

Synopsis:

Reports Tell State of the Parish

Ways & Means: By serving over 1000 Sunday breakfasts, **Lewis Clowers, Nat Jones, Jeff Jeffers** and **Inez Ford** raised enough money to contribute more than \$1300 to the church. Better yet, those breakfasts, the "only regular full breakfast in the diocese," built morale and cemented friendships.

Men's Brotherhood: It was a lot of heavy lifting this year as our men salvaged 100s of items from Holy Cross church and then refurbished our church buildings with those "treasures." **Joyce Corn**, as junior warden, coordinated work led by **Rudy Gabbidon, Claude Reynolds** and **Tom Krug**. **Michael Griffin, Greg Duckett** and **Nat Caines** helped install ceiling tile and light fixtures, doors and speakers. **Bobby Allen, Mr. Pope, Lewis Clowers** and **Nat Jones** provided lawn care all year. Men fried fish for a church supper, gave a 110th birthday party for **Si Simmons** and designed and built the church website.

Education Committee: 21% of our active parish members studied the Old Testament and explored spirituality in adult classes taught by **Virginia Ryan**. **Joyce Corn**, in a renovated classroom, organized a Sunday School program for children 4 to 8 years old.

Altar Guild: Every Sunday when we come to church, our altar is prepared for celebration of the Eucharist, the sanctuary is cleaned, and fresh flowers are arranged. **Lula Caines, Voncile Burke, Inez Ford, Mary Clowers, Shirley Davis, Barbara Watkins** and **Joyce Corn** provide this ministry with the strong help of **Calvin Knight** and **Lewis Clowers**.

Hospitality Committee: As important as welcoming visitors is staying in touch with them, **Mary Jones** says. She and **Virginia Abrams, Mattie Austin** and **Theresa Martin** keep this ministry alive.

Outreach & Mission: "Be more active outside our church," was a strong statement in last year's parish survey. **Hazel Hudson** reported that growing ministries at Britt House and Your Place are led by **Nat Caines, Leroy Lewis, Margaret Smith, Michael Griffin, Greg Duckett,** *continued on back page*

The Newly Electeds

Inez Ford, Greg Duckett, Joyce Corn and **Shirley Davis** are the vestry class of '06, each elected to a 3-year term.

Filling two seats vacated due to resignations in the Class of '04 are **Michael Griffin** and **Louise Stroude**. Each will serve a one year term and may run for re-election next year.

A parish Treasure, Junior Warden and Vestry Clerk will be elected by the vestry at their meeting Monday night.

Our priest will select a Senior Warden, to be announced Monday night, to interface with parishioners for him.

"Best Ever" Annual Meeting Puts 3 New Faces on Vestry, Applauds 2005 Achievements

Yesterday at 4:30, the announced starting time for the church's Annual Meeting, there were just eight cars out front. A few pot-luck selections of comfort food were displayed on a buffet table. This affair was not going to start on time yet the prevailing mood was anything but rushed.

Fr. Robin Whitlock, the evening's emcee, was moving easily through the small crowd. And just 30 minutes later there were sixteen parishioners forming a prayer circle prior to supper.

The Order of Evening Worship began with the *Invitatory* from our Book of Common Prayer. Readings, responses, a psalm and a lesson followed, then a short homily on that Gospel.



Next: elections. The printed ballots had ten nominations for six vestry slots, the largest slate ever. Nineteen voters (or 42% of the 45 or so who attend regularly) returned three people to the vestry and added three new names (see sidebar). But an Annual Meeting is much more than vestry elections. And though past meetings have frequently been dreary, legalistic affairs, this one, as **Nat Caines** pointed out, proved to be "the best Annual Meeting I've ever attended. It was so organized!" Oral reports from the senior and junior wardens were blessedly short with quite a number of individuals recognized *continued on back page*

"Best Ever" Annual Meeting continued

of individuals recognized for their work in the past twelve months, many getting nice gifts in goody bags.

Then **Shirley Davis, Tom Krug and Greg Duckett** were elected as delegates to the diocesan convention in the fall.

Treasurer Greg Duckett's report was remarkably assuring as he noted that all the indebtedness concerning Fr. Crawford has been paid in full. In a year that had several unplanned expenses, St. Augustine's took in nearly \$40,000 in grants, gifts and non-budgeted income. And although not requiring the congregation's approval, the finance committee's proposed budget for 2006 was discussed at length.

In a ten minute break, Fr. Whitlock urged people to read over the various written committee reports in their packets and to take in the "other report on church life" that **Judy Krug** had created for the Annual Meeting: a computer slide show that captures what words and numbers cannot.

Interspersed throughout this reporting were asides and observations from Fr. Whitlock on what he likes so much about this church. His pastoral comments gave those present another look into the heart and mind of the priest who apparently wants to serve St. Augustine's almost as much as its people are welcoming his enthusiasm and experience.

For a synopsis of the written reports from seven church groups, see accompanying the story on front page.

Marjorie Carter observed that this meeting had a "really good mood" this year. "It just felt good," she said, "like an official meeting."

State of the Parish continued

Mary Clowers and Hazel Hudson. Greg Duckett was selected by the Your Place board to be their liaison with our vestry. Financially we supported hurricane relief and UTO and regularly gave food to neighborhood food pantries.

Communications Committee: There was a lot of news this year and 4 issues of *Stewardship Sentinal* and 28 weekly editions of **...more*** kept the parish informed. A new parish directory, special reports on changes at St. Augustine's and eye-catching invitations to major events encouraged members to get involved.

All these reports are available for you in the parish hall.

Believe in a Miracle! Find Out How at DaySpring

A day of reaching out, one woman to another, is the theme of the upcoming women's revival at DaySpring. *Believe in a Miracle* will bring together 500 women from our diocese on February 11th for a day of renewal, speakers and spiritual fellowship.

Hazel Hudson and **Mary Clowers** registered women in our parish in early October so that they would be certain to get reservations. "This is such a great program," Hazel said. "It is built on the premise that if all 500 of the women attending shared the revival experience with another 500 women, it would be the beginning of a miracle."

Rev. Mary Haddad, associate rector of St. Bartholomew's Church in New York City, is one of the speakers. She has worked as an assistant producer in television for the CBC in Canada, served as a publicist for a music school, owned and run a cafe', and sold Toyotas in Detroit. With those experiences as backdrop, she attended General Theological Seminary and was ordained in 2001.

"We will be carpooling from our church," said Mary. "This way we save gas, and at the same time debrief our experiences and share our feelings after this day of renewal. And we'll be making plans for how to institute a similar effort here at St. Augustine's."

There is no charge for this day of renewal. It is a gift to women in our diocese from a grant to Women's Ministries by the Episcopal Church.

Talk to Hazel or Mary for more details about the day's arrangements for St. Augustine's women.

"... **more* from St. Augustine's**" is for members and friends of one courageous Episcopal Church in south St. Petersburg, Florida. This weekly newsletter is about candor, recognition, spiritual attitude, nixing hearsay and, yes, unashamed cheer leading. Members Judy and Tom Krug are co-editors; Mordecai Walker is co-founder. Some 65 parishioners are essential to the project. Every issue is available at the church and online at www.staugstpete.org, our web site for church-shoppers.

