

# St. John's Episcopal Church

## 2009 Annual Report

January 31, 2010

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and Balloting

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## Opening Prayer

The Reverend Richard Lawson, Rector

God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless our Bishops Henry and Kee, and other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## Introduction of Election and Balloting

Harry Moore, Sr. Warden

## St. John's Vestry Nominees of 2012

Harry Moore, Sr. Warden



*Leon Felts*

When Dell and I moved to Decatur in the mid 70's, although still a Baptist, I attended St. John's for four years and served with her as an EYC director. Feeling guilty and somewhat pressured to do so, I joined a local Baptist church. Throughout my tenure at that church I still attended St. John's with Dell on numerous occasions and continued to feel more and more drawn to the love and commitment of the parish family. Finally, feeling certain that St John's is where I was supposed to be, I was confirmed in June of 2009. I have since served as an usher.

Relative to the possibility of my serving on the vestry, I certainly do not see myself as a voice for change nor do I wish to be viewed that way by others. I would rather be seen as a consensus builder and one who would like to do whatever is necessary to assist our church and its staff in continuing to follow the course charted for her by past and present vestry members. If over the course of my service it became necessary to make difficult decisions that would result in St. John's continuing to be that beacon of hope and love that she currently is in this community, I would do so prayerfully after seeking the opinion of my fellow parishioners.

In April 2008, my wife, Dodie, and I moved to Decatur from the Houston, Texas, area and became active members of St. John's parish. At St. John's, I have assisted in the efforts to improve re-cycling, participated in the Tuesday Men's Prayer Breakfast and Bible study, served as an usher since January 2009, and served as assistant treasurer since September 2009.

To put a new twist on an old saying, "I am not a cradle Episcopalian but I got here as quick as I could." I love the Episcopal Church and have been active since I was received in 1961. When my children were young and growing up at Trinity Church in Natchez, MS, I taught Sunday School and served as EYC sponsor. I sat on the Trinity Episcopal Day School Board as member and chairman for four years. In Texas and Natchez I have served as vestry member and junior warden at three different parishes. I have served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister for over 20 years, Lay reader/lector for 25 years, and Lay minister for ten years. I attended Mississippi Cursillo #38. In 2006, I served as co-chair for a capital funds drive at Trinity Episcopal Church in Baytown, TX.

I retired from NASA and United Space Alliance after 29 years of service in a Contracts/Business Management role. Dodie and I have been married 24 years and share six children and nine grandchildren. I look forward to helping move St. John's parish into a leadership role in promoting Christian attitudes and practices in our community. Our youth will need strong support to grow spiritually as they mature into adulthood, and we must provide the examples and leadership to assist in making that happen.



*D. Hall*



*A I Hornsby*

Charlynn and I came to Decatur in the summer of 2006, bought a house, started planning a life in Alabama, but since we had a home in Memphis to deal with on the slow-moving market, it was not until summer of 2008 before the last of the deliveries were made. We have fallen in love with St. John's, and we have come closer to God and the church through your many deeds of kindness, your thoughts and prayers...especially over the last year.

In Memphis, our church home was Lindenwood Christian Church, and my church before we married in May, 2000, was Grace St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Mid-Town. My activities there were Men's Fellowship and Bible Study, Cursillo, Boy Scout Troup Advisor, Each One/Teach One Adult Reading Teacher (Laubach Literacy International), MIFA (Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association Feed the Hungry Program), Church Health Center Volunteer and Board member for several years, and Methodist Hospital's Hospice Ministry. After college, serving in the U.S. Army Active Duty and twelve years Army Reserve gave me appreciation for our country and its founding principles which I have endeavored to foster in my personal, work, and church life.

My work history began with the Holiday Inns subsidiary, Medicenters of America, Sales Engineering with Ohio Medical Products (OHMEDA) and the Hill-Rom Company. Later as an Independent Manufacturers representative, I served on boards representing community interests including Memphis Builders Exchange, Construction Specifications Institute, and Memphis Rotary club.

My vision for St. John's includes what my son, Stuart, calls God's marketing plan. It starts with personal/private devotional time for each of us praying for God to do his work at our church, and for us to allow his work to grow through new programs and activities for all age groups, helping with spiritual development for all of us. As an example, small groups which meet on a regular basis can help each one encourage each one, and sharpen each one with support from church staff. These support groups can be a great help to the priest helping to alleviate some of his workload as people are caring for one another and not always leaning on the priest or the church staff.

In closing, our young people somehow must be integrated into the plan for the church. The church needs to balance holding on the truths of the faith and at the same time being relevant to the younger generation.

Activities at St. Johns: Member of St. John's since 2003; Previously served on the Vestry; St. John's delegate for Diocesan Convention, 2007 and 2009; Parish Stewardship Campaign co-chair, 2007; Former Journey 2 Adulthood teacher and advisor for pilgrimage to Italy in 2006; EYC Convention Coordinator for St. John's, 2009; Education for Ministry class member (Year 3); Cursillo/Emmaus reunion group member in Athens; Tennessee Valley Advisor for the Diocesan Youth Department.

The vestry is called to serve St. John's as entrusted counselors and good stewards of the gifts God has given us, especially during the economic times impacting us all. We are blessed with a beautiful church, a great Christian Education program for all ages, and chances to gather together in community for worship and prayer. That said, we also hear a greater call: to serve Christ's kingdom beyond the walls, being the hands and feet for others including the poor, the sick, the hungry, the marginalized, and those who are alone. There are people in need, and one of the greatest gifts of outreach the church can share is inviting them to join us on Sundays, Wednesday, and any other opportunity to hear the Good News. I believe the church needs to leave the building.



*Grant Thompson*



Local attorney. Member of St. John's for 34 years. Member of vestry six times. Member of Diocesan Council for three years. Former Senior Warden (twice) and Junior Warden (twice). Stewardship Chairman twice. Current member of Buildings and Grounds Committee. Lector for last 25 years.

*Glynn Tubb*

Hagler Wiley is a lifelong member of St. John's. He is currently teaching YAC Sunday School, is actively involved in the Cursillo community, and is an usher. In the past, Hagler has served on our church's mission team to Honduras, participated in retreats and other family life activities, and served as an acolyte. Having two young daughters has created a desire in Hagler to strengthen the youth programs and support the development of more family activities within our church.



*Hagler Wiley*

The Vestry shall assist the Rector in the nurture and extension of Christ's Church. The Vestry shall have the legislative authority for the Parish and shall transact all of its temporal business (*the Canons in the Diocese of Alabama*).

A Vestry Member is elected for a three year term.

Voting will be by secret ballot and election will be by plurality.

The new members will replace these five members who have completed their terms:

Class of 2009: Russell Barr; Jack Charlton; Julie Leavitt; Harry Moore, *senior warden*, and Joe Propst.

The remaining Vestry members who will serve with the new members are:

Class of 2010: David Bibb, Ashton DeMent, Huey Hall, Steven Hall, *new senior warden*, and Erika Huber.

Class of 2011: Bingham Edwards, Margaret Fite, Danny Morgan, Menine Rice, *new junior warden*, and Nicole Shelton.

St. Paul in his letters always included some words of thanksgiving. Although I am no saint, I am grateful – profoundly grateful – for our parish and our staff. In terms of staff, our hearts still mourn the death of our beloved priest associate and friend, Father Milt Glor, who served for five years here with devotion and joy. We continue to give thanks to God for Milt and all he meant to our parish. 2009 was the year of staff changes for us, as we filled four positions and created one new position. First, we welcomed Cynde Tannehill as our parish administrator. I vividly remember the date of her first day: my birthday on March 23. Cynde is a wise, experienced, organized, and hard-working administrator. I could go on and on with regard to her many skills and qualities. As she approaches her one year anniversary, she continues to improve the efficiency of our office. I am delighted and honored to work with her.

In early summer, Kelley Hayes was hired as our Youth Ministries Coordinator, a new, part-time position. Kelley has done a remarkable job coordinating youth events outside of Sunday mornings. To give you but one example of Kelley's fine work: at our last youth event (at her house), we had seventeen kids! Kelley is passionate about the state of our youth program, and if any of you want to know more about what is working and where we need some improvement, please speak with Kelley. She has become a faithful advocate for our youth, and especially for our need to fund a full-time youth minister in order to take the program to the next level.

Ann Stewart began her appointment as the interim Director of Christian Education in the early summer, too. Of course, Ann's skill, devotion, and calming presence were known already to all of us. In countless ways, Ann has guided our education programs and offerings with passion and thoughtfulness. Ann is devoted to both our parishioners and our teachers. Although the plan is that Ann's permanent successor will be in place this coming summer, I am thrilled to announce that Ann will continue on staff as a part-time administrative assistant.

Paul Dumas was hired last summer as our part-time sexton through a process overseen by D. Hall, our parishioner, and Cynde Tannehill. Paul works approximately fifteen hours a week (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays), and I hope that everyone has discovered what a capable, hard-working sexton he is. If you ever need help with a set up or building questions, please speak with Paul. If you have not yet met him, please take the opportunity to introduce yourself to him.

At the end of summer, we were able to hire Dr. William Dehning as our choirmaster. For a year-and-a-half, Foster Bailey served remarkably as both organist and interim choir director. Foster and I wanted to wait to hire the right person regardless of how long it might take. We have found the right person in Bill, who happens to be a professor *emeritus* and former head of the music department at the University of Southern California. Bill is devoted to our parish choir and people, and the sound of the choir continues to improve due to his leadership and the choir's hard work and talent. Foster continues to serve as a gifted organist who is devoted to St. John's. After every burial that Foster plays (taking time out of his day job, I might add), I find myself giving thanks to God for both his skill and his love for music.

Finally, at the end of the year I was able to call the Reverend Eric Liles as a part-time Assistant Rector. Eric begins in February of this year, and I am excited for him and our church. Eric has a great theological mind and a love for parish ministry that will serve us well. Eric will be in the office two and a half days a week: Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. His job description is such that he will assist me in several different areas of parish work, including preaching regularly on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Thanks be to God for our staff! I am so aware that whatever I do well as your rector I do so because of this creative staff that inspires and supports me in countless ways. I hope you tell them often how much you appreciate their devotion and service.

I also want to give thanks publicly for our vestry, and in particular the members who have just completed their three year term: Russell Barr, Jack Charlton, Julie Leavitt, Harry Moore, and Joe Propst. This vestry class in particular has done a remarkable job overseeing the completion of a capital campaign from the renovation and also the timely fulfillment of our debt obligations regarding the Episco-

pal Center. We are now debt free on the Episcopal Center. These vestry members have worked very hard and exhibited both good **humor and wisdom. Last but not least, I want to thank Harry Moore, our senior warden. I could go on and on about Harry's devotion and support these last two years as junior and senior warden.** Suffice it to say that Harry has been a wise counselor to me, displaying at all times the virtue of hope for the future of our parish. Harry also has been a thoughtful, hard-working resource for all our staff, offering his assistance and words of encouragement at all times. Thank you, Harry. Harry will be succeeded by Steven Hall, who already is known to both me and the staff as a hard-working, passionate warden. Menine Rice succeeds Steven as junior warden, and we are so pleased that Menine will bring her many gifts to this position.

Of course, there are countless other people and committees who deserve our thanks. I must mention in particular the Bread Guild (led by Sharon Faison), the Altar Guild (led by Kristen Propst), and the Flower Guild (led by Dana Baggette and D.D. Martin), all of whom do a remarkable job coordinating the organization and liturgical beauty of the church.

The highlight of 2009, from my point of view, was outstanding attendance and energy at weekday programming and events. Beginning with our fifth annual parish retreat at Camp McDowell with over 100 persons in attendance (our largest crowd in five years), we had a spirited weekend, concluding with a Eucharist on Sunday morning in the new chapel at Camp that I will never forget. We watched in awe as snow fell through the stunning clear glass windows of the chapel; a holy silence fell over every adult and child as Camp McDowell turned into a winter wonderland. This was the beginning of a great year in so many ways for programs and events. Our Wednesday night dinner series in both spring and fall were well attended. The fall in particular was packed for each dinner and speaker. The food was outstanding, too, thanks in large part to the organization of Amy Shelley and Nicole Shelton. Furthermore, the Noon Eucharist on Wednesdays in 2009 seemed to me as if it really gelled as a congregation; we now average about 20 people for **this simple Eucharist and Homily each Wednesday in St. Mary's Chapel (with anointing following the service for any who desire a prayer for healing). Many people attend who do not attend St. John's on Sundays (or at any other time).** I also want to note that the Centering Prayer group continues to meet faithfully at 4:00 p.m. in the chapel on Sundays. This small group consist of anywhere from 5-10 people, some parishioners and some guests, who are devoted to praying in silence as a group. EfM continues to thrive on Monday nights under the leadership of Mary McKimmon, mentor, and Sandy Barr, co-mentor. **Finally, both the Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, and the Co-Ed Bible Study were very well attended for the entire year.** Our subject in the fall was the Holy Spirit in **the scriptures and theology, and I learned as much listening to people's comments as I have in any class I have ever taught.** All of these programs and events are growing and thriving, and I know that will continue in 2010.

Because I am so aware of the growth and energy surrounding weekday programming and events, I am aware that Sunday attendance at the Eucharist is not what it could be and should be. In 2009, our Average Sunday Attendance (A.S.A.) declined a bit (down from 216 in 2008 to 204 in 2009) even though we had a net gain in membership of 11 people in 2009, raising our membership to 601 people. Undoubtedly, the growth in weekday programming has led to the reality that some people who attend during the week are not returning on Sundays. The economy has greatly affected us as well. Specifically, in the last year-and-a-half, we have lost eight very active families who have moved out of Decatur to accept new positions; all of these families, I am happy to report, remain active in the Episcopal Church. Nevertheless, in 2010, we are making four changes that I hope will lead to an increase in A.S.A. First, Huey Hall, vestry member and chair of our Hospitality/Evangelism Committee, has produced beautiful new visitor cards. With these new cards, I am making a particular welcome to visitors each Sunday during announcements, and I am happy to say that each Sunday in **January we have had a visitor fill out one of these cards in order to learn more about St. John's and to be added to the mailing list (and in two cases to be added to the membership roll).** Second, Huey Hall has produced (at my request) business cards that I am passing out today. These cards will provide you with a simple, elegant way to invite someone to join us for worship on Sunday mornings. Note that there is a place for you to write your name on the card and that the times of the Eucharist are listed clearly on **the back. I hope these cards will be for all of us an 'outward and visible' sign of our desire to become more and more welcoming and passionate about inviting anyone in need of a Christian community to join us.** We have hundreds of these cards. If you run out, see

me, and I will replenish your supply! Last but not least, Huey, thank you so much for your leadership of this committee. Menine Rice in 2009 chaired our Attendance committee, and it was under their leadership that we have done two new things that will pay off in 2010. Potluck dinners will continue. If you missed our October potluck, it was wonderful and packed. Our next potluck is scheduled for Sunday, March 7. Second, Menine's committee, with able assistance from the multi-talented Annie Cornell, has revived coffee hours after the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist, which has allowed us to have more time to get to know one another and visitors on Sundays. Both of these offerings have helped with attendance, too, during the months we offered them. The good news for us is that we are growing in membership and attendance at weekday programs, and in this regard, we are unique compared to most of the Episcopal and mainline churches. The challenge for us, however, is to do a better job in terms of attendance at the Sunday Eucharist in 2010. I will have more to say about this subject, especially as Lent begins, when I plan on calling all of us to renew our commitment to being present each Sunday for the Eucharist.

In conclusion, I am so grateful for all of the hard work and energy that everyone put into 2009. I am also very hopeful that in 2010 we can continue to build upon our strengths in weekday programming and events, as well as our overall growth in membership. It is a joy to do all of this with you. I am blessed and energized to enter into what is my seventh year as your rector, giving thanks to God for all of you and for the opportunity we have to live Christ-like lives in this wonderful Episcopal parish for the glory of God and for the welfare of all people.

## Senior Warden's Report

Harry Moore

During 2009, St. John's maintained the Episcopal Center, making possible the continued operation of the Community Free Clinic and Parents and Children Together (PACT) during the year. By year's end, we retired the last debt connected to the EC. For the first time since St. John's purchased the property, the Episcopal Center is debt-free. At the same time, our church supported Jeremy and Penny Lucas as missionaries in Namibia and sent a modest monthly contribution to the Committee on Church Cooperation to support their soup kitchen.

In a financially difficult year, parishioners paid and exceeded their pledges, so that the church was able to finish 2009 with essentially a balanced budget. At the same time, those parishioners who extended their capital campaign pledges for one year helped to reduce the loan by approximately one-third. The loan is still substantial, but in 2009 we made a good beginning toward paying for our parish hall French doors and balcony, the amphitheatre, and the revamped and well lighted Sunday school rooms we have enjoyed for some time.

Thanks to our junior warden, Steven Hall, and the Landscaping Committee, the grounds at St. John's are in excellent shape. A memorial maple to Charlie McKimmon now grows on the western tip of our property, and four new oaks are taking root beside the Episcopal Center on Gordon Drive. And once more, the lovely sidewalk garden on Jackson St. maintained by D. D. Martin bloomed from early spring through late fall.

Twice each Sunday and at noon most Wednesdays, we affirmed our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist, and both on Sunday and during the week, parishioners and friends attended Bible studies and discussion groups. In both spring and fall, we fed body and spirit in a series of well-attended Wednesday night suppers. During the year, we lost some long-standing parishioners—Ada Peebles, Elizabeth Richardson, Grace Gilbert, Joe Blackburn, Jr., Nancy Norman, Jean West Lee, Becky Moss-Fletcher, and Robert Stone—along with our dear and devoted Milt Glor.

During the past year, the vestry has worked diligently on attendance and evangelism to develop strategies for growth at St. John's—making others in the community aware of good things available here. Through the hard work of Huey Hall, we now have first-rate brochures and cards to hand to friends who might be interested in our church.

One of the great pleasures of my job during the last year has been to work closely with our capable and hardworking rector. Through

good times and bad, Richard's vision, candor, determination, energy, and good humor have kept us on steady course. We are in good hands. And now, thanks to solid pledges for 2010, we are able to hire a part-time priest-associate beginning in February.

## Treasurer's Report

D. Hall

### Financial Summary for period ending 12/31/2009

Balance Sheet	
Checking account balances	\$137,614.14
Rector's Discretionary Fund	568.53
Capital Campaign fund	1,923.00
St. John's Endowment	<u>400,500.72</u>
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>\$540,037.86</b>
Petty Cash	\$150.00
Loan Receivable - PACT	\$8,500.00
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>\$8,650.00</b>
Episcopal Center	\$3,047,436.16
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(363,458.79)</u>
<b>Total Capital Assets</b>	<b>\$2,683,977.37</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,233,233.76</b>
Accounts Payable	\$ 15,426.36
Payroll Taxes	1,127.51
Pre-paid Pledges	78,878.76
Bank Independent loan (PACT)	0.00
Bank Independent loan (renovation)	<u>540,203.64</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$635,636.27</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$2,597,597.49</b>
<b>Total Liabilities/Equity</b>	<b>\$3,233,233.76</b>

Income Statement			
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance
Total Contributions	\$508,461.82	\$472,500.00	108%
All Other Income	<u>153,704.79</u>	<u>179,123.00</u>	86%
	\$662,166.61	\$651,623.00	102%
Total Personnel Expense	\$240,475.66	\$261,167.30	92%
Total Operations Expenses	220,949.37	172,650.00	128%
Total Outreach Contributions	65,833.50	65,200.00	193%
Total Special Projects	<u>21,860.52</u>	<u>17,500.00</u>	125%
	\$549,119.05	\$516,517.30	106%
Difference	\$113,047.56	\$135,105.70	

2010 Budget		
Total Contributions	\$525,500.00	94.0%
Total Other Income	<u>34,900.00</u>	6.0%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$560,400.00</b>	
Total Personnel Expense	\$279,443.00	49%
Total Operations Expense	211,600.00	38%
Total Outreach	73,005.00	13%
Total Special Projects	<u>0.00</u>	0%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$564,048.00</b>	
Surplus/Deficit	(\$3,648.00)	

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**Retire the Debt Summary**

(as of 12/31/2009)

Total pledges	\$122,017.00
Total gifts received	\$103,507.42

**Capital Campaign Summary**

(as of 12/31/2009)

Capital Campaign gifts received (2009)	\$ 32,963.24
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**Renovation Loan Summary**

(as of 12/31/2009)

Renovation loan beginning balance for 2009	\$697,000.00
Payments made ending 12/31/09	<u>(156,796.36)</u>
<b>Renovation loan balance - 12/31/09</b>	<b>\$540,203.64</b>
Renovation loan payment made 01/08/10	<u>( 21,749.83)</u>
<b>Renovation loan balance - 01/25/10</b>	<b>\$518,453.81</b>

<b>Total Reduction paid in 2009</b> (PACT & Renovation loans)	<b>\$231,996.36</b>
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**PACT Loan Summary**

(as of 12/31/2009)

PACT Loan beginning balance (2009)	\$75,200.00
Payments made during 2009	<u>75,200.00</u>
<b>PACT Loan Balance - 12/31/09</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>

Announcements

The Reverend Richard Lawson

Last summer I found myself stepping in as Interim Christian Education Director following in the footsteps of former Christian Education Director, Sharon Faison. After much guidance from Sharon and Richard, I quickly realized our Christian Education ministry is focused on the well-being, spiritual formation, and education of individuals and the church as a whole. What had I agreed to do over the next year?? My work has been filled with curriculums, schedules, recruitments, events, meetings, and many announcements **promoting Sunday mornings at St. John's.**

Fortunately, the Christian Education ministry of the church is not a one person job. It takes many people working at different levels and in different capacities. It is always a joy to work with my adult friends of the Parish. I cannot say thank you enough to the 20 plus volunteers staffing the many programs who give generously of their time and talents for Sunday mornings.

Two adult classes are offered on Sunday mornings, Adult Bible Study, a discussion-based format of that particular Sunday's readings, and Faith and Arts, an exploration of the connections between the Christian faith and selected poems, stories, plays, movies, music, and other forms of art. Each class has a commitment to spiritual growth and fellowship among its members. Please visit a number of classes so that you can experience the unique personality that each class offers.

Sunday mornings are not just for adults. We take kids seriously, too. The children and youth of the Parish and their parents are a special joy in my work.

Our Sunday school curriculum for children (4 years old-4<sup>th</sup> grade), Godly Play, is now in its sixth year offering children a chance to explore the Bible and their response to it with adult leaders and their peers. Each week a Biblical or liturgical story is told, aloud, face to face and heart to heart. Three-dimensional props provide the concrete learning support that small children need. Child-centered, spiritual, and fun, Godly Play helps our children express the spiritual dimension of their lives and build on their inherent faith. I am one of 10 leaders of Godly Play; we delight in their ability to listen imaginatively. We value their ability to question and to speak with candor. Their playfulness brings joy and life into our midst. If your child has not attended Godly Play, we invite him or her to come play.

In the fall of 2009, we added a class just for our 5th graders, who were asking for something just for them. Tweens in Transition is a curriculum motivated to lead and to inspire tweens and to help them live their faith. Our lesson plans guide tweens along the pathway to be active in service and feel prepared to be part of the larger youth program.

Journey to Adulthood "J2A" is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for those in the 6th to 12th grades. It uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries, and both serious and playful activities to nurture the whole person during the passage from childhood to adulthood. There are three two-year segments of the program:

Rite-13: The first two years, for 6th and 7th graders, focus on celebrating the individuality of each young person and his or her creative potential. The Rite-13 liturgy (A Celebration of Manhood and Womanhood) held each spring is the community expression of this and a rite of passage from childhood towards adulthood. Our Rite-13 ceremony is planned for April 11, during the 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist. I ask all parents of 7th graders to bring their 13 year old (or soon to be 13 year old) to Sunday school routinely in order to be prepared for this special liturgy.

J2A: The middle portion of the program, for 8th and 9th graders, engages youth with the skills and critical thinking involved in adulthood. There is much emphasis on developing their spirituality and spiritual practices. The youth plan and embark on a pilgrimage together at the end of this segment. This experience is often the spiritual highlight of their youth. In 2009, 15 young people and 3 adults set off on a pilgrimage to Scotland to culminate their J2A years.

YAC: Young Adults in the Church is the last part of the program when the older teens, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders, after exploring their own spirituality, discern and carry out ministries within the church or in the larger community. The youth also plan a mission trip. YAC is the largest of all our Sunday school classes with 25 names on the class roster.

The Journey to Adulthood program is designed to bring young people into full participation in the life of the congregation so they actually are the church of today instead of the church of the future.

The youth in all three J2A groups make up the Episcopal Youth Community. E.Y.C. is a wonderful and vibrant community. E.Y.C. is a chance to meet for fellowship and stewardship for the church and the community.

Our Sunday mornings offer a variety of classes to meet the needs of everyone in the family and provide a chance for you to grow in your faith. Again, Christian Education ministry is not a one person job. As a parish community, it is our goal to provide a welcoming and enthusiastic environment where young and not so young people are motivated to learn and grow in their faith and understanding of the Episcopal Church. I hope that you have been involved in one of the programs or classes and will either continue or try one out.

Sunday mornings benefit from the participation and support of its church families. With a little more attention, Sunday mornings will show their potential. Are we always engaged in the lesson, maybe not, but wonderful things are happening on Sunday mornings and God is always there, yearning to gather us in and to send us out.

## Vestry Election Results

Harry Moore, Sr. Warden

## Closing Prayer

The Reverend Richard Lawson

**O**ur Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### From the Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama: Section 3. Parish Meeting

The congregation of each Parish shall meet at least annually at the time duly called by the Vestry, with reasonable notice thereof to the Rector and the members of the Parish. The Rector shall preside at Parish meetings, if present. Those entitled to vote shall be confirmed adult communicants in good standing as defined in the General Canons who are canonically resident in the Parish and physically present at the meeting and who are known to the Rector and Treasurer as regular contributors to the support of the Parish program, and those present shall constitute a quorum. At the annual Parish meeting the Vestry shall make a written report if its work for the past year, including a financial report, and its proposed program for the following year.

## Parochial Report Summary for 2008 and 2009

*The Parochial Report is the official data-gathering instrument of the Episcopal Church. Each parish or congregation files this report annually with the diocesan bishop. A copy of each Parochial Report is sent to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.*

**In 2009, the parish's total active membership was 601 persons (a net increase of 11 from 2008).** Our Average Sunday Attendance was 204 persons (a decrease of 12 from 2008). In 2009, we had 108 Sunday Eucharists; 91 weekday Eucharists; 349 Private Eucharists (for the sick and homebound); 159 daily offices on weekdays; 5 marriages; 8 burials; 5 baptisms; and 5 confirmations. Please note that both the Sunday and Wednesday Eucharists include a sermon by the priest.

**In 2008, the parish's total active membership was 590 persons. Our Average Sunday Attendance was 216 persons. In 2008, we had 105 Sunday Eucharists; 132 weekday Eucharists; 346 Private Eucharists (for the sick and homebound); 155 daily offices on weekdays; 1 marriage; 10 burials; 9 baptisms; and 13 confirmations.** Please note that both the Sunday and Wednesday Eucharists include a sermon by the priest.

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## SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

202 Gordon Drive  
Post Office Box 1806  
Decatur, Alabama 35602  
256-353-9615  
[www.stjohnsdecatur.org](http://www.stjohnsdecatur.org)

In case of an emergency, please contact  
The Reverend Richard Lawson (318-1891), rector.

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### THE PARISH STAFF

The Reverend Richard Lawson, *rector*;  
Cynde Tannehill, *parish administrator*;  
Ann Stewart, *interim director of christian education*;  
William Dehning, *choirmaster*;  
Foster Bailey, *organist*  
Joanne Peterson, *nursery coordinator*;  
Paul Dumas, *sexton*;  
Ken Schuppert, *chancellor*;  
D. Hall, *treasurer*.

### THE VESTRY

**The Vestry shall assist the Rector in the nurture and extension of Christ's Church.** The Vestry shall have the legislative authority for the Parish and shall transact all of its temporal business (*the Canons in the Diocese of Alabama*).

Class of 2009: Russell Barr; Jack Charlton;  
Julie Leavitt; Harry Moore, *senior warden*; Joe Propst.  
Class of 2010: David Bibb; Ashton DeMent;  
Huey Hall; Steven Hall, *junior warden*; Erika Huber.  
Class of 2011: Bingham Edwards; Margaret Fite;  
Danny Morgan; Menine Rice; Nicole Shelton.

Margret Ann Templeton, *clerk for the Vestry*.