

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL PARISH
 HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, CLEMSON
 SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH, PENDLETON
 EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL
 CANTERBURY COLLEGE MINISTRY
 ~~~~~  
 193 OLD GREENVILLE HIGHWAY  
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Holy Trinity Episcopal Parish  
 Holy Trinity Church, Clemson  
 Saint Paul's Church, Pendleton  
 Episcopal Day School  
 Canterbury College Ministry  
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www.holytrinityclemson.org

Tempo April 2009



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Holy Trinity Parish—
 a people passionately seeking to
 love with the heart of Christ,
 think with the mind of Christ,
 and act in the world as the body of Christ.

April 5-10 Holy Week Services

The usual meetings will be not held during Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 5

UTO Ingathering
 4:00 pm Stations of the Cross (weather permitting)
 St. Paul's in Pendleton

5:00 pm Holy Eucharist
 St. Paul's in Pendleton

Monday, April 6

12:15 pm Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, April 7

12:15 pm Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 8

11:00 am Holy Eucharist at the Downs
 Sundown Passover begins

Maundy Thursday, April 9

6:00 pm Simple Supper
 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist w/Foot-washing
 Vigil at the Cross begins

Good Friday, April 10

7:00 am Morning Prayer
 12:00 pm Ecumenical Service
 St. Paul's in Pendleton
 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 11

8:00 am Men's Book Group

Easter Sunday, April 12

6:30 am The Great Vigil of Easter
 8:00 am Breakfast
 9:00-10:00 am Family Eucharist
 10:00 am Egg Hunt
 10:30 am Festival Eucharist

Monday, April 13

Church Office closed
 5:00 am Founder's Day
 St. Paul's in Pendleton

Wednesday, April 15

6:00 pm EDS Family Night

Sunday, April 19

11:45 am Youth Groups & Children's Choir
 2:00 pm Miriam's Project
 5:00 pm Evening Prayer
 St. Paul's in Pendleton

Friday, April 24 to Sunday, April 26

Jr. High Spring Retreat

Sunday, April 26

9:15 am Adult Forum Vision 2020
 11:45 am Newcomers Coffee
 2:00 pm Convocation
 Church of the Redeemer, Greenville

Dorsey F. Henderson, Jr.,
Bishop of Upper South Carolina
 John S. Nieman, *Rector*
 Susan Louttit Hardaway, *Assistant Rector*
 Nancy Conway, *Priest Associate*
 Sidney J. Hall, *Priest Associate*
 Thomas C. Davis, Jr., *Rector Emeritus*
 Carolyn Wheeler, *Minister of Christian Formation*
 Becky Bowman, *Minister of Music*
 Cynthia Spejewski, *Organist*
 Lynne Farmer, *Parish Administrator*
 Jessica Goodwin, *Receptionist/Publications*
 Suzanne Watkins, *Day School Director*
 Phil Maiberger, *Senior Warden*
 Jeffery Yang, *Junior Warden*

Vestry Members:

Sr. Warden: Phil Maiberger
Jr. Warden: Jeffery Yang
Clerk: Rebecca Eidson
Treasurer: Mellie Warner

Keri Anderson	Kimberly Huddleston
Marjorie Campbell	Beth Kunkel
Michele Cauley	Rachel Mayo
Kathy Crouse	Jim Reed
Doug Henry	Charles Shuler
John Hewell	John Wilson

This is a monthly publication. To submit news or announcements, please leave a copy in the office or email it to Jessica: jgoodwin@holytrinityclemson.org

The deadline date for the May edition

April 12, 2009

Thanks to all who help make this newsletter the parish-driven vehicle it was intended to be.
 A special thanks goes out to the wonderful persons who volunteer to help with newsletter mailings!

Save the Date!!!
Holy Trinity Benefit Dinner for the Missy Wylie Memorial Fund
Friday, May 15, 2009
 6:00 pm Social Gathering
 6:30 pm Dinner
 Holy Trinity Parish Hall
 If you can sponsor @ \$150.00 to help defray the expenses, please contact the church office@ htchurch@holytrinityclemson.org or 654-5071 or Kevin Hughes @ 654-2122 or Bev Hardin @ 646-5153

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and *koinonia*, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2: 42)

Dear Ones,

Last spring when we were heavily engaged in the Prism Campaign, our consultant, Andi Tilmann, often remarked about what she saw as Holy Trinity's greatest gift. That gift, she constantly reminded us, is community. She cited recent studies that show the vast majority of Americans lack even one person outside their immediate family in whom they are willing to share their lives in any meaningful way. Many can't even identify a single family member in whom they would place such trust. Americans are literally starving for community, and are increasingly feeling isolated, alone and without a sense of connection. Andi has consulted with numerous congregations around the country of various demographics and sizes. She has a wide perspective. It is from that perspective that she urged us to acknowledge and celebrate the gift we have.

The word, "community," is thrown around liberally in our culture, but often in a casual, almost meaningless, sense. We talk about the "Hispanic community," the "education community," the "religious community," the "gay and lesbian community," one or another "blogging community," and you-can-fill-in-the-blank community. That use of the word is a convenient way to pigeon-hole people and define them according to some interest group. The irony is that people who have been identified as belonging to such a community often feel just as isolated and disconnected as anyone else, even from others in their so-called community. They have been identified as part of a specific community, but they don't *experience* community any more than anyone else does.

What is true community? The Bible in one sense is a story about community, specifically, the community of people called together to be God's people. The Greek word, *koinonia*, is sometimes translated in the New Testament into the English "community." In the above-cited verse from *The Acts of the Apostles*, the NRSV translates it into "fellowship." *Koinonia* is God's intention for all Christians: the experience of a depth of sharing, caring, participation and trust with one another, bound in *agape* – self-forgetting, unconditional love. It is not about membership in a common class or even the sharing of common interests. It is instead what communion is all about in its fullest sense. Our gathering around Christ's table in communion visibly and tangibly manifests our sharing in the Holy Manna that is our common life. *Koinonia* cannot be manufactured, no matter how hard we try. It is a Divine gift that is present when people together attend to God and one another.

Last month, we experienced the extremes of *koinonia* as a parish. On the morning of February 14, while visiting my father in Florida, I received the call about Missy Wylie's sudden and shocking death. I then called Susan, who, after catching her breath, immediately headed from her home in Anderson to open the church. Mary Jeffers independently had the same thought. They instinctively knew that the first response of people once they heard the news would be to come together in that place where we naturally gather. What transpired that day and in the days and weeks after – the shared grief, the strong urge to help, the meals, the prayers, and the worship – is community.

During the weekend of March 6-8, we experienced the opposite reach of *koinonia* as we gathered for the annual parish retreat at Kanuga. I felt a strong sense leading up to that weekend that the timing could not have been better. We all needed some time to be together again in a place that has become a kind of second home for many of us: a time to relax, refresh and renew. The stories we heard and told there, the laughter and tears shared, and once again, the meals, the prayers and the worship – all of that is community.

Because we live on this side of God's Kingdom, the community we experience is far from perfect. There always are the pitfalls of cliques, blindness to others' needs, and just plain self-centeredness that infect even our best intentions. A healthy Christian community will always keep a watchful eye and seek to tear down the defensive barriers that prevent others from connecting.

I have been giving thanks for all of you, especially over these past weeks. The community we have – the *koinonia* we have been given – is truly a treasure and a blessing. It is a sign of the gift of new life in Christ we all will be celebrating this month.

Peace,



John

Canterbury News

In April, the Canterbury group will return to its "normal" schedule:

April 1: Seder

April 8: Dinner and program

April 15: Dinner and Eucharist

April 22: Dinner and program

April 29: Dinner and Eucharist

It's hard to believe that the end of the school semester is already here! We are looking for donations for our exam care packages. If you are able to contribute, please contact our peer minister, Amy Hixon, at 854-633-5212 or ae-hixon@gmail.com

Ann Russell has agreed to keep the calendar for the Canterbury dinners. If you are interested in cooking for Canterbury, please talk to Ann about a date (annier@nctv.com, 864.654.3424). We are also looking for people to help set up before or clean up after the dinners. If you are willing to help, please speak to Ann or Mother Susan.

Holy Trinity Youth Groups

Registration is open for summer camp at **Camp Gravatt**. Camp Sessions are available for children and teens that have completed 1st through 12th grades. Learn more about Camp Gravatt at www.bishopgravatt.org. Or talk with Alex Buckman, Kayla Massey, Paul Mauer, Elizabeth Mauer, Ben Hardaway, Lillian Hardaway or Frances Hardaway to find out more!

There will be a **Provincial Youth Event** this summer in **Bay St. Louis, MS, June 22-28, 2009** for students who have completed grades 9-12. Youth from our Diocese will be joining with youth from 19 other dioceses to help continue the repairs after Hurricane Katrina. The cost of the event is @ \$350. **Greg Wehrman** and **Kayla Massey** attended this event last year. Please speak to Mother Susan if you have any questions.

We need people to sign up to prepare the youth lunches. Please speak to Mother Susan if you are willing to help! Thanks. **The upcoming youth dates are 4/5, 4/19, 5/3, 5/17 and 5/31.**

Middle School: (Rite 13)

April 4 Palm Sunday Stations of the Cross, St. Paul's- 4-5 PM

April 24-26 Junior High Spring Retreat, "New Beginnings", Gravatt, cost \$75

High School: (J2A and YAC)

April 4 Palm Sunday Stations of the Cross, St. Paul's

June 12-17 YAC Mission Trip, New York City

TBA J2A Pilgrimage

June 22-28 Provincial Youth Mission Trip to Bay St. Louis, MS, grades 9-12; cost @ \$350,

The Prayer List

Our Sick: Abhay, Charles, Chris, Dan, Helen, Irene, Iris, Lydia, Jackson, Jan, Joey, John, Lois, Lucy, Miriam, Norville, Opal, Sara, Susan, Ted, Theda, Alisa Fernstrom, Ann Zimmerman, Carl Wilson, Chuck Linell, Dodie Legg, Dot Sams, Earle Purkerson, Frances Elrod, Hal & Georgia Harbers, JoAnn Purkerson, John Woodsby, Lawrence Connor, Tom Harbin, Grace & Richard Edwards, Iris Wingate, Laurie Scybert, Melissa Ross, Nolia Watkins, Walter Lewis, Wil Miley.

Our Service Personnel: Adrian Sanchez, Charlie Park, and Jonathan Saunders, who are deployed in the Middle East.

Our Members serving in other parts of the world: Christopher Burch, who is serving with the MBA Corp in Angola, and Sarah Trice, who is in the Republic of the Congo.

We pray for the Reachout ministry of the parish.

Financial Update-As of March 24, 2009

The parish financial picture is as follows:

Monthly Budgeted Income:	\$ 43,591.66
Monthly Actual Income:	\$ 28,809.34
Monthly Budgeted Expenses:	\$ 43,591.70
Monthly Actual Expenses:	\$ 27,395.71
YTD Budgeted Income:	\$130,774.98
YTD Actual Income:	\$194,218.83
YTD Budgeted Expenses:	\$130,775.10
YTD Actual Expenses:	\$108,394.04

Outreach highlights

From Jill Evans, Executive Director of Pickens County Habitat for Humanity

“This year (2008) has been busy and exciting for **Pickens County Habitat**, as we have completed four houses, with a fifth to be finished in a few weeks. Four unique and grateful families now call these houses home. Twelve people who previously lived in unsafe and degrading situations are now coming home each day to a “safe, decent, and affordable” Habitat house. What a blessing!”

From Dan Wroblewski, Chairman of the Board of Directors for Our Daily Rest

“On behalf of the Board of Directors of **Our Daily Rest**, it is with deep gratitude I thank you for your generous support of the Path of Hope campaign....Your gift will help us to provide new facility that provides a safe, hospitable, and nurturing environment for individual men and women with children. Additionally, you are helping to create the associated programs to assist those individuals to find employment opportunities and affordable permanent housing. With your help, Our Daily Rest will provide a tangible asset for Oconee County, serve a population in dire need, and raise awareness for the betterment of the community....Your support is inspirational! Together, we are improving the quality of life in Oconee County, and providing hope for our community members in need. Thank you for your assistance in achieving a great success in this extraordinary effort.”

MARYS House, Pickens County Domestic Abuse Shelter, has opened a retail shop, Consigning Women, at 716c South Pendleton St, Easley SC. They are accepting donations and welcome shoppers from 10-5 on Thursday and Friday and 10-3 on Saturday.

Through the generosity of the community, CCC has been able to make its MANNA produce truck deliveries a monthly event. A truckload of produce will arrive at CCC one Saturday each month and, with volunteer assistance, that produce is distributed to anyone as long as it lasts. One recent Saturday, over 200 people were given a variety of vegetables, fruits, and juices. Dates for the delivery are posted on the sign outside CCC; volunteers are welcome.

Shaped-Note Singing:

An unusual opportunity to hear a large group of persons singing some great 19th century hymns having an unusual and distinctive harmony will take place on Saturday, 4 April, from 10:00 to 3:00, at St. Paul's Church in Pendleton--during the annual Pendleton Spring Jubilee. You may even join in some of the singing if you wish. Come and enjoy one or many of these wonderful old hymns. For any questions, call Giles Carter at 653-5513. (We even have two of these hymns in our hymnal, namely #439 and #580, second version.)

As you may know, South Carolina is known for many great locally grown foods including fruits, vegetables, rice, flour, meats, cheeses, eggs, and much more. A student research group at Clemson University wants your help in developing a cookbook that features South Carolina-grown products and seasonal, healthy recipes provided by the community. We may modify your recipe a bit to fit our definitions for “locally grown” and “healthy”, but your recipe and your name will appear in the book. Send in your favorite recipes to Dr. Beth Kunkel at bkunkel@clemson.edu. Thanks for your help!

CCC April Food Requests

Thank you for your ongoing support of Clemson Community Care. Our needs this month:

Tomato sauce/pasta, Jell-O, pudding, toiletries/paper products.

CCC is grateful for all of the help that you provide.

Clemson Community Care
Helping Neighbors Help Themselves

Hot Cross Buns



If you would like to bake hot cross buns for Easter morning, please email or call the church office. You may bake at home, or if there is interest, we may have a communal baking session in the parish kitchen during Holy Week.

cwheeler@holyltrinityclemson.org

Update On Our New Property

John S. Nieman

The following is an update on the status of the property we have been calling 195 Old Greenville Highway, and how it relates to the visioning process in which we have been engaged. (Incidentally, the vestry recognizes the need to name it something other than “the Old Methodist Church” or “195 Old Greenville Highway!”)

At the annual meeting in January, I announced that the vestry had decided to terminate the lease with Crosspoint Church at 195 Old Greenville Highway not later than August 31, 2009. Recall that we renewed the lease Crosspoint had with the previous owners, but we never intended that lease to be long-term. We wanted an opportunity to explore other uses of that building that would be more in keeping with our own mission even as we develop a long-term vision. It also has become abundantly clear that the Sunday parking challenges are in fact keeping people from attending Holy Trinity. Not only newcomers, but also several long-time parishioners have told me that they have turned around and gone home because they simply could not find a place to park.

Also at the annual meeting, I mentioned that Holy Trinity had begun conversations with Foothills Community Health Care (FCHC), a non-profit entity that is seeking to establish a federally funded health clinic in Clemson that would serve anyone in need of health care, especially low income people who are under or uninsured. Since then, we have written a letter of intent to the Board of FCHC that expresses our mutual desire to rent to them a portion of 195 Old Greenville Highway (1/3 of the building) for a minimum of five years. The Clinic would not be in operation on Sundays, therefore we would recover our Sunday parking. We also would retain use of the entire parking lot for football Saturdays. The Board of FCHC is in the process of writing a grant to receive funding to operate. Assuming they receive the grant, we will then draft a lease and they will commence renovations to that part of the building they will occupy. That likely will not happen until *at least* the early part of 2010.

There also is the possibility that we could use the space to create good synergy with the already existing Clemson Free Clinic, on the Board of which serve several Holy Trinity parishioners. The Free Clinic Board has recognized for some time that it needs better and more permanent space in which to operate. Examinations currently are done in a mobile unit behind the Clemson Community Care building. There has been expressed interest in the possibility of the Free Clinic’s sharing some space at 195 Old Greenville Highway. The Free Clinic operates only in the evening. FCHC would operate during the day. The two clinics also serve different populations. The Free Clinic, as its name indicates, offers medical services *at no cost*, but is limited to serving only those whose incomes fall below the federal poverty level. FCHC would offer fee-for-service medical care, but on a sliding scale so that low income patients would pay a minimal fee, while those with higher incomes would pay a higher fee.

To be clear – we have not at this point signed a lease agreement with anyone, but we have made a good-faith commitment of intention with FCHC. While we have good reason to believe this will be a workable scenario, there still are several bridges to cross; most significantly, FCHC must be awarded its grant.

An *ad hoc* committee at Holy Trinity has been established and charged with marketing the space of the building FCHC would not occupy. That committee includes Mitchell Dobrenen, John Hewell, Phil Maiberger (convener), Jim Swink, Mac Wood, and John Wilson. The goal is to find occupants for the remaining portion of the building whose work is harmonious with our parish mission, while simultaneously deriving income that will significantly, if not totally, offset the debt service we now carry. If you are able to contribute to the committee’s work, please contact Phil Maiberger at 710-8936 or philmaiberger@bellsouth.net.

I think it is important to view all of this as the development of viable and valuable *intermediate* uses of the building. “Intermediate” in this case means five to ten years. The Vision 2020 Committee has been charged with facilitating a process whereby we as a parish will develop a long-term vision for the ministry of the parish. That long-term vision will include, but in no way will be exhausted by, a vision for how we see use of the property next door in 2020 and beyond. The Committee’s work is progressing well: it is on track to invite feedback on an initial first draft of a vision statement by this fall. The Committee’s goal is to have a final version ready for approval at the next annual meeting in January, 2010.

Finally, there is no doubt that we want all of this to be settled. Most of us have a naturally low tolerance for ambiguity. The difficult state of the economy only adds to the challenge. But we need to be patient. We purchased the property fully aware that we did not have a ready-made specific use in mind. We purchased it because we saw it as a long-term opportunity to provide an additional and significant resource that would enable us to expand and deepen our ministry in the future. I believe we are beginning to see the outlines of how that might take shape.

“The Spirit blows where it wills,” writes John. I would add, “And sometimes invites us down a path that appears daunting, but takes us where we need to go.”

Reflections on a Sabbatical

Three months went by so quickly that I can hardly believe it! Everything was handled so well here that I must give some credit. The Kanuga committee, and especially Frances Wales and Lynne Farmer, were more efficient in dealing with the parish family's weekend than I could ever imagine. The book group just continued and shared the leadership. Joanna Schuman handled all the preliminary work for the Lenten Quiet Day. Sandi Tice-Wright made sure that everything was in place for children's worship each week. And John and Susan were there for any education questions. Of course, the Church School teachers are so competent and diligent that rarely anything arises that they don't handle anyway.

I had set the goal for myself of completing the children's liturgy in the Revised Common Lectionary form, and with the help of Carolyn Foster, who is an excellent editor, we have revised all sections of the three-year cycle. I wanted to complete a quilt I had begun for a granddaughter, and with the help of Beth Kunkel, who is a master quilter, this is also finished. I was able to have lunch with my goddaughter Anna at Clemson Elementary, and that was a lovely experience. I also wanted to discover some things about myself, like how I would fare staying at home on a day-to-day basis. And I wanted to spend Sunday mornings in a couple of different ways. What I learned is that it is more difficult to make your own schedule and then keep it than to have a schedule, even if it is a somewhat flexible one, already in place. I learned that I do enjoy being at home on a day-to-day basis. And, even though I find it hard to believe I am old enough, I really do like being a grandmother and I enjoy being more available to grandchildren.

But Sunday mornings... Most of them I spent right here among the people I cherish. However, on one of them I stayed home, just to see what that felt like, and it felt *strange*. I wanted to attend an eight o'clock service here, but I never made it. I wanted to attend another completely different church, and I wanted to attend another Episcopal church. Those are the experiences I want to share.

One Sunday in January I went next door to attend CrossPoint, and I must admit I felt very guilty parking behind their building. I thought I might be overwhelmed with people and questions, but the single person who even said hello was the greeter that we all see at the corner each week. Inside there was a table with lots of pick-up items like doughnuts and breakfast bars and juice. There was a table of information about their programs. Everyone was casually dressed, and I saw only a handful of people my age. In fact, now that I think about it, I may have been the second oldest person in the room. The service began with music: six people on the "stage" with drums, guitars, keyboard, and an extra vocalist. It was loud and it was long. Not everyone was singing. Even though the words were displayed on two screens, it seemed that I was not the only one who didn't know the tunes. Following the singing there was a "witnessing." A physician from Seneca spoke about spending six weeks in Zimbabwe with his wife and five children. Several years before, the family had spent two years in that country, and when this man told his brother that he was returning, his brother said he would like to take up a collection in his church, the one where they had both grown up. He said it was a small church – only about 200 people on a Sunday – so he was expecting maybe \$300-\$400. His brother came to his door with over \$10,000 in cash, and he said now they had a real problem: how to get that much of *God's money* into Africa. They tucked the money everywhere in their 14 pieces of luggage. On arrival, nine of the pieces were missing, and all the others had US inspection notes inside, so they were worried. But the following day the other pieces arrived, and to their surprise, not one dollar was missing. As they were traveling by truck to their destination they decided to buy seed corn and (I think he also said) wheat. They had a truck full. When they met the pastor of the tiny church where they were to be, and before he knew what they had brought, he said he had been plowing his fields in the village and praying hard that they would have something to plant. The message was that the man had been praying, but he had also prepared the ground to receive a miracle. During the weeks that followed he said there was running water about half the time and electricity less than that. He was frustrated because as a doctor he couldn't give of himself in the way he thought he would be able. He said there was a fire, and he watched four of the six family members die as he stood by unable to do so much as bathe their wounds. He asked God why he had come if he couldn't serve, and a voice came to him. He said he didn't hear God often but that when he did, it sounded a lot like his father. The voice said, "Son, this is not about you and your skills. I love this little village and church, and I needed someone to bring this money to help them." After this moving witness, there were announcements (one of which was about finding a new place to worship, and that one made me feel like making myself invisible) and a very long sermon. The sermons this year are moving through John's Gospel, and in case anyone forgot a Bible, those words were also on the screen. Rather than a bulletin we were given a card with the reference from Chapter 13 and room for "Sermon Notes". Finally, after more music, the pastor just said, "Well, go eat someplace now. Have a good week!" And that was that.

On the last Sunday after Epiphany I attended St. Michael's in Easley. It was the Sunday after their first oyster roast, and they were excited about the previous day. I arrived in time to sit in the back of the nave for the adult Sunday school class. They were studying the gospel reading for the day, the account of the Transfiguration. Later I was greeted warmly, but I couldn't find the bulletins. That made me realize what we must do to make a newcomer feel welcome and at ease if at all possible. Eight children left for their own service, and I counted thirty members of the congregation, eight choir members, and the priest and crucifer and chalice bearer. Apparently as we entered we were supposed to leave our offering in the basin at the rear of the nave. During the actual offertory they passed a large plastic jar and individuals made their contributions along with words about the purpose of their gift, whether in someone's honor or memory or in thanksgiving. On that day the money was to be given to Honor Flight Upstate South Carolina, a combined effort of the Pickens County Sheriff's Office and the local American Legion Post. Their mission is to sponsor World War II veterans who want to visit their memorial in Washington, DC, and do not have the resources to do so. This type of offering was unfamiliar, but it did feel like a true offering. As for all the rest of the service, I was on familiar turf. Both of these experiences helped me to be more aware of being the stranger and, therefore, I hope, being more welcoming to strangers among us. They made me more aware of the larger body of Christ. But mostly they made me grateful for Holy Trinity where I so appreciate being home. – Carolyn Wheeler

"Could you not stay awake with me one hour?" Matthew 26:40

Please sign up for the vigil at the Cross from the end of the Maundy Thursday service until the first service of Good Friday. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex, or you may call the church office. It is good to have more than one person during the darkest hours.

Budget Woes?

John S. Nieman

The vestry approved the 2009 Statement of Mission (SOM) at its March meeting, two months later than is typical. Many of you responded generously to the appeal in January to increase your pledge or initiate a new pledge. That response brought our pledged income to slightly more than what was anticipated in the draft SOM you saw at the annual meeting. However, we still face a shortfall. Why? Because the deficit reported in the draft SOM assumed the level of pledged income that you now have committed.

Our finance committee and vestry have worked long and hard to discern equitable and faithful ways to respond to our situation. Cuts were made in every ministry area, staff salaries (through furloughs), the diocesan pledge, and every possible administrative area. While the total dollar amount allocated to outreach has dropped, we have maintained our commitment to tithe to outreach. A copy of the SOM is posted on the kiosk in the parish hall.

It's helpful to re-read the story of the Loaves and Fishes to gain a gospel perspective on all this. Surrounded by thousands of hungry people and anxious disciples, Jesus took what many perceived to be *not enough* and turned it into *more than enough*. He didn't use magic to manufacture more. He used the power of prayer and thanksgiving to change perspective. People moved from the perception of scarcity to the experience of abundance.

No doubt, decreased income, lowered offerings to organizations assisting the most vulnerable, and fewer funds for key ministries affects real people. The temptation to respond in fear and claim, "there's not enough," is ever present. But consider the gospel alternative. Look around. See the gifts each brings. We are in fact living in God's abundance. And there is more than enough.

Clemson Area Congregations in Touch

The Clemson Area Congregations in Touch is pleased to announce that the 2009 Lay Academy will be held on April 20 from 7 to 9 PM at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Building in Clemson. The topic is Ethics, Religion, and End-of-Life Issues.

Our speakers are Rev. Dr. George West, head of chaplaincy services at AnMed, and Dr. Patricia Smart, Professor of Nursing at Clemson University. Holley Ulbrich is the moderator.

Drs. West and Smart will share some of their clinical experiences in dealing with end of life issues, and the participants will be given some ethics cases to discuss and determine what decisions they might make based on their personal and religious values and the teachings of their faith tradition.