



The Trumpet

*Our Mission: To seek and serve Christ in others,
loving our neighbors as ourselves.*

Christ Episcopal Church of Cedar Park • 3.5 miles west of Hwy. 183 on W. FM 1431 • www.cectx.org

April 2010



Alleluia. Christ is Risen. The Lord has Risen Indeed!

“On the first day of the week, at early dawn... They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body... Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.”

From the first Easter message of Good News to our current Easter Sunday we celebrate at Christ Church, God continues to reveal something wonderfully great among us. God reveals that Jesus has indeed risen. He has risen in our hearts and in our lives. We in our faith have become a new creation in Christ. We thank God for the Good News of His saving grace to each of us. It causes us to look forward to our future together as a people saved and redeemed through the mighty resurrection in our powerful Savior, Jesus:

“If anyone is in Christ they are a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us a ministry of reconciliation.” (2 Cor 5:17-18)

My prayer is that each of us will discover in ourselves this Easter a “new creation” in the power of Jesus’ resurrected love. Jesus has risen and He is now among us! Alleluia!

Happy Easter,
Bruce†

An Encouraging Word

by Fran Hart

If you're like me, by now you've stumbled a bit on resolutions set at the start of the year. Personal commitments for Lenten disciplines might also be falling short of expectations. During the last few weeks I've repeatedly encountered some encouraging words in scripture that hearten me and renew my faith in things to come.

Self-imposed resolutions and Lenten disciplines may be introduced with the lofty intention of improving our physical, mental and spiritual well-being, drawing us to a closer relationship with God. When we stumble it may take even greater effort to renew our commitment, overcoming a sense of failure. Sadly, many of us have harsh inner critics that chastise without mercy. If I listen to that inner voice, I fear that nothing short of perfection will do. In light of my inevitable shortfalls, there's always a temptation to give up. After all, I'm never going to achieve perfection...by my standards, at least.

What's important is the continued effort. *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."* (Galatians 6:9) Don't give up! Keep trying! Don't be daunted by an apparent lack of progress. Hold onto the faith that inspired the original commitment.

Whether it's a change of diet or exercise routine or maybe a desire to find quiet time for daily prayer, if it's worth doing and it takes significant effort at some point our commitment will probably falter. That's when it's time to remember we're not alone. We have Christ's offer to share our burden (Matthew 11:28-29) but we also have each other. In our fellowship we are called to encourage one another.

We are truly blessed in this – faith doesn't require us to go it alone. In fact, we find a greater glory when we share our trials and our successes. *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."* (Galatians 6:10).

For myself, I'm encouraged by the words of the scripture and I'm encouraged by those who've maintained discipline and set an example for me. I'm encouraged by everyone who struggles, stumbles, recovers and continues on. I appreciate everyone who shares their personal stories and their words of support.

Faith is continuing to do what we believe is right and good, even when there is no obvious benefit or immediate reward. And for each of us, I pray we are able to maintain that faith.

CEC hosts Kairos weekend in March

Many Christ Episcopal Church parishioners found themselves behind bars in March as our church hosted a Kairos Ministry weekend at Bartlett State Jail. Jim Hart, Travis Krischke, Bernie Davies, and Sid Gervais ministered to prisoners with a prescribed Kairos program while many more volunteers from our church and other church denominations participated behind the scenes helping with food and the thousands of home baked cookies distributed throughout the prison.

The weekend was just one of many outreach weekends held by the larger church to men and women behind bars serving anywhere from two years to life in prison. "Kairos is hard work for the volunteers, but I cannot think of a more rewarding ministry," says Sid Gervais. "Literally, it is the proof of the pudding, and the pudding is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Lives are changed in the most uncoercive, loving and joyous way possible." The weekend begins on a Thursday and runs through Sunday. Topics addressed include "Aloneness," "Friendship with God," "The Difference Between Reacting and Responding to Life's Situations," and "The Eternal

Dimensions of Life."

"That's three and a half days of intense focus on the power and goodness of the Almighty," says Gervais. Does it work? Yes. There is statistical evidence the Kairos program reduces the participating inmates chances of ever returning to prison once released.

About 42 inmates participated in the CEC hosted weekend at the Bartlett prison and hundreds and hundreds of cookies distributed. "The inmates repeatedly spoke about our sacrifice of time to come and be with them," says Gervais, "little realizing how much they imparted to us... There is little or no denying that they were in there because they had violated the law. But much of what we do is try to convince them that *God forgives them* and makes them new creatures."

"One more by-product of Kairos: it results in the Family of Christians recognizing 'We are One in the Spirit and One in the Lord! It brings the various denominations together like nothing else I have ever experienced. Our witness is united into One. Certainly Christ is pleased."

How to welcome a stranger to CEC in 3 minutes

by Jan Johnson (for *Episcopal Life*, Sept. 2008)

I wanted to talk to a friend after the church service, but I remembered the “three-minute guideline” presented at a leadership meeting. For three minutes after service, we were asked to talk to folks we didn’t know. So, I looked for newcomers.

I spoke to a man I didn’t recognize, but he seemed nervous and put off. Since he hadn’t been to church in a long time, I tried to make him feel comfortable, joking about the crowded parking. He seemed more at ease.

At first, I thought the three-minute guideline was superficial. I enjoy deeper friendships -- besides, how many folks can we really know anyway? Why make ourselves so uncomfortable? But after abiding by the three-minute guideline, I saw how it eased me out of my shell and gave me eyes for folks I’d otherwise overlook. In fact, it gave me a new understanding of what it means to have the welcoming heart of Christ with persons the Scripture calls “strangers” or “aliens.”

Without such emphasis, it’s easy for us to focus on our inner circle of friends. The more different a person is from us, the more we distance ourselves. These “different” people are often those we forget to extend a welcoming hand to, particularly those invisible people who are quieter and less conspicuous. Maybe they differ from others in the congregation in clothing, skin color, language or lifestyle.

But to have the heart of Christ means to be truly present to each person I meet, especially “strangers” God brings across my path. To ignore strangers renders me dead to the possibility that God may use me in that person’s life or may speak into my life through this person.

Jesus showed how a welcomer of strangers plays host in a conversation, honoring the other as a guest, even on the guest’s home turf. Sitting by a well in the mixed-blood territory of Samaria, Jesus initiated a conversation with an indigenous woman of questionable reputation. Placing her in a power-up position by asking her for help, he took a leap in the dark for this stranger. Would she believe he wanted to drink from a cup she had touched, or would he take it and smash it to bits? Jesus’ extraordinary behavior toward those ordinarily excluded shows us that in us-versus-them situations, the theme is strangers.

A welcoming spirit is what hospitality is about. We offer a sense of home to others, taking God’s invitation to “come to Him and make our home with Him.” We pay attention to them and invite them to unfold themselves.

No doubt Jesus knew how awkward this would be for us, so he gave us this tip: to see Him in the eyes of every stranger. “When I was a stranger, you welcomed me.”

Imagine Jesus as a refugee and immigrant, fleeing the political persecution of King Herod for the safety of a foreign nation,

Egypt. To welcome baby Jesus’ family today, we’d need to look not only to our own interests, but also to move outward to care about the interests of other folks.

Why I avoid strangers: Feeling uncomfortable. When two couples who had worked together on a church project for several years needed a break, they were asked to split up and train another couple each. But they refused. They were “too comfortable” in their clique, and so the project died. Doing what makes us comfortable is often our guiding principle of behavior, forcing us to exclude strangers. Shyness. As a recovering shy person, I battled that three-minute guideline, wondering, but what will I say? But I remembered that others, especially newcomers, feel just as awkward and uncomfortable as I do. So I made a list of possible opening comments to use to start conversations. Then I took a deep breath to rescue these nervous strangers.

Territorial attitudes. When our church began chaining our parking lot on weekdays to keep out the cars of parents who were dropping children off at the adjacent school, I grieved. The school’s parking lot was minuscule, and I saw many near-accidents. I mentioned this to church leaders, but they told me they’d just repaved the lot and wanted it kept clean. Finally, our leaders’ minds were changed when a church across from another nearby school put us this sign:

Public Parking Welcome - except Sunday 6:30-11:30 a.m. Join us Sunday at 8, 9:30, or 11 a.m.

We’re often reluctant to invite the stranger into our world because keeping places neat and clean can become more important than meeting the needs of people, especially strangers. One way to start looking to the interest of others is to make it easy for newcomers to navigate situations at your church. So many prayer requests and announcements include the words “Everyone knows...” Maps to homes where activities occur aren’t drawn up because everyone knows where so-and-so lives. So often I haven’t known what and who everyone supposedly knew and have had to ask a lot of questions. I wince to think how many folks are excluded this way.

These experiences have inspired me to do such things as park in the back of the church lot to leave room for visitors and older folks. Newcomers feel strange after years of not attending church. They wonder if they’re dressed right. They don’t know when to stand in the service. No wonder they might turn around and go home if they can’t find a parking place easily.

At its core, welcoming strangers is about dying to self, often in little ways. Such things as parking in the back are no big deal, but they’ve become concrete ways to train myself to put someone else’s needs ahead of mine. We may live in a world where taking the best parking place is the normal thing to do, but as we are nurtured by Christ, we become radically different people -- welcoming ones.

Are You Listening?

by *Bonny Moneybun*

Did the artist know how that one small stained glass of the sacred heart of Jesus would affect a complete stranger? Did he/she understand at the time that God was using his/her talent to reach out and bring others closer to Him? Did God give the artist the vision of how the sunlight would bring the heart to life by making the golden circle radiating out behind the heart pulse with energy?

The way we see ourselves has everything to do with our relationship with God. If those men and women didn't have a personal relationship with God, then they probably didn't see what they were doing as answering God's call. But, if they had, through their love for God, listened to Him, then they understood the importance of their work, whatever work that was. As Paul told the church at Corinth, "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6). A legend that exists concerning the stones of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fredricksburg illustrates this point.



A Legend of the Stones of St. Mary's

On good days in Texas it is usually very hot. It was hard work gathering and shaping the beautiful native sandstone used at the turn of the century to build St. Mary's Church. A stranger happened upon the men as they were working. The story goes that this visitor might even have been Christ Himself. The visitor asked one of the men: "Was tuest Du?" (What are you doing?) The man answered, "Oh I have to haul these darn rocks!" "Was tuest Du?" he asked another... "I don't think I'll ever get finished cutting these rocks for this huge building!" "Was tuest Du?" he asked a third man who was whistling a nice tune as he worked, and answered: "I'm building a cathedral for the glory of God!" The visitor blessed the third man and disappeared.

I also wondered if they were afraid people wouldn't like their visions, their interpretations of the Bible stories? Did they feel like they wanted the art just for themselves, or did they feel called, compelled to share their visions with others? Did they set out to create art that would speak to generations, or were they simply following God's directions?

As I was drawn to this small window out of all the glorious windows in the Saints Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church, I pondered these questions. As we set off that morning to visit the painted church in Shiner, Texas, I remarked to Kirsten that we needed to find out some of the history of each church in order to fully appreciate each one's individual beauty. Since visiting the lovely church in Fredricksburg, my thoughts had been percolating about an idea. I wanted to understand more about the people who built and painted the churches because I wondered if they truly understood and appreciated the gifts God had given them. Was it just a job to them, or were they just exercising a talent they enjoyed, or were they using that talent, that gift from God, to honor Him, to praise Him, to help bring other people to Him?

How many of us have a talent we hesitate to use for God? He gave us each unique gifts, but some of us, myself included, are afraid to explore them, afraid to use them, especially to praise God, because we don't feel they are good enough. As I've become better at listening to Jesus, He's helped me to understand that any talent I have was given to me by God for a purpose. If through fear, I horde it or try to deny it, I am not only frustrating myself, but more importantly, I am disappointing God. I am, in effect, denying God by denying his gift.

I'm a human with human weaknesses, but the one thing I can no longer do is deny God or deny the gift he's given me. He's calling me to share this story with you in the hope that you will see yourself or a friend at this same crossroad. Don't be afraid any longer to use your God-given talent to acknowledge Him, honor Him, praise Him, and bring others closer to Him. Thank you, Lord.

CEC's W2W tours the Painted Churches of Texas



Contact Christine Luchini or Kathryn Bonner for information about the Painted Churches of Texas Tour.



Happy Trails! Kids after God's Own Heart! *VBA 2010 Update*

This VBA has a western theme that focuses on doing the right things in trouble and bad situations. Life is not easy and we often find ourselves in troublesome situations where we have to make difficult decisions. Psalm 34 was written by David during his "outlaw" years. David presents us with godly responses to trouble by being courageous, trusting God and being merciful towards his foes. Use the scripture from Psalms and the other stories if time allows.

Overall Theme: God delivers me from trouble.

A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all - Psalm 34:19

Monday: Courage (The Big Bad Man - David and Goliath) paraphrase the story from 1 Samuel 17:20-49

I sought the LORD, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears. - Psalm 34:4

Tuesday: Loyalty (Pards! - David and Jonathan) review 1 Samuel 20

Taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him. - Psalm 34:8

Wednesday: Mercy (High Noon! - David's showdowns with Saul) review 1 Samuel 24:1-13

Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. - Psalm 34:13, 14

Locations

Round-up Ridge (church)

CEC Trail

Arts and Crafts Canyon

Git along Little Doggies Dig

Giddy up Games

Chuck Wagon Revue

Groups

3-4 year olds Buckaroos

K-1st grade Cowpokes

2nd-3rd grade Wranglers

4th-5th grade Trail Blazers

Next VBA Meeting April 11th

Find out how you can help.
Contact Jennifer Cowles for more information.

VBA takes place June 21-24 from 6:00-8:30 p.m.

Registration begins March 28th • \$15 per child

Children will receive a VBA western themed t-shirt. Adults will receive a colored bandana and can wear a western shirt of their choice or a solid brown t-shirt. Adult VBA western themed t-shirts are available for a \$5 donation.

Joan Steele has offered to teach line dancing. Maybe the youth can learn a routine from her before VBA begins and teach it to the kids during the week to perform on the closing night.

Thelma Thompson has offered lots of western decorations. (hay bales, saddles, horse shoes, longhorn skulls)

We need a music team to locate, record and lead songs that fit the western theme!

Our photographers could take some photos with the sepia colored setting for an "old west" feel.

Our next VBA planning meeting is Sunday, April 11 after the 10:30 service during the potluck lunch in the Garden of Eatin' (cooking room). Share a meal as you share ideas.

APRIL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

April 4

10:30 a.m. Wes Lowe/Kathy Lowe: **Lectors**
Wes Lowe/Kathy Lowe: **LEMs**
Cindy Wells: **Altar Guild**
Brittany Alvarez/Christopher Knox: **Accolytes**

April 11

10:30 a.m. Kathy Wood/Jan Buntebart: **Lectors**
Burl Judy/Jan Buntebart: **LEMs**
Jobie Guzman: **Altar Guild**
Tony Alvarez/Emma Simms: **Accolytes**

April 18

10:30 a.m. Patty Craig/Burl Judy: **Lectors**
Joan Steele/Burl Judy: **LEMs**
Kathy Ashlock: **Altar Guild**
Jonah Reeh/Joel Holliman: **Accolytes**

April 25

10:30 a.m. Brittany Alvarez/Jacque Gray: **Lectors**
Fran Hart/Jacque Gray: **LEMs**
Polly Enders: **Altar Guild**
Elias Martinez/Emily Scanlon: **Accolytes**

8:00 Worship Leaders

April 4 - Thelma
April 11 - Randall
April 18 - Travis
April 25 - Kirsten
May 2 - Thelma

Vestry Person for Month of April: JoAnn Swahn
Offering Counter for Month of April: Tony Martinez

RECOVERY SUNDAY APRIL 11

We have another special Sunday coming up the Sunday after Easter. Fr. Bill Wigmore will present a guest sermon to help us celebrate Recovery Sunday. Fr. Bruce will introduce his good friend, who is an ordained Episcopal priest and president of the largest chemical dependency treatment organization in Central Texas. He is a passionate advocate for recovery both locally and nationally. Please join us April 11th for this special Sunday service.

Welcome the strangers among us and they are strangers no more

“The church is the temple of the Holy Spirit. New-comers expect to find God at church.”

-- *Bishop Andy Doyle*

“The stranger is the most important person in the room -- someone for whom Christ died.”

-- *Rev. Patrick Gahan, St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Wimberley*

At the bottom of enmity between strangers lies indifference.

--*Soren Kierkegaard*

I have always depended on the kindness of strangers.

--*Tennessee Williams*

Men always talk about the most important things to perfect strangers. In the perfect stranger we perceive man himself; the image of God is not disguised by resemblances to an uncle or doubts of wisdom of a mustache.

--*Gilbert K. Chesterton*

There are no strangers here; Only friends you haven't yet met.

--*William Butler Yeats*

Staff and Ministry Coordinators:

Rector:Rev. Bruce Bonner 267-2428
Acolytes:Kristi Uthoff 388-1258
Adult Ed.:David Enders 259-4430
Altar Guild:Jobie Guzman 267-1462
Angel Food Ministry: Arthur Callaway 218-9150
Children's Ministry:Jennifer Cowles 260-7575
Communications: ..Marilee Verdesca 864-1942
Connections Class: Rev. Bruce Bonner 267-2428
Cursillo:Jan Halstead 259-5430
Episcoplayers:Randall Holahan 260-1774
Faith Partners.....Elizabeth Burba 259-1345
Robert Wren 255-7494
Flower Ministry:Jill McDonald 248-1938
God's Geeks:Randall Holahan 260-1774
Greeters:.....Tony Alvarez 986-5678
Hill Country Comm. Min.: Dorothy Keelin 260-0817
Honduras Med. Mission: Jerry Halstead 259-5430
Hospitality:.....Jennie Krischke 259-0409
Lectors/LEM's:Fran Hart 291-2726
Music Ministry:Patty Craig 267-7981
Pet Ministry:Jill McDonald 248-1938
Prayer Ministry:Sid Gervais 255-0278
Prayers of the People: ..Elizabeth Burba 259-1345
PrayFast Ministry: ..Christine Luchini 267-2476
Stewardship:.....Travis Krischke 259-0409
Trumpet:David Enders 259-4430
Ushers:Mandy Moore 528-9588
Womens' Ministry: .Kathryn Bonner 260-7797
Youth Ministry:....Melissa Cox

2010 Bishop's Committee:

Members:

Tony Alvarez.....986-5678
Jan Buntebart.....528-9338
David Enders.....259-4430
Jerry Halstead.....259-5430
Travis Krischke.....259-0409
Kirsten Lynch.....259-3545
Bonny Moneyhun.....331-7961
Joanne Schwann.....jaswahn@aol.com
Andrew Verdesca.....864-1942

Christ Episcopal Church Ripe for the Harvest Super List

1. Celebrate Our Congregation/Fellowship/Faith/Intimacy of Worship/Programs
2. Facilities - Buildings and Space - Need for Expansion/Upgrade & Improve/Youth Space
3. Desire for growth in attendance at all services and within the various ministries
4. Wish to improve the church grounds landscaping/Stations of the Cross/Labyrinth
5. Concern for the different ministries - growth/participation/commitment
6. Desire to expand CEC's Outreach Ministries - Mission/Community Involvement
7. Praise and thanksgiving for CEC's wonderful clergy!
8. Joy and celebration for our children and youth
9. Celebrate the wonderful music and desire for additional contemporary hymns
10. Desire for more involvement in the services and concern for traditions
11. Great need for improving parking areas, driveway, pathways
12. Desire for a full time youth minister/Children's & Youth Coordinator
13. Desire for greater participation by the congregation in the various CEC ministries
14. Desire to use existing land and acquire more land for development of CEC's Mission

Share your Epiphany Story in The Trumpet all year long

Everybody has those "Aha!" moments: epiphanies big and small. Those rare times when everything makes sense for a change. Share your Epiphany story in Trumpet newsletter each month. Send your Epiphany story by the Wednesday before the first Sunday of the month to: trumpet@cec-tx.org