

Annual Meeting 2011

It has been a busy year.

This time last year, when Jake Jacobson stood here and reviewed the accomplishments of the previous year, I was looking around and wondering what I could do going forward that would be of value. I noticed that the worship booklets were looking worn and thought replacing them would be doable. And I thought it would be nice for the church to have a web page with lots of useful information on it, but I did not have a clue as to how to do that.

My time for reflection was short though as I immediately plunged, along with all of you, into the beehive of activity that is the life of this church. My apologies in advance to anyone I miss mentioning, but if you can listen fast, I will recap some of the happenings from this year.

January of last year Daily Practices for God's People debuted and Linda and Terry Kinnear, Ann and Chad Hallyburton, Betsy Swift, Lydia Aydlett and of course Michael helped us explore the values of Simple Living. Lenten services and a book study on The First Paul came later as did many other opportunities for enrichment. Sarah Woodard came for a craft sale and program on Nicaragua. Then in June the Bishop came for the inaugural Breakfast in Galiwhee experience. Eric Hendrix, Newt Smith and Tim Peden and many others made that a huge success. Michael instructed us in Lectio Divina. The meditation group met every Monday. In the fall Curtis Wood presented his Birth of Anglicanism series. When Advent came Paula Clark played cello and Alice Mason, Bob Dodd, Paul Cooper, and Jennie Dowdle shared their insights. There was a program called *Going into the Hospital Head first* out of which grew our new wHoly Healthy initiative, headed by Claire Marsh, which aims to provide support in a variety of ways when health care becomes an issue. The archdeacon came and gave a program. And of course there were Palm Sunday and Easter services, Candlemas, Rogation Sunday, All Saints and All Souls Day, and the greening of the church for the festival Christmas Eve service.

There was the St. David's Day Feast and Auction, with Newt and June officiating and many, many auction items donated by all of you. There was a yard sale and two wine tastings. And Nancie Wilson took over the job of parking cars for the Western Carolina football games.

In the meantime I had the best excuse ever for missing a vestry retreat—stuck in Paris because a volcano erupted in Iceland.

There were sad times, too. Paul Gehring's death and funeral, and the loss of Alice and Nancie's young grandson. But what a flurry of activity ensued here. Church mice came out of the woodwork and scurried around cleaning and making preparations for appropriate services. A former rector of St. David's, Heber Peacock, was mourned, as was Beth Kinyon, an old friend of many here. Hank Sharp's partner, Dan Leary, was laid to rest outside in the cemetery space for cremains that Bill Kirwan worked to establish.

And who can forget the devastating earthquake in Haiti and its aftermath, just a year ago.

A number of people endured illnesses, injuries and surgeries: remember Austin Coburn's big red cast, Eric Hendrix's eye injury, Jane Coburn's concussion, Claire Marsh's automobile accident and Lydia's broken bones. Then there was that fall Alice took at the diocesan convention; very painful. Paul Cooper, Frank Lockwood, Judy Annis and Muff Lyons benefitted from successful surgeries. Faye Jacobson made sure meals were provided when needed.

Throughout the year Alice was quietly plugging away at getting the Clean Slate program started and by year's end received both recognition and donations for it. She was also named deacon of the year and travelled to the national convention in Chicago to receive her honor.

Bill & Betty Lynn Kirwan welcomed a new grandbaby. There were occasional recipes from Anne Long, who winters in Florida. Donna Harris and Nicole McRight received degrees from Western Carolina. There was a 90th birthday party for Lois Tebo. Marilyn Jody and Curtis Wood both had books published. Marilyn also came up with a new name for the newsletter: The Coracle. Tom and Margot celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. And all those auction item dinners, trips and workshops were redeemed.

Jubilate Deo came into being.

Greeters became hosts with a new emphasis on welcoming newcomers. Gracia Slater chaired a most successful stewardship season.

There were improvements to the physical plant: We got a new sound system and Jake Jacobson built a fine cabinet to house it. We have pictures of Chad Hallyburton up on a ladder installing the sound system and also of the crows outside eating the flour Chad used to define the parking spaces this fall. Joanne Cleary organized a group to paint the Canterbury House great room and put up curtains, much improving its appearance. Both septic tanks were located and pumped and the water line was replaced with Muff's help. The handicap ramp that was torn up to get the water line installed was rebuilt by Vance Davidson, Jim Bowles, Ed Hamlet and Phil Sanger.

The Altar Guild got new co-chairpersons: Ann Hallyburton and Faye Jacobson. Margot was honored for her 30 years as chairman. There was a big clean-up of the altar guild space in the Parish Hall.

Appalachian Summer Camp was a huge success. There was a movie night for young and old, and an Elk Excursion to Cataloochee and several meetings for young adults. Full spectrum Farms and the new library got some attention from time to time. . The Giving bench overflowed with produce. Heidi Dinkelmeyer rang the church bell.

Come fall, Jim Bowles built a great replica of the church which Donna, myself and the Neff's painted. The plan was for it to ride on Tom Wilcox's trailer in the Sylva Christmas parade, but, alas, it was not to be. Twice it rained on our parade.

And then there was space. Extra vestry meetings, discussions, interviews with architects, and eventually a parish meeting followed by many helpful comments from you. With the name now changed to Gracious Space, a small but focused committee is working to assemble much more specific information, choices, priorities, and a time line that is reasonable. We will get back to you on that soon.

And so passes a year in the life of the church. We have new worship booklets and a few other publications. And with the help of Newt Smith to get things started, we now have a web page.

No one knows what the future holds, but clearly, this group of wonderful people, working together with the help of God, can both weather difficulties and accomplish many good things.