans, chicken or pork, tortillas and cake. Please sign up on the Hispanic Ministry Bulletin Board if you plan to attend. Everyone is cordially invited to join us and bring the children for a fun night. The breaking of a Piñata full of candy ends the evening activities.

December 25 - Christmas Day, Bilingual Mass

We have been blessed with many new families and we have seen a serious commitment by our confirmands to the Episcopal Church. Our confirmands were so proud of having completed the 20 hours of instruction and of their personal and spiritual decision.

The Wednesday Healing Service in Spanish on the second Wednesday continues to grow. Our musicians have also grown in number and under the leadership of Marilyn Becker and Rudy Keller great music is enjoyed by all.

Thanks be to God for the many opportunities to serve our community and thanks to all of you who so kindly encourage us to continue our work.

Luisa Gonzalez



Religious Conflict in Fact and Fiction

The two most recent books read by Saint Mary's Book Club explore ways in which humanity has struggled through debate and conflict over religion. In September we discussed Geraldine Brooks' novel, *People of the Book*, a fascinating account of the Sarajevo haggadah. This real illuminated Jewish manuscript for the Passover Seder was written in Spain around 1350 and somehow made its way to Sarajevo, Bosnia, by the end of the 19th century. Brooks became interested in the ms. when she was stationed as a foreign correspondent covering the Bosnian conflict in the 1990's. The priceless ms. was discovered to be missing from the National Museum. Only after she left did she learn that the haggadah had been saved by a Muslim scholar who risked his life during a bombardment to hide it in a bank vault. She soon found that it had also been saved from the Nazis in WWII by the Museum's chief librarian, a Muslim, who smuggled it out of the library right under a Nazi captain's nose and hid it at the home of a Muslim cleric until the war ended.

With this kind of thrilling history, Brooks could not resist speculating about how this fourteenth-century Spanish book made it across Europe to land in Bosnia in the nineteenth century. Book Club members loved her opening account of Hanna Heath's examination of the rescued haggadah. Hannah is a rare-books restorer, based on Andrea Pataki, who stabilized the haggadah before it was placed on public display again in 2002. Brooks' novel follows the clues found on the ms: wine stains, salt crystals, a butterfly wing, etc. and traces a fictitious history of the haggadah's travels back to its origins in Spain. Our discussion leader (me) offered the results of her research and separated fact from fiction in the novel's narrative. Much of what seems far-fetched is fact.

Club members liked this mixture of stories from earlier periods mixed with the contemporary story of Hannah, and we expressed dismay that throughout history so many people –Jewish, Christian, and Muslim--have been so willing to persecute others in the name of their religion. At the same time, so many others have been willing to accept risks or suffering to protect their religion or even another person's religion. At the heart of the novel is an honoring of all these risk-takers. Brooks' writing is gripping and powerful. Story, style, and theme work well together, and we voted an impressive 4.5 Crowns for *People of the Book*.

The Cruelty of Heresy, by Fitzsimmons Allison, former Bishop of South Carolina, was our book for October. It traces the very real struggles of the fourth and early fifth century church councils as they defined the nature of Christian belief. In particular, the early bishops debated the nature of Christ: is he fully human? fully divine? born human and became divine at the moment of baptism? Is he *of* the same 'substance' as God the Father or is he *from* the same substance? Early debates about the nature of Christ, God, and the Holy Spirit led to the Nicene Creed we proclaim at every Eucharist celebration. None of us in Book Club will ever say it with the same complacency we might have before reading this book. All of us were grateful to Susan Parlier for leading us through one of the best book discussions we have had! Because Allison's book is so theologically packed, members generally considered it more appropriate for a six-weeks study course than a one-hour discussion at a book club, and we chose not to give it a rating in crowns.

Coming up: on November 8 we will discuss Mark Schweizer's *The Alto Wore Tweed*, a hilarious novel about a sheriff in a fictitious small town in North Carolina, who also serves as choir director/organist for the local Episcopal church. We will not have a December meeting, because we plan to enjoy Saint Mary's Christmas Party that night instead.

Look for our table at the Ministry Fair and plan to join us for some good reading, good talk, and good food!
Carol McGinnis Kay, Bookkeeper

Saint Mary's Messenger

Published monthly

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Editor: Weesie Skinner - weesie_skinner@yahoo.com

Proofers: Jane Bleckley, Jackie Cole and Carol McGinnis Kay

Assemblers: Lib Hayden, chair; Louise Alford, Jerva Applegate, Jane Bleckley, Peggy Davis, Terry Henshaw, and Carol Sinclair

Mailing: Patrick Coward

My Dear Friends at Saint Mary's,

When my brother, Bill, died in late August, I knew I would receive love and support from friends in general, and from folks at Saint Mary's in particular. But that thought pales in the face of the outpouring of emails, cards, notes, phone calls and face-to-face expressions of caring from so many of you. It was overwhelming, beyond my wildest imagination. A simple "Thank You" seems totally inadequate to express the gratitude I feel.

The saddest thing I can imagine is going through the loss of a loved-one without the presence and support of friends. In the church, we talk often about being "the body of Christ." For me, the church is never more the "body of Christ" than when it comes together to embrace and enfold those who need it most. Thank you for all you have said and done, and for being my friends.

There will be a Memorial Service on Monday, November 23, at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Mary's. Bill's widow, Pamela, will be present, along with other family members. The presence of any members of the Saint Mary's community who are able to attend would be a comfort and a blessing.

Your friend in Christ,

Chris+



Tips to Keep H1N1 Panic at Bay

Get a reality check. The headlines of serious illness and death are just headlines and the vast majority of those who get the H1N1 flu are not seriously ill and do not die.

Act sensibly to cut your risk. Wash your hands frequently, keeping your hands away from your nose, mouth, and ears. Stay away from people who are sick if possible.

Remember fear is unhealthy. Anxiety weakens our immune system, which puts us at greater risk.

Know the facts. H1N1 usually infects children and young adults up to age 26. Those with chronic illness such as cancer, diabetes, HIV, lung disease, and kidney disease are at greater risk no matter your age. Consult your doctor, health department, or **CDC.gov** for more information. All current indications are that the H1N1 vaccine is as safe as the regular flu shot.

Jody Davidson and Sue Netzloff, Parish Nurses



We pray for those celebrating birthdays in November and December:

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Anyone wishing to have the list of the monthly birthdays please contact the church office.



We pray for all expectant mothers, especially: Kimberly Lahan, Christie Causey, and Caroline Bolt Busse.



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, and let them know the situation. 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 **November** are Betsy Hirsch 781-3276 and Meredith Fields 407-2716. Chairs for **December** are Terry Henshaw 732-2984, Weesie Skinner 781-7626 and Debbie Thomas 781-7243.

Team Members for **November** are:

Bill Burn	732-1897
Juliet and Clark Brayton	781-1709
Leslie and Jon Buzzell	359-1934
Cheryl and Alan Cooper	750-7684
Sarah Edwards	781-2033
Lindsey Gedelman	615-207-6200
Dee Hansen	772-3827
Carol McGinnis Kay	750-7147
Liz and Mark Kellam	749-7002
Jan and Richard Lahan	407-5717
Jean and J. T. Lantz	750-8370
Michele and Chip Lyerly	781-8177
Judy Marley & Blake Moore	749-7497
Kay and Bob Rike	781-6478
Karen and Frank Stallings	749-9323
Mary and Mitchell Wyatt	732-9290

Team Members for **December** are:

Louise Alford	781-2251
Jerva and Rusty Applegate	798-5236
Lessie and Richard Bailey	772-3844
Julie and Jim Blanchette	749-1225
Jane Bleckley	732-5852
Cindy and Clint Burdett	407-6459
Jackie and Bob Cole	781-3123
Lauren and Steve Darnell	345-5647
Louise and Eric Deahl	359-0117
Meredith and Brian Fields	407-2716
Sarah-Ellen Hammond	749-4229
Jerri and Bob Hayden	926-8881
Lib and Tom Hayden	750-1311
Betsy and Stephen Hirsch	781-3276
Jan Jernigan	359-1323
Martha Leonard	781-3774
Jeanette Macchiaverna	749-2711
Cathy & Keith McLeod	787-6555
Mary Middleton	749-3017
Donna and Curt Rone	796-2971
Carol and Duan Sinclair	798-5566
Inez Soland	781-5277



We pray for all who have died especially: Michele Scollon, mother of Graham and Samantha; Lila Henry, sister of Mary Middleton; Edgar Phillip Davidson, father-in-law of Jody Davidson; Gerrie Kelly, mother-in-law of Cheryl Kelly; Don Sturdevant, father of Jamie Sturdevant; Patricia Strening, aunt of Martha McDade; Mike Duran, father of Jan Hulbert; Barry Mobley, Sr., grandfather of Caroline and Lewis Mobley; Merle Harris, friend of Louise Alford; John Charles Livingston, uncle of Louise Alford; Martha Pendleton, friend of Greg and Janice Smith; Carolyn Keller, friend of Cherry Stokes; Adriane Bell, daughter of Gale and Alison Bell and friend of many in our parish; Donnie Elliott, friend of Lessie Bailey; Irene Hayden, aunt of Bob Hayden; Bill Clements, brother of Father Chris+ Clements; Winfred Dail, Brenda Dail's father-in-law; Katherine Origer, Deacon Susan Parlier's aunt; Flora Clarey, Jeannie Clarey's mother; Bonnie Reitzel, sister of Kipp Hoffman; David Matthews, father of Edith Medlin; and Jim Broome, longtime member of Saint Mary's and friend of many in our parish.

NOVEMBER CHARITY SUNDAY

SHARING GOD'S LOVE A CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

SHARING GOD'S LOVE (SGL), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1984, is a local cooperative ministry that works with community families facing emergencies related to their basic living needs. The ministry operates as an extension of the churches in the Irmo, St. Andrews, and Ballentine areas and is committed to the call of JESUS CHRIST to serve the poor and the needy. At the time of this writing 45 area churches are supporting the ministry through donations of time, money, food, clothing, and other basic necessities of life.

To be eligible for assistance, one must live in one of the following zip codes - 29063, 29210, 29212, or 29002 and be interviewed by a staff member. A current picture ID showing that the applicant resides in the service area and a social security card for the applicant and each member of his/her household are required. A client may receive food and clothing every three (3) months, if needed, and financial assistance once a year.

During the calendar year 2008 a total of 2,078 families representing 6,401 total people were served, and **598 of this total were new clients.**

SGL constantly strives to convey a loving spirit and offers prayers with the clients, gives them Bibles, and encourages affiliation and participation in local church services and activities

For more information please call **SGL** at 732-3188 or Cheryl Kelly at 781-0409.

"Therefore, Father, through Jesus Christ your son, give your Holy Spirit to George, fill him with grace and power, and make him a priest in your Church." (BCP, page 533)

Bishop Henderson will offer this prayer as he lays his hands along with fellow priests upon Deacon George Robert's head on **Friday, December 4th at Saint Mary's.** The ordination begins at **7:00 p.m.** and is followed by a reception. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

We pray for all newborn babies, especially:

Ellie Stiles, born to Leslie Stiles and granddaughter to Judy Stiles; Timothy Demetri Koutrakos, born to Christine and Jim Koutrakos and grandson to Mitchell and Peri Tibshirany; Lane



Mikell Skinner born to Lisa and Michael Skinner and granddaughter to Weesie and Mike Skinner and niece of Sam Skinner; Jacy Davis, born to Jarret Davis, grandparents are Cherry and Leonard Stokes; Fitz Byrd, born to John and Sylvia Byrd, and nephew to

Elizabeth and David Simmons; Chloe Elizabeth Hundley born to Melanie and Clint Hundley, granddaughter to John and Amie Ritner; and Emlea Harper McLeod, born to Michelle and Edward McLeod, and granddaughter to Cathy and Keith McLeod.

PRAY FOR OUR ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ MILITARY

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



Jr. and Sr. High youth will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 8, for dinner and break-out time with the Jrs. and Srs., respectively, following dinner.

Service Project: immediately following the 10:30 service on Sunday, November 15, the Jr. and Sr. High Youth groups will do a service project locally, for someone in our parish. More information will be forthcoming but please make time for this youth activity.

We will eat lunch together, which will be provided.

On **Sunday, November 22**, we will go ice-skating at the Plex in Irmo. Skating is \$9 and the skate rental is free if you bring your church bulletin. We will meet at the Church at 1:00 p.m. Public skate is from 2:00-4:00 p.m., so we need to leave the church by 1:30 p.m.

"**Happening**" for Senior High (grades 10-12). Registration deadline is **November 20**, and the weekend happens on **December 4-6**. Program begins with Registration at 6:00 p.m. on December 4, but departure from the parish will be no later than 4:30. Registration fee is \$120. Please contact Deacon George Roberts if your youth needs financial assistance or if there are concerns. Registration forms can be obtained at www.edusc.org, click on youth, then click on 'Happenings.' The weekend focuses "on encountering Christ within community and learning how to strengthen our relationship with Christ and each other." A great time!!

Sunday, December 6 is Jr. High (and 9th graders are invited too!) movie day/evening. We will go to see a movie (there will be two choices) still to be determined. More information, and the exact time, will be forthcoming.

On **Friday, December 18**, beginning at 6:30, we will have our first Jr.- Sr. High Christmas dance. We will have a short liturgy together, then music (with a DJ), dancing, finger foods, and much holiday fun and cheer.

Saturday, December 19, we will have a major rehearsal for the Epiphany pageant. Because of when Epiphany falls this year (January 3, the weekend of New Year's) and Christmas being the week before, we need to be ready to go before Christmas. After the rehearsal, which will begin at 10:00 a.m., we will go over to Still Hopes (an Episcopal retirement community) and perform the pageant (or parts of it) for them, as a service to our community. The residents at Still Hopes will be very thankful.

Epiphany Pageant - calling all youth and Sunday school classes and young people of all ages. We are gearing up for the Epiphany pageant, which will take place during the 10:30 service on January 3. We will begin rehearsals, probably taking some out during Sunday school and maybe some during other times, in November. We will have one "blow out" rehearsal on Saturday, December 19 at 10am. Please, please make plans so that your child can be at this rehearsal which will be over by noon. Because of when or how Christmas falls and New Year's Day, we really need to have things in ready shape by the end of rehearsal, December 19. We need angels, shepherds, wise men/women, etc., so there is something for any child or youth who want to or will be involved. Please contact Deacon George Roberts or Tracy Matthews if you have a question. This is a powerful and fun way that our children can come front and center in our common life together and praise God in their own delightful way. A Jr.- Sr. High dinner and program will be held, beginning at 5:30, that evening, with the groups breaking into Jr. and Sr. High, respectively, for programs.

Deacon George Roberts



Women of the Church

Upcoming Events:

November 8 - Planning meeting, 4:00 p.m.

November 11 - G.R.I.T.S. the Musical, Newberry Opera House

November 17 - St. Margaret's Guild, 10:00 a.m.

December 4 - Drop off baked goods at Seven Oaks Park from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

December 5 - Bake Sale at 7 Oaks Park, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

December 6 - Planning meeting, 4:00 p.m.

December 10 - ECW Christmas party, 7:00 p.m.

Planning Meetings: We will meet on **November 8 at 4:00 p.m.** to finalize plans for the Bake Sale. Our December 6th meeting will be to finalize the slate of officers. All women are welcome to come to these planning meetings.

G.R.I.T.S. the Musical: We had a great sign up for the trip to the Newberry Opera House. We will be taking the church bus and leaving at **5:45 p.m. SHARP on November 11** for dinner at the Grille on Main in Newberry with the musical to follow. We are planning another trip to the Opera House in April for "Girls Night Out" so if you could not go to GRITS, maybe you can make it for this one.

St. Margaret's Guild: Our next guild meeting will be **November 17 at 10:00 a.m.** We will be going to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Ridgeway and lunch at the tea room in Ridgeway afterwards. There is **no guild meeting in December** due to the ECW Christmas party. In January, we hope to visit All Saints Episcopal Church in Cayce. Other plans for the year include the State Museum, the cooking school at USC, Mepkin Abbey and much more.

Bake Sale at Seven Oaks Park: Drop off for baked goods at Seven Oaks Park will be from **4:00-7:00 p.m. on December 4** and then the Bake Sale on Saturday, **December 5 at 9:00 a.m.** Please look for the sign up sheets and help us with this major ECW fundraiser of the year. Look for



additional information from Carol McGinnis Kay in this newsletter.

Please join us for desserts, beverages, and fellowship in

the Parish Hall for our annual ECW Christmas Party on **December 10 at 7:00 p.m.** There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. We will be bringing gifts for our annual outreach project which will be announced soon.

Always think of yourselves as Episcopal Church Women. We want you to be a part of this sisterhood and to embrace the meetings presented to you. We need all of you! We want you to be a part of us, no matter what your ministry may be. We are all working to lift up our servant and mission ministry! You are an Episcopal Church Woman - join us!"

Jerva Applegate, Promotion & Publicity



Knowing What it Takes

Pledge cards for our financial mission and ministry in 2010 will be mailed November 2. As we did last year, we ask everyone to place the card in some prominent place at home as a reminder to prayerfully and carefully consider our financial commitment to Saint Mary's in the new year.

We also ask everyone to attend a 20 minute power-point presentation on "knowing what it takes" to fully fund the life of our faith community. We are offering the presentation seven times, hoping everyone will find one they can attend:

- Sunday, November 15 9:00 a.m. or 12:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 17 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 19 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, November 22 9:00 a.m. or 12:00 p.m.
- Sunday, November 29 12:00 p.m.

All will be in the Parish Hall and followed by a ten-minute question and answer time.

We will offer our pledges in worship on Sunday,

December 6, or they may be mailed the week prior.

Saint Mary's Episcopal Church

Non- Profit Organization

170 St. Andrews Road

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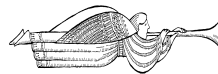
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Saint Mary's Messenger
November and December, 2009

Church Staff

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The Rev'd J. Blaney Pridgen, III, *Rector*
The Rev'd C. Christopher Clements, *Priest Assistant*
The Rev'd Alfredo Gonzalez, *Priest and Spanish Missioner*
The Rev'd Ann Pilat, *Deacon for Hispanic Ministries for the Midlands*
The Rev'd George C. Roberts, *Transitional Deacon*
The Rev'd William Anderson, *Retired Priest Volunteer*
The Rev'd Susan T. Parlier, *Deacon*
J. Franklin Ballard, *Parish Musician and Associate for Liturgy*
Judy S. Stephens, *Associate to the Rector for Administration*
Rita Kester, *Associate for Finance*
Antonio Cardenas, *Sexton*

The Vestry

Pat Stout, *Senior Warden*
Robert Hayden, *Junior Warden*

Ministry Chairs

Christian Formation, Jim Broome
Financial Stewardship, Kathy Gettys

Michele Lyerly, *Treasurer*
Harriet Mobley, *Assistant Treasurer*
Catherine Pickett Williams, *Clerk*
Cindy Burdett, Brent Driggers,
Carol McGinnis Kay, Martha McDade, Keith McLeod,
Janice Smith, Mitchell Tibshirany, Pam Vazquez,
and Hoyt Wheeler

Outreach, Susan Elwood
Parish Development, Mike Topinka
Parish Life, Ron Williams
Property & Grounds, Bob Hayden