

Senior Warden's Report, Annual meeting, 2010

Submitted by: **Wendel Long**

Just a few highlights of 2009 before we look ahead to some challenges: First, to have survived financially sound in a period as economically troubled as we have experienced is truly a blessing from God and a reflection of the faith of our parishioners. My concerns about a budget shortfall were unfounded. I'll leave the details for the Treasurer's Report, but as of this writing, we appear headed towards a healthy budget surplus for the year.

One significant highlight was actually a process, the Long Range Planning process led by Alex Garner. We needed a peek at the future. Alex and his committee provided that peek through assimilation and analysis of demographic data and projection of church growth. The resultant conclusion of the vestry is that St. Elizabeth's is most likely to grow at a rate that will permit us to remain in our current physical plant, with little alteration, through the next ten years. Key data will continue to be assimilated and analyzed by the vestry to ensure that we are not caught unprepared should growth indicators change significantly.

The stained glass window proposal was eagerly endorsed by many of our members who have underwritten the creation and installation of what we expect to be beautiful windows that will be enjoyed by us all. Donna Wright, the project officer, expects the windows to be installed by the date of the bishop's visit in February.

Our Round Table discussions in August 2008 led to much analysis and some resultant action on the part of your vestry. The results of our deliberations were posted to our web site. I hope you all have had a chance to review them. Your feedback is always welcome.

Your vestry has been considering the establishment of a Memorial Garden for burial/scattering of ashes. John Barber conducted extensive research on the subject for us; several of us visited a memorial garden at St. Phillip's in Clayton; and Cathy Ritch and John LeHigh are developing a proposed design for our consideration. We expect to make a decision soon as to whether we will in fact pursue the development of a garden. If we go with this, it is our hope that the project will be self-supporting, fees for burial would cover operating and maintenance expenses.

Your vestry, voted in August to award a 4% merit compensation increase to Fr Albert. We took this action with a full understanding of the economic conditions facing us and the challenges we will face with decreasing diocesan financial support over the next two years. Our collective assessment was that our rector's performance has been exceptional in serving our congregation and the people throughout the parish, whether associated with St. Elizabeth's or not, and that the increase was fully warranted. In comparing our compensation package to that of other churches, I feel that we are now providing compensation comparable to that of other churches our size.

The challenges I anticipate for us in the next several years are primarily financial. Our proposed expenditures for 2010 are roughly \$150,000, up from about \$143,000 of actual

expenditures for 2009. We will lose \$5000 in Bishop's support in 2010 and the last \$5000 in 2011. We will be on our own again at that time. Pledge commitments for next year cause us to be optimistic that we can meet budget in 2010. To do so in 2011 we must provide funds to offset the loss of the last \$5000 of Bishop's support, plus any increases in expenditures.

Another major factor we must plan to deal with is the Bishop's directive that all parishes must participate in the diocesan health insurance program by 2013. That means we are obligated to offer that insurance to our rector. What latitude we will have in negotiating tradeoffs within the total compensation package, if any, is not clear to me. It is clear that the current cost of the various packages available under the diocesan plan range from around \$8000 to \$12000 a year, whereas our 2010 costs will be only \$1390. We must plan for how we will meet the increased costs we will experience in the not too distant future. Your vestry has decided to place significant funds from any year end surplus this year into a Health Insurance Development Fund, a restricted fund that will help us grow a capability to meet future increases. This topic will be further pursued at the vestry work weekend.

Utility costs and maintenance soared in 2009 and resulted in our building and grounds expenditures exceeding budget by about \$5000. The financial report will show only about \$3000 since we capitalized about \$2000 of the cost of replacing a compressor and related control board for one of our HVAC units. We have no good idea of what movement to expect in utility cost next year. We have budgeted for a 10% increase over this year's actual. We will establish a Major Repair and Replacement Fund to deal with future failures of major systems such as HVAC and roof. If surplus funds are available from this year, they will be used, otherwise we will move funds from the existing Parish Development Fund into this new restricted fund.

Building and Grounds Report

Submitted by: **Wendel Long**, Senior Warden

We experienced severe costs overruns in utilities and telephone service this year. Because of the impact of this on the total budget, it is discussed in more detail in the Senior Warden's report. We also experienced a major failure in one of our six HVAC units. Repair costs exceeded \$2000. We are taking steps to prepare for future failure of units, and hoping they don't happen for some time. You may have noticed digital thermostats which Bill Hartman installed for us. We hope to realize significant energy savings through these. We will be successful only if we leave them where they are preset. If you have complaints about the temperature settings, please let any member of the vestry know.

We are proceeding with development of one or more concepts for a memorial garden which will be made available to the parish prior to the vestry making a decision to undertake the establishment of one. There appears to be considerable support for the idea. We are trying to go slow, evaluate several options, and ensure that we at St. Elizabeth's are willing to make the permanent commitment which such an undertaking demands

before we commit ourselves. John Barber will be our project officer if we decide to go forward. John LeHigh and Cathy Ritch are developing designs for us. Please let any vestry member or the above named persons know how you feel about this possibility.

Parish Life 2009

Submitted by: Martha Roberts, Vestry Liaison for Parish Life

St. Elizabeth's parishioners have long evinced a gracious willingness to serve and provide for each other, both socially and during times of need.

This past year was quite active, beginning with the well-attended lunch and Parish Meeting on January 11th. In February, the men of the parish provided the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and the youth of the parish helped serve the tables.

Sheila Cupp provided supper for the Taize` musicians who visited on March 22nd. On April 6th Molly Callender and Judy Ford organized and served lunch at St. Luke's following the Dahlonga Ministerial Association's Holy Week service. There was also a covered dish supper in Boyd Hall prior to St. Elizabeth's Maundy Thursday service. St. Elizabeth's was also responsible for breakfast at the DMA's Easter Sunrise Service out at the Cottrell ranch. On very short notice, Molly Callender, and Joan Eke, put together a variety of breakfast breads, and other goodies, which were served along with juice, coffee, and hot chocolate by Mollye Farmer and Tom and Martha Roberts. On April 25th, headed by Robbie Niles, a Foyers regrouping dinner was held in Boyd hall.

On September 12th, Larry Channell and Albert cooked barbecue for a record turnout at our Annual Parish Picnic, hosted by Don and Bonnie Hunt at Hunt Farm.

In an effort to maintain a reorganization of Foyers groups every six months, Robbie sponsored another covered dish dinner, for that purpose, in Boyd Hall on October 17th.

In November, St. Elizabeth's Day was celebrated with a luncheon organized with the help of Molly Callender. Susan Ory provided the main dish. Volunteers who brought side dishes included Stella Christopher, Margo Booth, Ginny Ingram, Marilou Kinney, Susan Richtarcik, and Susan Krall. Donna Wright handled the decorations and the set-up in Boyd Hall.

On December 13th, volunteers provided a soup and sandwich luncheon for Martin and Sandy McCann, our Diocesan Missionaries to Tanzania. On December 19th, Dave and Wilma Bammer opened their home to a huge gathering for St. Elizabeth's Parish Christmas Party.

In addition to these social events, Marilou Kinney organized food and transportation for several parishioners, and, headed by Robbie Niles, the Sunday Hospitality Teams provided outstanding refreshments throughout the year. Team members include Mandy Russo, Megan Smith, Jackie Peabody, Cathy McLendon, Helen Long, Pat Daviou, Margo and Jimmy Booth, John and Una Lilac, Emile and Sandi Foisy, Marilou Kinney, Rosalie Jensen, Bill Hartman, Suzanne Ryerson, and Robert and Deborah Suhoza. Bill Hartman also serves on this committee by buying many kitchen supplies in bulk.

Without such willing and capable help, it would be hard to maintain the activities we enjoy as a church family. Many thanks to all of you who serve.

2009 ECW Year End Report

Submitted by **Donna Wright**, 2009 ECW President

We had a great year and I hope everyone that attended our meetings felt the same. This is a synopsis of our programs:

- Feb. Community Helping Place – Brenda Cook & Paula Payne and Suzanne Kirkland from the Free Medical Clinic spoke on what their needs and wants are. They thanked St. Elizabeth’s for being so generous with our volunteers and donations.
- May Enota CASA Dyann Beaty, Laura Naylor Court Appointed Child Advocates, what a wonderful group of volunteers that mean so much to the area Children.
- June ECW supported Lizzie’s Attic Sale to benefit the Lumpkin County Literacy coalition and start a fund for a future elevator for our church.
- Aug. Dr. Rick Wherry and representatives from the Lumpkin County Health Dept. gave us an update on the H 1N1 Flu Pandemic and what to look for and how to prepare for it if it happened and stressed that we should get our seasonal flu shots.
- Nov. Time for some entertainment and that we had from Jorgene West who played the melodica, an instrument with a sound between a bagpipe and a harmonica and was accompanied by Nancy Addison who played an unusual harp. We all enjoyed the beautiful program they gave and had a sing along to end the evening with “Amazing Grace”.

PIECEMAKERS

SUBMITTED BY SUSAN ORY

Piecemakers is a group of women who meet weekly on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. to knit, crochet or sew items which are then distributed to various groups in need. In 2009 an evening group was started which met on the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. This group will resume meetings when Daylight Savings Time returns! The Prayer Shawl Ministry, also a function of Piecemakers, formed in 2009 and to date 12 shawls have been distributed.

The following items were donated to the Santa Train in 2009:

3 sets sweater and hat	7 scarves
1 poncho	1 poncho with hat

1 bear	1 doll
1 sweater and hat	1 sweater
1 set hat and mitts	1 hat
1 blanket, hat and booties	1 baby quilt
2 pairs slippers	2 pairs booties
1 set hat and booties	

The following items were donated to White Christmas:

- 8 scarves
- 1 hat
- 1 sweater

We look forward to a productive 2010 and invite any interested persons to join us!

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING
SUBMITTED BY: SUSAN ORY

The Order of the Daughters of the King was founded in 1885 by Margaret J. Franklin and her Bible Study Class at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in New York City. Because joining the Order involves a Rule of Life vow and Rule of Prayer vow, the Order is considered a lay religious order whose purpose is to serve the clergy of our church and the spread the kingdom of Christ wherever possible.

St. Elizabeth's Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King has a membership of 11 women: Annette Barber, Jackie Peabody, Martha Roberts, Helen Long, Susan Ory, Sheila Noah, Molly Callender, Pat Hughes, Suzanne Kirkland, Sharon McWhorter and Patti Ackerman. We had one transfer into the chapter in 2009 and added two new members, Shelia Noah Cupp and Francis Kennedy. 2009 saw our first loss of a member when Francis died on December 1st.

Daughters meet on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m.; maintain a monthly prayer list and are usually involved in a book study. We invite any woman who is interested in joining the Order to contact any member for more information.

Men's Club

Submitted by : **Robert Wright**, Club President

The Men's Club of St. Elizabeth is open to all adult male members of St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church. The club held a total of four breakfast meetings on a Saturday during each quarter of 2009. Each breakfast meeting included a guest speaker who covered subjects such as water desalination, estate planning, Lanier Village retirement center, and an inspirational famous news photographer. Members of the club also provided help with the church's Lizzy's Attic Sale. Funds raised from breakfast contributions by the attending club members were applied to a Camp Mikell summer camp scholarship to a child member of the church.

Communications Committee Report 2009

Submitted by **Margo Booth**, Chair

Members: Robbie Niles, Albert Daviou, Sandi and Emile Foisy

PUBLICATIONS/PRINTING

Published 12 issues of Tidings in print and on the web

Published 52 regular Sunday Bulletins plus special bulletins for weddings, funerals, ecumenical Easter, Lent and Advent services, mid-week services, camping trip, Taizé services, blessing of animals.

Submitted numerous listings in the Nugget's church calendar about activities

Arranged for ongoing distribution of church brochures which was carried out on a regular basis by Rick and Jill Hayes and which will be assumed by Sandi and Emile Foisy.

WEB

Expanded and improved website design, content, and usefulness, including the publishing:

- 1) daily, Albert's "Morning Musings"
- 2) weekly, Albert's homilies in text
- 3) weekly, an updated calendar of events

EMAIL

Distributed 52 weekly e-newsletters to all parishioners with email addresses.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographed or arranged coverage of all major events of the church during the year

Began video recording of homilies for posting online.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Extensive interaction by Albert with local community on a one-to-one basis as well as through civic involvement; participation in fund-raising activities for community organizations, such as the Literacy Coalition Spelling Bee and waiting tables at Pizza Hut for the Ministerial Association; speaking, preaching and praying at public events; participating in community ecumenical services for Easter Sunrise, Holy Week and Advent

Outreach Committee Report 2009

Submitted by: **Betty Greene**, Vestry Liaison and Chair

Committee Membership: Marjorie Garner, Betty Greene, Pat Hughes, Teresa Hughes, Carol Maybach.

Agencies supported by Outreach during 2009: Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Community Helping Place (CHP), Emmaus House, Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD), Family Connection, Kinship Families, Lumpkin County Literacy Coalition (LCLC), No One Alone (NOA), Peruvian Amazon Coalition (PAC), Rainbow Children's Home.

The Rector's Seminary was also supported from this budget in 2009. In 2010, this will be supported in the budget as a separate line item.

Other expenditures included mailing things produced by the Piecemakers to the Santa Train.

The Adopt-A-Road Project and the Side by Side Ministry have also been brought under the umbrella of Outreach, although Outreach funds were not expended on these projects this year. Likewise, Melissa Lach delivered 20 boxes to Operation Christmas Child with the help of her UNIV 1000 class without expenditure from this budget. The Ronald McDonald House has also been supported by the collection of can tabs.

As part of the budget planning process for 2010, agencies were asked to supply the Outreach Committee with specific requests for funding. This helped us to have a clearer idea of how agencies expect to use the funds we give them. Also as part of this process, clarification was given to the committee by the vestry in terms of desired guidelines of 80% of the budget to be spent in support of local mission, 10% to support regional or national mission, 10% to support international mission. All of this has helped to clarify the framework desired for the expenditure of Outreach Funds by St. Elizabeth and the direction of support by this committee.

Children's Christian Education

Submitted by: **Melissa Lach**, Vestry Liaison for Christian Education

Christian Education at St. Elizabeth's must be looked at as "half full". While, yes, we do have a small group of children, they are dedicated, loyal, and precious. Three of our children attend Sunday School on a regular basis. Sometimes we have as many as five in our classroom. Another "half-full" aspect is our dedicated and talented group of teachers. They are Rita Channell, Pat Daviou, Mollye Farmer, Robbie Niles, Jackie Peabody, and myself.

In addition to our "Living the Good News" curriculum which is lectionary based, we have incorporated a "chapel time" at the beginning of each Sunday School lesson. Father Albert tells the Gospel story of the day, sometimes using the Godly Play materials, which incorporates further reinforcement of the lessons in the classroom and the service that follows. The addition of our chapel includes a beautiful altar that is a miniature of the one upstairs, lovingly crafted by Jim Ritch, with help from Tom Roberts and Bob Ingram. Mollye Farmer and Alec Garner also lovingly crafted a beautiful cross for our altar.

Another wonderful addition to the children's program is Fran Dimick and her musical gifts. Angie Joaquim and Myia Lilac are also contributing to the music with their guitars and Will Lilac helps with the percussion. The children have been able to lend their talents to the service upstairs, helping Fran with the opening song, "Come Lord Jesus".

So, while, yes, larger numbers might look impressive statistically, we are blessed with the children who we do have at St. Elizabeth's. Besides, Lindsey Greene and Kaley Russo are too far behind! And we always welcome the school-age children that we currently have who are not attending Sunday School!

Adult Christian Education

Submitted by: Annette Lowe Barber

The first Saint Elizabeth's Education for (Lay) Ministry study sponsored by the University of the South, School of Theology, formed in January 2009 with seven participants under the mentoring of The Reverend Albert Daviou and Annette Barber.

The group met for 34 weeks and studied the Old and New Testaments as well as participated in theological reflection exercises.

The Dream Spirituality Group which was formed in 2007 continued and thrived in 2009 with church members and participants from the local community and other churches meeting weekly (except July and August). The group is mentored by Annette Barber. The booklet of writings from the Dream Group can be found on our web page.

For Adult Christian Education on Sunday mornings we began 2009 with a study of the Green Bible led by Dr. Rosalie Jensen and Dr. Sharon McWhorter. This was followed by a series on the Gospel of Mark presented by our Rector, Albert. Albert also led us in a study of Robert Funk's book, *A Credible Jesus: Fragments of a Vision*. After a break for the summer, adults resumed with a study of John Sanford's book, *The Kingdom Within: The Inner Meaning of Jesus' Sayings* with Sharon McWhorter and Annette Barber leading the discussion. In October, Wendel Long and Sharon McWhorter on behalf of the Stewardship Committee provided a series on giving and gratitude which included guest speaker Brenda Cook of Community Helping Place.

On All Saints Sunday, Tom Roberts provided a talk of the "saints" of Saint Elizabeth's who helped form and develop our worship community.

On December 13, we were graced with an informational lecture from The Reverend Sandra McCann and Dr. Martin McCann on their missionary work.

Interspersed with during the year were lectionary studies led by Wendel Long, Martha Roberts and Sharon McWhorter.

2009 Year End Report - Stained Glass Window Project

Submitted by: **Donna Wright**, Project Manager

The Original 9 Stained Glass Windows have been fully funded. We have added two additional windows in the Narthex to make 11 total Stained Glass Windows that will be installed in our church. One of those windows will be a memorial window funded by a parishioner and the other window is being funded by the Men's Club and the ECW.

The first part of the project, replacing the double-hung windows with fixed windows has been completed.

The next phase will be installing the Stained Glass Windows that are being made by Tori Owens. She has completed all the drawings and hopes to have some or all of the windows completed by the Bishop's visit in February.

Pictures of her working are on the bulletin board in the Undercroft.

