



# The Wheel

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*The people of St. Catherine's seek to share in the love that Jesus Christ has for us and the world by welcoming, accepting, nurturing, and serving all people through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*We Welcome You!*

## VESTRY ELECTIONS

Elections will be held at all services on **December 16**. To obtain an absentee ballot please contact the church office. Absentee ballots must be returned to the office by 5 PM, Friday, Dec. 14.

## A Walk Through Advent

On **Sunday, December 2, during the Church School hour** our Adult and Youth Choirs will resurrect a tradition in our congregation known as A Walk Through Advent. Our music leaders will teach us about Advent and the music they will be using throughout the season. They will do some singing and add commentary about why the hymn or anthem is appropriate for the day. Please join us in the Sanctuary at 10:00 am. We invite our adult Sunday School classes to join us for this program (note: Fr. Jim's Church 101 class will attend for their class time). And, of course, we invite any who usually don't attend Church School to make a special effort to join us.

## Trees & Wreaths Pickup

**SATURDAY, DEC. 1, 11:00-2:00**  
**SUNDAY, DEC. 2, 1-1:30 PM**

Pick up your preordered Christmas trees and wreaths in the church parking lot. **Extra trees and wreaths are available**, contact Karen Manno ASAP, Karen<sup>AT</sup> StCatherines.org or 770-973-8668.

**Complete Advent & Christmas calendar inside, page 4!**

## The Giving Tree

### Return items by December 9

- The Giving Tree is up in the foyer and we're gathering gifts for the 700+ children who come to Emmaus House on Christmas Eve morning. Please select an ornament from the tree and shop for boys and girls 9 to 16 years. Suggested gifts include: portable CD players with batteries, back packs, sleeping bags, books, videos, socks, gloves, sports equipment, watches, CDs, sunglasses, playing cards, cologne, and manicure sets. Complete list of suggestions and instructions is available at the Outreach table. Please attach the tree ornament securely to your gift and bring it to church.

- For the adults of Emmaus House we are collecting scarves, slippers, hankies, socks, soap, shampoo, cologne, shaving cream and razors, gloves, billfolds, decorative items, costume jewelry, and watches for their Secret Santa Shop on December 23. Children visit the shop to buy gifts for parents and grandparents at 10 cents each.

### More needs:

- Gift cards from Kroger and Publix. Place these in envelopes marked "Outreach" in the basket on the Outreach table.

- Large adult winter outerwear such as jackets, hats, scarves and gloves. Bring to the box in the lobby.

- For the past few years, several of us have gone to Emmaus House on Christmas Eve morning to be "elves," helping to distribute presents to 700+ smiling faces, and escort the guests to the various events. It's a wonderful activity and we would love for you to join us! Please contact Nadine Pope, ronaza<sup>AT</sup> mindspring.com or 770-973-9057.



## Year End/ New Year!

### • Budget requests are due Dec. 9



from all Ministry Teams and committees for their 2008 budget.

- **All donations to the church for 2007** must be postmarked no later than Dec. 31.
- Please turn in any **invoices and requests for reimbursement for 2007** expenses by Dec. 31.
- **Annual Reports due by January 13**— Now is the time to start thinking about annual reports. We will gladly accept them early. We really want to have all groups and ministries included in the report. The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 20. Please send them by email to rosewolfeATbellsouth.net

## Holy Baptism

### Next Date: Jan. 6

Please check with the office for more information and to request the customary booklet about Holy Baptism.

## Preparations

My best friend and I have known each other for over 25 years now. When our children were young, we would call each other this time of the year to “check in” with our progress on preparing for the holidays. There were teacher’s gifts to be bought and the family Christmas list, the school programs and church functions, household decorations and grocery shopping to be done. In addition, she and her family prepared for their yearly trip to Chicago to be with their relatives. Bill and I prepared for our three Christmases as we stayed in Atlanta and celebrated with both our families as well, as carving out time to have “our own” Christmas. Peggy and I both baked cookies to give in tins to the neighbors and then there was always last minute shopping. Inevitably someone would get sick or some other catastrophe would arise. We’ve managed and supported each other through trips to the emergency room for stitches on Christmas Eve, double ear infections with bronchitis, financial worries due to job loss at an impossible time of year, and the death of loved ones and the emptiness which that brings to the holiday season.

We used to sigh and say, “Next year, let’s get all our shopping done by Halloween and just sit in the food court of the mall and watch as everyone else runs around trying to prepare for Christmas.” Well, that hasn’t happened yet. What a great dream that was though. We would be totally prepared;

ready—able to casually stroll through the decorated house in our cozy robes holding that mug of coffee or tea, knowing that the gifts were wrapped and the cookie tins were stacked and ready. Every list would be completed, every errand run, no pushing or last minute anything. The ultimate Christmas gift for both of us was to be totally prepared for the Holidays because then we could enjoy them.

Some of you are aware that five years ago, I walked the Camino de Santiago. Many people are curious as to how I prepared for that 400 mile walk across Northern Spain. The real answer to that is that I didn’t. I couldn’t have. It’s simply not possible. There was a point in my pilgrimage where I discovered that more important than preparation was participation. It was at this point in my journey that I began to experience the FULLNESS of Pilgrimage.

The ultimate Christmas gift for me now is to truly “experience” Christmas in its fullness—family, friends, food, giving, receiving, secular hubbub and holy mystery—all is a part of the Christmas season. For sure preparation is involved, but more importantly, the full experience of Christmas requires my willing participation.

As the Ghost of Christmas Present says to Ebenezer Scrooge, “Come, and know me better.”

*Faithfully yours,  
Deacon Kathy*

## Prayers of the People

### For the Sick

Justin, Sharon Parisi, Susan, Courtney, Diane, Steve Boyce, Dianne Blackshear-Wood Betty Boyce and family, Lillian Vu, Barbara Dilbeck, Karen Loomis, Gaye Alexander, Sallie Bowes, David Kerley, Shirley Walters, Rosemary, Joan, Sally, Genie, Andrew, Annalee & Andy Rhea, Kim Brown, Althea Dillard, Gary Metzger, Anne Rand, Lauren Baldwin, Patti Henderson, Doris Samples, the family of Don Vargo, Cameron Coleman, Rawley Crosslin, Rob Bibbings, Luke McWilliams, Steve Z., Gail

Tyre, Eric Lewis, Sue Snider, Jamie Harding, Page Loyd, George Wyatt, Anthony, Jason, Kitty Diffley, Chuck Brasher, Tom Carter, Lisa & Katie, Elizabeth Miller, Allen Walton, Jr., Eileen Motter, Cindy & family

### Before Surgery

Susan Martin, 12/7,  
Michelle Bolick, 12/5

### Deceased

William Betts, Al Jones’s uncle; Annie Katherine Allen Townes, Lynnsay Buehler’s mother-in-law; Agnes Duquette, added by Marion Cook

### Parish Cycle of Prayer

**(12/2/07)** Bill, Kathy, Jeff & Rob Holman; Rita Horne; Joni House; Joseph, Jiovanne, Leighann & Neal Hughart; Tom & Marilyn Hunter Gardner;  
**(12/9/07)** Deborah & John Hurd; Jacqueline, Zach, Erin & Tegan Hurley; Bella Hutto; Bill, Tinka, Elizabeth & Katrina Ivey; Allen, Susan, Shannon & Austin Jablonski

## Read your Reflection of the Day

A special annual tradition at St. Catherine's is our booklet of reflections on Advent and Christmas written by our own parishioners. Copies are available at church, and be sure to check on our website throughout the season for your Reflection of the Day!

## December Ministry Focus

This month we celebrate the life and work of our Parish Life & Fellowship Ministry Team, which leads a variety of fellowship offerings year-round to build community and provide opportunities for fun and fellowship for adults, youth, and children. To find out more about their activities please check the Opportunities for Ministry in your bulletin or contact convenor Joan Nixon.

## WNL in Advent



- **Children's program** — Do you know what a Jesse Tree is? Come learn! We will be making lots of crafts in the next weeks. Keep on eye out for a Jesse Tree around St. Catherine's. Join us every Wednesday through Dec 19, 6:30-7:30 pm in the boardroom. This program is open to all ages. We ask that preschool children have a parent stay with them to aid with the crafts. For questions, contact Kristin at [kgblackstock@hotmail.com](mailto:kgblackstock@hotmail.com)/770-971-2649.

- **Adult program** — Join us each Wednesday during Advent for food and fellowship (5:45 - 6:30 pm) followed by an engaging study focused on a movie (Parish Hall) or a NOOMA video (Parlor). The movies for *Lights Camera....Faith!* during Advent:

- Dec. 5—*The Apostle: Sincere Repentance*
- Dec. 12—*Jesus' Son: Unintentional Healer*
- Dec. 19—*Where the Heart Is: Awaiting the Child*

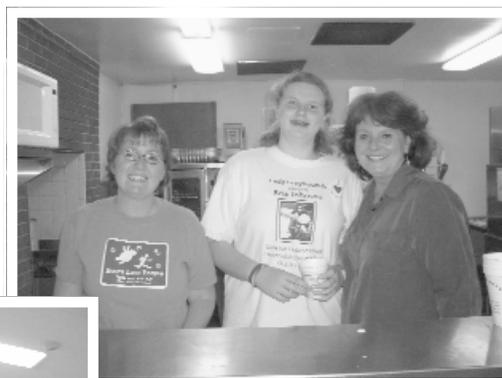
## Vestry Feed Back/ Questionnaires

Have you ever wanted to ask someone a question about something to do with St. Catherine's but never knew who to ask? Well, now you can fill out a Vestry Feed-back / Questionnaire form and get a response. The forms are in the narthex to the right of the name tag display. The Senior Warden will pick-up the forms that are deposited into the box on Thursdays before the monthly Vestry meeting. Then during the meeting, responses to those parishioners who ask or provide feedback will be prepared and given back to the parishioner at the earliest convenience. Let us know what you are thinking!



*A huge thank you to our Elizabeth Inn volunteers on October 28, 2007. St. Catherine's volunteers staff the Inn and provide dinner for the guests on the 28th of each month. To help please sign up on the Outreach table in the foyer or contact our volunteer coordinators: Overnight Team: Fred Massey, 404-731-4466, and Carolyn Hilley, 770-973-8636.*

*Dinner Team: Connie Bergeron, 770-951-1411, and Tracy Buckalew, 770-956-9609.*



## Advent and Christmas Calendar



Dec. 1 - Christmas tree/wreath order pickup, 11 AM to 2 PM

Dec. 2 - *First Sunday of Advent*

- A Walk Through Advent, 10-10:30 AM
- Christmas tree/wreath order pickup 1-1:30 PM

Dec. 4, 11, 18 - Advent Eucharist & Study, Tuesdays, 7 AM

Dec. 5, 12, 19 - Wednesday Night Live dinner & programs, 5:45-8:00 PM

Dec. 8 - Secret Santa Shop/Breakfast/Craft Sale, 9 AM to noon

Dec. 9 - *Second Sunday of Advent*

- Giving Tree gifts due
- St. Nicholas Celebration in Catechesis
- Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 2-4 PM

Dec. 12-13 - Preschool Holiday Programs

Dec. 14 - Folding Party, 10 AM

Dec. 15 - Christmas Pageant Rehearsal 2-4 PM

Dec. 16 - *Third Sunday of Advent* — Last day of Church School

- Vestry elections at all services
- Christmas Pageant during 8:45 service

Dec. 22 - Christmas acolyte rehearsal 9 AM, reader rehearsal 10 AM

Dec. 23 - *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

- Hanging of the Greens, 5:00-8 PM

Dec. 24 - *Christmas Eve*

- 4:30 PM - Family Service with Youth Choir, reception following
- 10:30 PM - Christ Mass with Adult Choir, reception following

Dec. 25 - *Christmas Day* — One service only, 10:30 AM (No nursery available)

Jan. 5 - Rector's Open House, 6-8 PM (tentative)

### NOTES:

- The Seasonal Sabbath tentatively scheduled for December 15 will not be held.
- No Church School on December 23 & 30, resumes January 6
- No Wednesday Night Live on December 26 and January 2, resumes January 9
- The church office will be closed December 21-26, December 31, and January 1.

## Green Light for Advent

Green Light Advent Kits available this Sunday, Dec. 2 – A limited number of "Preparing for a New Light" kits will be available in the foyer on Dec. 2 between the 8:45 and 11:15 services. This kit helps families and individuals to caring for our earth by replacing incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent ones, and includes 5 CFLs and the study guide "Preparing for a New Light." Your family will change one light in your house to a CFL every Sunday of Advent and on Christmas Eve. The study guide includes scripture passages, a prayer, and information on electricity generation for each Sunday. Suggested donation: \$8.00.

## St. Cat's Carolers for your holiday!

Give a gift of music— members of the Adult Choir will sing Christmas favorites for you, neighbors & friends, or home parties. Limited dates are available, price begins at

\$50 depending on event, all to benefit the fund to replace our 20+ years old choir robes.

Contact Karen Manno to schedule, email KarenAT

StCatherines.org or phone 770-973-8668.



## Advent Eucharist/Study

### Tuesdays 7-8 AM

Join us each Tuesday morning through December 18 to celebrate the Eucharist at 7:00 am followed by a brief study. The study will use reflections on Advent and the Incarnation by Madeleine L'Engle. The material will be available on our Advent Resource Table. You'll be on your way to your days activities by 8:00 AM.

## Christmas Pageant Dec. 16



The annual Christmas Pageant will be held Sunday, December 16, during 8:45 service. All children are invited to participate.

### Rehearsals:

- Sunday, Dec. 9, 2-4 PM
- Saturday, Dec. 15, 2-4 PM

## Christmas Eve Receptions

Festive receptions follow the 4:30 and 10:30 Christmas Eve services on December 24. We invite you to donate finger foods for the reception, please bring them to the Parish Hall prior to the service you attend this night.

## Hanging of the Greens

**Sunday, Dec. 23, 5 - 8 PM**

Once again as the Advent season draws to a close and the joy of Christmas is just around the corner, we will gather on Sunday evening, December 23, to decorate the church for Christmas. This is always a very special time filled with laughter, joy, and a little labor. We can use every hand to accomplish all that must be done in preparation for our Christmas celebrations.

### Bring a Family Ornament

Several years ago we each contributed a family ornament to decorate the Parish Tree at the foot of the stairs in the atrium. It's been a few years and there are many new families at St. Catherine's. We ask each family to bring an ornament or two with your name on so we can celebrate the rich diversity of our life together.

### The schedule

We will begin at 5:00 PM to decorate the church, parish hall, atrium, and outside. With your help we should accomplish the bulk of the decorating in an hour. At 6 :00 we'll break for a light supper. We'll return to a decorated and candle-lit sanctuary at 7:00 to sing some carols, play the bells, and perhaps have a special piece of music. We'll finish with dessert, coffee, milk, and maybe some hot cider if it's cool enough.

Please bring a finger dessert to share. Be sure to bring your friends, your visiting family, your joy and laughter. This is an evening for every member of the congregation. For our youngest members we'll provide a nursery during the decorating time. All this will happen and you'll be done and on your way by 8:00 PM.

## Available now



Get your beautiful St. Catherine's Christmas cards, ornaments and mugs, for sale on Sundays before and after services. A packet of 25 Christmas cards and envelopes is \$15.00. The ornaments and mugs are \$5.00 each.

## Special Christmas Fund



Each Christmas members of this congregation give to create a Special Christmas Fund. This fund is used to support members of this congregation who through the previous year have suffered in any number of ways. This fund is used to support them at a time of year when limited resources are painfully evident as a family attempts to provide the joy of Christmas. The Rector, in consultation with the staff, makes the decision as to how this fund will be used. Last year we distributed \$5,000 to nine families.

We invite you to be a part of this giving. If you would like to give to this fund simply write a check to St. Catherine's and clearly mark it for the Special Christmas Fund. Any amount will be gratefully accepted.

## Folding Party

The annual Christmas folding party and lunch will be **Friday, December 14, 10 AM** in the Parish Hall. The folders assemble all the bulletins used at St. Catherine's services during this festive season. There is always lots of laughter and fun, and plenty of room for anyone interested in joining in the work. RSVP for lunch in your bulletin or contact Rose Wolfe, [rosewolfeATbellsouth.net](mailto:rosewolfeATbellsouth.net) or 770-971-2839.

## Seasonal Donations



### Return by December 9

We invite the parish each year to donate money towards decorating our church for Christmas. This year we add to our request the cost of special music for Christmas Eve. Please insert your donation in the brown envelopes in your pews and let us know in or on the envelope your name and who you want your gift to be remembered in thanksgiving or memory of. Please return your envelope by Dec. 9 to be listed in our Christmas bulletins.

## Women's Retreat

Space is filling up, reserve ASAP! The women of St. Catherine's are invited to come away February 22-24 to Montara Farm in the mountains of north Georgia. A \$100 deposit will hold your reservation. For questions or to reserve please check the Opportunities for Ministry in your bulletin or contact Ginny Lummus, 770-649-5391.

## Grief Group continues

The Holiday Grief Group offers a safe place to share stories of loved ones who are no longer with us as we venture into Christmas and New Year's. The group continues Sundays: Dec. 2, 9, Jan. 6, 13 (you need not attend each session). Please join us each date immediately following 11:15 service in the Parlor. Lunch is provided.

## Habitat for Humanity

On November 11 a great turnout of parishioners from St. Catherine's and Father Jim helped dedicate and bless the brand new Habitat home of the Hollins Family. The service included the "Habitat Litany:"

*Leader:* Dear God, when I have food, *People:* Help me remember the hungry.

*Leader:* When I have work, *People:* Help me remember the jobless.

*Leader:* When I have a warm home, *People:* Help me remember the homeless.

*Leader:* When I have a loving family, *People:* Help me remember those who are torn apart.

*Leader:* When I live in peace, *People:* Help me remember those who live with war.

*Leader:* When I am without pain, *People:* Help me remember those who suffer.

*Leader:* And remembering, *People:* Help me destroy my complacency and stir my compassion.

*All:* Make me concerned enough to help, by word and deed, those who cry out for what we take for granted.

John Kerwood, President of Cobb County Habitat for Humanity, shared with the gathering, "For every house Habitat builds in Cobb County, Cobb Habitat has sponsored a home in Uganda. Cobb County Habitat needs donations of many types. We are always looking for land, in-kind items, financial support and volunteers. Remember that when you make a financial donation to Cobb Habitat, your dollar goes to help not only families in Cobb County, but families across the globe. We tithe to Habitat for Humanity International and build "a house for a house." To date, we have sent over \$643,168 to Uganda and other countries. That money has helped build 271 homes internationally, to match the more than 260 homes have been built and renovated since 1986 in Cobb County." For more information, please visit [www.cobbbhabitat.org](http://www.cobbbhabitat.org).



Above, left: St. Catherine's celebrates with the new Habitat homeowner, Sharon, on Nov. 11 at the Dedication. (Left to right, Carol Eskew, Cary Kilgore, Connie Bergeron, Sharon, Mark Childs, Roger Motter, Shelley Ransdell, and Father Jim Nixon)



Above, right: Roger Motter presenting the Hollins Family with the key to their new home

## New Pictorial Directory coming

We need 100% participation and it will not be complete without YOU! Pictures will be taken in January at the church. Each family photographed will receive a complimentary directory and a free 8x10. **Sign up for appointments online today** on our website at [www.stcatherines.org](http://www.stcatherines.org) or in the foyer beginning Dec. 9. For information, email Jennifer Gale, [drjennygale@msn.com](mailto:drjennygale@msn.com)

Picture dates and times:

- January 15 and 16 — 3:00 - 9:30 pm
- January 24 and 25 — 3:00 - 9:30 pm
- January 26 — 10 am - 5 pm

**Attention Military Families:** Our new directory will honor our parishioners and their family members who are currently active in the military. Please submit names and photo to Jenny Gale by Jan. 15. Also, **advertising space** is available for businesses of our parish family. Prices start at \$40, all funds will go to the new Youth House. All ads are due to Jenny Gale NO LATER THAN January 15.

# Youth

## ESL teachers wanted

We are exploring the possibility of training teachers for ESL classes at St. Catherine's to be offered to the public. If you are interested or know someone who is, please sign up on the Opportunities For Ministry in your bulletin or contact Hale Sanders, 770-565-2719.

## Help us serve you

Please let the church know when you or a loved one has a medical procedure, an illness, a life transition, or other special need. We are here to serve you. Please allow us the opportunity to share your experience and offer our support. Simply contact the church office at 770-971-2839. Thank you.

- **Youth House workdays Saturdays in December: grades 9-12 can build!**

Youth builders must return the Youth House Build Permission Form to Amelia prior to the beginning of the build day. Pick up a form outside Amelia's office or download a copy from our website at [www.stcatherines.org/youth/YouthHouseBuildPermissionForm.pdf](http://www.stcatherines.org/youth/YouthHouseBuildPermissionForm.pdf). For questions please contact Amelia at 770-971-2839.

- **Winter Wonderland Ball Dinner Dance and Auction**



This year the Valentine's Dinner Dance has a new name! Don't miss a fabulous event on

Saturday, January 26, to support the Youth program. Tickets go on sale in the foyer after services Sundays beginning Dec. 2. Price is \$75 per couple or \$40 per person.

- **WNL Study Break Night coming**  
Watch for details!

- **Secret Santa Shop, Breakfast & Craft Sale**

Saturday, Dec. 9, 9-12 PM in the Parish Hall.

Reserve now for holiday shopping, delicious breakfast, and lots of fun! Our youth will help young children to shop for and wrap gifts for everyone on their list while parents may shop our craft sale for gifts of their own. Reservations forms are available outside Amelia's office and in the foyer.



→ Crafters wanted for our craft sale. Cost per table is \$50. Please contact Lee Ann Sherry or Amelia Snider.

→ Help needed: Please sign up to help, or to donate food for the breakfast, see the paper tree in the foyer with needed items. For questions please contact Lee Ann Sherry or Amelia Snider.

- **Movie & PJ party**

Sunday, December 16 – announcements soon.

- **Winterlight #32**

Forms and brochures are available from Amelia for this conference at Kanuga, December 27-January 1 for grades 9-12.

## Letters

*Dear Members of St. Catherine's,*

*On behalf of Communities in Schools of Marietta/Cobb County, Inc. (CISMCC) we want to thank you for your generous on-going donations to the organization. Your support is vital as we continue to work with students and their families in both school systems.*

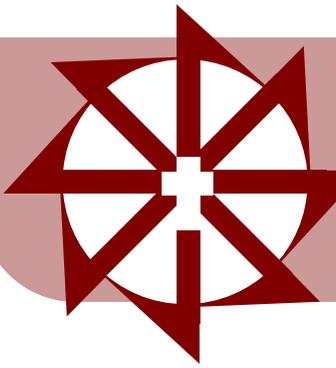
*To bring you up to date on our growth, the Performance Learning Centers have already graduated 6 students and the class completion is well over 100 classes with enrollment at capacity at both Centers and having a waiting list. Attendance at the Marietta PLC is over a 95% daily average. Our Parents as Teachers Program for preschool children and their parents is growing. We continue to recruit mentors and literacy tutors for both the PLCs and 4 elementary schools*

*and 6th grade Academy. We have already served 41 parents with Parents Assuring Student Success (PASS) classes and conducted facilitator training for 9 schools since October so the PASS classes can occur in more schools this year. We stay quite busy and are seeing tremendous success for our efforts.*

*Our mission is "to champion the connection of needed community resources with schools to help young people successfully learn, stay in school and prepare for life.*

*Thank you again for your continued interest and support. The many volunteers for St. Catherine's certainly have a major role in our success. If you have any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to call.*

*Sincerely,  
Carol Fey, Director*



We're on the Web! [www.stcatherines.org](http://www.stcatherines.org)

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MARIETTA, GA  
30060



## Mark Your Calendars

- 12/8,15,22 .... Youth House build
- 12/4,11,18 .... Advent morning Eucharist & study
- 12/5,12,19 .... WNL
- 12/5-9..... New Orleans trip
- 12/8.... Secret Santa shop; Pageant rehearsal
- 12/9.... St. Nicholas celebration; budget requests due; Holiday Grief Group
- 12/14.. Folding Party
- 12/16.. Vestry elections; Christmas Pageant

## Come raise the roof! (and walls and...)



Be part of the Youth House build each Saturday! We'll need lots of help! Times are 8:30 AM to 3 PM. Please bring work gloves, hammer, etc. Help is needed with meals each Saturday. Food volunteers (any age) please call Larry or Meg Boyd at 770.977.9362. Dates coming up:

- Dec. 1** - "Barn Raising" (framing & erecting the walls)
- Dec. 8** - Install roof trusses and decking
- Dec. 15** - Roofing, doors, windows

On behalf of the Youth House Build Committee we look forward to seeing you there. Please contact Frederick Massey, 404.731.4466, for questions.

## *The Wheel*

Next Publications:  
Dec. 14, Jan. 4, Jan. 18  
Deadline for articles:  
Wednesday before  
Editor: Karen Manno  
Email:  
[KAREN@STCATHERINES.ORG](mailto:KAREN@STCATHERINES.ORG)  
Phone: 770-973-8668

## Stewardship ingathering continues



We thank everyone who has returned their pledge. As of Sunday, Nov. 25, we have had 159 pledges turned in for a total of \$513,214. Last year our final results for Stewardship 2007 were 217 pledges for a total of \$605,367. If you have not yet had the opportunity to return your pledge, please prayerfully consider your offering of time, talent, and treasure, and bring your card to services this Sunday or send it to the church office.

Remember, the Vestry sets the 2008 budget based **only on pledges received**. Extra cards are available at church or call the office. Beginning December 2 your Vestry will contact those who have not returned a card to ensure everyone has had an opportunity.