



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

August 2009

Why? Because it's there!

Dear Friends,

Some of you have probably noticed the last few weeks that I was not attending our beloved church. Well, now that I'm back working in the office this week, many of you have stated: "We missed you and how was your vacation?" Well, let me say it was great! Kathryn and I did a few things around the house and we had a nice visit from one of our daughters.

However, last week I traveled to Ruidoso, New Mexico. My trip was not just a vacation destination. It was a pastor's retreat. As a group of pastors we did several exercises promoting personal and spiritual insights and development. But perhaps one of the most interesting things we did was a 9-mile hike into the mountains. About half way into our trek we were challenged to climb Mt. Sierra Blanca. It is one of the tallest peaks in New Mexico extending to something close to 12,000 feet. Austin, as you may know, has an elevation of 489 feet, just to give you some perspective. Needless to say, on the mountain simple breathing took on a different dimension. As I made my ascent I thought of what it must have been like for Moses climbing Mt. Sinai wearing his handmade sandals. What emotion he must have carried with him! Perhaps it was just a little different for me with my "on sale" Pay Less hiking boots I acquired before my trip. Thank you Lord they didn't rub a blister! In any case, the climb for me was indeed a very emotional event. I kept praying, "Lord give me the strength to make it to the top." It took me about two hours, but I did make it to the top!

Although the mountain was very steep and rugged, I was able to climb most of it on foot. I was, however, told not to lean too far backwards! Along the way there were many times I thought about quitting. At times I could only move about ten steps before I had to stop and catch my breath. It was perhaps the most physical challenge I have ever put my body through. When I reached the top, it was an amazing

thing to be able to look out in a 360° panorama as far as my eyes could see at the entire world below me. Emotionally, a lot of things began to take on a little different perception as I saw the world from a different view. I was given a surrender prayer and a simple exercise to complete on my own. What a powerful experience that was for me. I surrendered my life and rededicated it to Christ! I have now come down from the mountain a new person in Christ. God's grace is awesome! His love exceeds everything!

Later that evening when I called Kathryn to tell her about this incredible experience (and you will be pleased to know out of my group of pastors I was the only one who actually made it to the very top) Kathryn then asked me "Why did you push yourself so hard?" I proudly replied as I have heard mountain climbers say before: "Because it's there!"

What are the obstacles that may seem like mountains you are facing right now in your life? Remember with God's help He will enable you to summit those problems and conquer them through the power of His grace. God's life-giving force of love is always available to us whether we are on top of our mountain or stuck deep in the valley below. My prayer for you is to surrender yourself wherever you currently are and rededicate your life to Christ. Remember our lives are not our own. We belong to God and our victory of salvation has been made complete on the cross! Renew your life to the cross of Jesus today. Why? Because His grace is always there!

Blessings,
Bruce†

The Making of an Afghan

by Fran Hart

This summer I decided it was time to finish some projects that were taking up space in my closet. I began with an afghan that Jim and I started over 10 years ago. It wasn't an afghan yet, it was a pile of granny squares and a bunch of yarn that filled a large box. We'd used three different colors and if there was a vision of how they would come together, I'd long since forgotten it. After studying the situation and considering the options, I decided on a pattern.

I began to crochet granny squares at every opportunity, especially while watching TV or traveling. Any time I was sitting I kept busy with a clear goal in mind – finish the afghan. I found many occasions to sit quietly lost in thought, praying and conversing with God, seeking wisdom and discernment, contemplating life, etc. Working on the afghan gave me much-needed quiet time.

Finally the day came when I completed the last square. Or so I thought. I carefully laid out the squares and arranged them according to the pattern. And then decided (with some helpful input from Jim) the afghan would benefit from an additional row of squares. So I set to work crocheting another set of granny squares. When the final row was completed, and the pattern once again arranged for review a new concern arose. How were these squares going to come together? I saw that the stitching between the squares might look awkward so I decided to trim each square in white. Then they could be stitched together with white yarn and the seams between the squares wouldn't distract from the pattern.

Finally, 81 granny squares were trimmed with white and stitched together to create a large square. As the squares came together I considered how our lives are made up of experiences that may appear disjointed but ultimately come together as a reflection of ourselves. The pile of granny squares, a variety of colors and sizes; some were made with very tight stitches, some more loose. Some were visibly flawed, having too few or too many stitches. Some bore indications of neglect (particularly some of the white squares that were discolored from dust). None were perfect, and not one could be considered a whole blanket. All of the squares had to come together to form the whole.

Similarly, as Christians we are each unique, none perfect. Not one of us alone can claim to be the whole. We must collectively find a way to work together, making adjustments to overcome flaws and adapting as needed to form a whole. In unity, collectively, we reflect the beauty of Christ's body as He intends for us to live. We are called to be more than a pile of granny squares. As individuals we are too easily tossed around, abused and neglected. Woven together to create one body we are stronger and we bring greater benefit to the world.

Through Christ, the whole body is joined and held together; fitting perfectly, growing and building itself up, as each part does its work so that the whole body is healthy and full of love. (*Ephesians 4:16*)

Although I may consider the afghan complete, the lesson I take to heart is that we as individuals and we as members of the body are projects that are still in progress. We live as members of a body that must grow, change, and adjust as we are woven together with all of our imperfections to fit perfectly, connected through love.



Faith Partners presents ...

by Robert Wren

For Adults

We all know someone whose life has been touched by the very painful problem of substance abuse. Perhaps it has been a parent, spouse or sibling, or maybe one of our children or the friend of one of our children, or a friend, neighbor or co-worker. The possibilities are endless. Common to any of those cases is the very real and painful experience of wanting to help and feeling helpless. I know, first hand, just how hard it can be. I discovered that no matter how competent, resourceful, and smart one is, the power of substance abuse is more than a match for an untrained individual working alone. That is not to say that the situation needs to be hopeless or that individuals are helpless. Success in overcoming the scourge of substance abuse is possible, but it is difficult and no one can do it by themselves.

If you have been in such a situation yourself or if you have battled with the problems of substance abuse in another person's life, then I am sure you know what I am talking about. People need help and are often reluctant to admit that need. Offering help is often very hard in such situations. Pride, self esteem, self reliance, and persistence are all good qualities, but they can become enemies as well when they are paired up with the problem of substance abuse. Even when honest offers of help are made, substance abusers may refuse them, preferring to "fight their own battles". For their loved ones that self sufficiency may look a lot more like self destruction.

That is why Faith Partners is presenting Mary Ann Kluga, RN, LCDC, of the Leander School District to present to the adults of CEC a message on how to talk effectively to those who may be engaged in substance abuse and to those who may be in danger of substance abuse. **Our presentation will be Wednesday, August 19 at 6:30 PM at CEC.**

We hope that a large number of our adults will come and participate in this event. Even if the ugly shadow of substance abuse has not visited itself on you or your loved ones, there is certainly a good chance that it will eventually, and some idea of where and how to begin combating it could save you a great deal of pain in the future.

For Young People:

Concurrently with the presentation for Adults, Mary Ann Kluga has arranged to have a colleague from the Leander School District make a presentation for young people (Ages 10-18) on the very important topics of self-esteem, self-image, and peer-pressure. The young people will have an opportunity to learn about these topics and share their questions, concerns, and feelings about them.

We will provide light refreshments and an opportunity for conversation at each presentation. Please mark your calendars and come to hear these speakers. We would love to have an overflow crowd.

The other side of the mountain

Sir Edmund Hillary, the man first to reach the peak of Mount Everest in 1953 along with Tenzing Norgay Sherpa, probably knew a thing or two about mountaintop experiences. It is interesting that he did not consider his conquering of Everest his greatest achievement, but rather only a means to an end. In many interviews, he related his greatest accomplishment during his lifetime was his service to the Sherpa people without whose help, both physical and spiritual, he would never have achieved his mountaineering goals.

Hillary travelled to the Sherpa Valley below Everest 120 times and built 2 airstrips, 30 schools, 2 hospitals and 12 village clinics. The once impoverished Sherpas now enjoy one of the highest standards of living of all the mountain people of Nepal. Hillary was constantly astounded by the indomitable

spirit of the Sherpa people. In building the first airstrip, by necessity an extremely short but steeply uphill one (in order to keep airplanes from slamming into the side of the mountain upon landing) Hillary as always asked for the help of the Sherpas. To level the bumps in the runway, he organized an all-night party (complete with several kegs of local beer) and the Sherpas danced all night until the surface was level. Never underestimate the power of fun.

Hillary died only last year at the age of 88 and was considered by the Sherpa people "a second father" and "an honorary son of the mountains and valleys." Said Ang Rita Sherpa, who worked with Hillary for 23 years: "We offered prayers for his reincarnation as a human being. If he is incarnated, he can again continue to do good work."



The Episcopal Diocese of Texas
Office of the Bishop

July 21, 2009

Ms. Jennifer Cowles, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Christ Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 638
Cedar Park, TX 78630

Dear Jennifer:

What an outstanding Vacation Bible Adventure it must have been at Christ Church. The "Under Construction – Tools for Life" theme as "building on God's Word" was certainly an inspired choice to make.

In addition, the truck full of children's offerings must have been an exciting way for the children to feel a part of the "rebuilding" following Hurricane Ike. Your children's participation in such a good cause and the \$200.00 offering they shared are special blessings for the relief of those who have suffered much.

I know I speak for the Diocese of Texas when I say to these little ones, "Thank you. God bless you."

Faithfully,

C. Andrew Doyle

The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle
IX Bishop of Texas

cad/set



AUGUST MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Aug. 9

10:30 a.m. Brittany & Barbara Alvarez: **Lectors**
Barbara Alvarez/Marilee Verdesca: **LEMs**
Cindy Wells: **Altar Guild**
Brittany Alvarez/Emily Scanlon: **Acolytes**

Aug. 16

10:30 a.m. Thelma Thompson/Sarah Martinez: **Lectors**
Thelma Thompson/Sarah Martinez: **LEMs**
Cathy Valucek: **Altar Guild**
Adam Uthoff/Christopher Knox: **Acolytes**

Aug. 23

10:30 a.m. Jan Halstead/Kathy Wood: **Lectors**
Jan Halstead/Jerry Halstead: **LEMs**
Kathy Ashlock: **Altar Guild**
Tony Alvarez/Zach Holahan: **Acolytes**

Aug. 30

10:30 a.m. Travis Krischke/Randall Holahan: **Lectors**
Travis Krischke/Randall Holahan: **LEMs**
Elias Martinez/Cierra Abbott: **Acolytes**
Martha McEver: **Altar Guild**

Sept. 6

10:30 a.m. Carolyn Dupy/Patty Craig: **Lectors**
Carolyn Dupy/Jan Buntebart: **LEMs**
Jonah Reeh/Elena Martinez: **Acolytes**
Jobie Guzman: **Altar Guild**

8:00 Worship Leaders

August 9: Randall Holahan

August 16: Travis Krischke

August 23: Kirsten Lynch

August 30: Fran Hart

September 6: Thelma

Vestry Person for Month of August: Jerry Halstead
Offering Counter for Month of August: Jobie Guzman

St. Thomas a Kempis keeps the peace

by Sid Gervais

This from the same Thomas a Kempis who said, to his everlasting credit: “man proposes, but God disposes” comes this in last quarter’s *Forward Day by Day*: “Everyone enjoys peace and loves those who agree with them. But, to live peaceably with hard, perverse, ill-tempered, cantankerous people brings great peace and is a most commendable deed.”

I can remember people like that. St. Thomas lived from 1380-1471 ... that’s 91 years! He also said: “First keep the peace within yourself, then you can also bring peace to others.” A good man.

From the mouths of babes

by Jennifer Cowles

In Children’s Chapel, we were talking about the weather and how hot it has been this summer. When asked what they are doing to keep cool, one child replied, “I’m staying inside a lot.” Another child added, “And I’m moving really fast when I go outside.”

Children’s Ministry Save the Date

All Children’s Ministry volunteers (and those who would like to join us) are invited to attend a planning meeting on Saturday, August 15 at 9:00 a.m. in the Garden of Eatin’ at CEC. Bring your thoughts and ideas for the year ahead as we share food and fellowship in planning for the kids of CEC. We would like to have a record turnout for this important meeting. Please see Jennifer Cowles for more information.

The Finger Prayer

as prayed in our CEC Children’s Chapel Service

Glory to God the angels sing.

Thanks be to God for everything.

God forgive me as I forgive others.

Bless everyone, my sisters and brothers.

Last of all, dear God, bless me.

This I make my prayer to Thee.

Amen.

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

Share your Epiphany 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

2009 Bishop's Committee:

Co-Senior Wardens:

Charlie Cole & Sarah Martinez

Members:

Tony Alvarez.....986-5678
Jan Buntebart.....528-9338
Charlie Cole.....294-2958
David Enders.....259-4430
Jerry Halstead.....259-5430
Jim Hart.....291-2726
Travis Krischke.....259-0409
Sarah Martinez.....260-1326
Andrew Verdesca.....864-1942

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requests: prayerrequest@cectx.org

Deadline for Trumpet Newsletter
is the Wednesday before the first Sunday of the month.
Email Trumpet at:
trumpet@cec-tx.org

Cursillo weekend coming up: Being Doers of the Word

Calling All Cursillistas,

The next Cursillo weekend, Cursillo #225 - The Cursillo of Being Doers of the Word - will be held on August 27-30 at Camp Allen. If you know of anyone who would be interested in attending this "Little Course" in Christianity at the peaceful and beautiful Camp Allen in the East Texas piney woods, please contact Nancy Wren at: Nancy_Wren@roundrockisd.org or by phone at: 913-5888