

September 2009  
Episcopal Day School News

This year, Episcopal Day School celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> year! On Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the 11:00AM service we will have EDS Sunday followed by a luncheon for the EDS community in the parish hall. Please RSVP to Marie in the church office if you would like to come. This is key to having enough food for lunch. We are trying to get our alumni and past parents back for the celebration, and we will be giving tours of the classrooms and facilities after lunch.

We are so grateful to Emmanuel Episcopal Church as EDS would not exist or be thriving without the vestry's tremendous support over the years. Father John and Reverend Meaghan are loved by our students just as Father Hank and the other rectors were over our 50 years of serving students in the Sandhills.

We opened with 193 great students this year, and we have openings in all grades except kindergarten.

Did you know that there are over 1200 Episcopal Schools and Early Childhood Education Programs around the world with 160,000 children. We are proud that there is significant socio-economic, racial, cultural, and religious diversity in our Episcopal Schools. According to statistics published in 2001 by the National Center for Education Statistics enrollment in Episcopal Schools has increased 29% since 1990. In the North Carolina Association on Independent Schools, where I serve on the Board of Directors, we have seen strong growth since 2001 as well.

This year the theme in Episcopal Schools comes from Jeremiah 3:15, Shepherds will feed you with knowledge and understanding. Father John and Reverend Meaghan are shepherds, Father John in chapel and Reverend Meaghan both in Chapel and in teaching sacred studies. Our Board of Trustees, seven out of twelve of whom are Episcopalians, are shepherds through their leadership by setting policy through the strategic plan they developed as are our wonderful parents who support our students and faculty on a daily basis. Our outstanding faculty who nurture and care for our students on a minute by minute basis exemplify what a shepherd does. I am impressed every day by the stellar qualities of our faculty. They live our mission which is to provide a strong foundation for life long learning through quality education in a Christian environment.

Episcopal Day School's 50<sup>th</sup> year is going to be another great one! Go Gators!

Jay St. John  
Headmaster