



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

December 2007

"I Hear a Sound Coming From the Mountain... and it says: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!"

Dear Friends,

The seasons of Advent and Christmas are such special and joyful times in our lives. I personally enjoy counting the days and weeks ahead as we prepare for the celebration of our Lord's birth on Christmas Day. I wish to thank everyone who supports and ministers to our church family by preparing the way for our Lord during these two special seasons of church life. I wish to thank Jill McDonald and the altar guild for preparing our church with the Advent and Christmas decorations and memories. I wish to thank Patty Craig and the rest of the music ministry for preparing special music that helps bring our worship and praise to such joyful life. I wish to thank the acolytes, greeters, Eucharist ministers, prayer ministers and ushers for their continuous help and support. I want to thank Brielle Giard for Kids Kingdom and Kelly Thomas for Children's Chapel, and I wish to give thanks for the rest of our Children's ministry team for their contributions, and I especially thank our children. I want to thank God's geeks for their support in the computer and projection ministry that prepares our participation in music and liturgy. I want to thank the youth and their excellent leadership for their ministry and preparing special serving projects. I also want to thank our hospitality ministry for preparing wonderful fellowship after the service.

On Christmas Eve we will have two family evening services at 5:00 and 10:00pm. Both will begin with several readings of the Christmas story found in Scripture, and after each reading we will sing Carols. Each service will also offer Holy Communion. Please invite your family and friends to attend one of these services with you. What a great Christmas gift to offer someone!

I want to thank the stewardship ministers of Andrew Verdesca, Robert Wren, Sarah Short, Randall Holahan and Victor Rangel for their support. To date we have received several pledges that will help shape our budget for next year. If you have not made a pledge please consider making one. Your pledge is a faith estimate of personal sacrificial giving to Christ Church and beyond. Your pledge helps our leadership determine the best possible way to be good stewards of all our resources to the continued spread of God's Kingdom.

I want to thank everyone for their contributions and ministry that prepares a way for our Lord to make His presence known to us all. There is a special joy in the air for Advent and Christmas at CEC.

O' Come Let us Adore Him!

Bruce†

The Ultimate

By Mike Mason

Joy is free, but it's not cheap. It involves a sacrifice. If I'm not joyful, something is standing between me and joy. What is it? Am I willing to give that thing up? Will I surrender my anger? Will I let go of pride and ambition? Will I give up thinking that my circumstances need to change before I can be joyful? What's so important that I allow it to overcome joy?

Read Psalm 27 and you'll find it full of "war," "trouble," "violence," and "enemies." Yet all this didn't stop David from sacrificing with "shouts of joy." The psalmist knew how to shake free of trouble with a psalm. That's what the psalms are – sacrifices of Joy. David knew God's pleasure is not in dead animals or rituals but in what happens in the human heart. If the heart doesn't engage joyfully in worship, or at least emerge from worship rejoicing, then the sacrifice is incomplete. The ultimate sacrifice we can offer the Lord is the sacrifice of joy.

Many of the psalms begin in joy, and those that don't start on a high usually end that way. As the psalmist enters the presence of God, no matter how burdened he may be, there's a movement from negative to positive. The heart lifts as all that weighs it down is sacrificed. If I want to be happy in Jesus, I must begin by setting aside all other goals. I make it my one ambition to bless the Lord in all circumstances, to love Him no matter what, to worship Him always, to remain in Him, to be constantly and eternally grateful. As I do this, the secrets of joy open up.

For the person committed to joy, so many roads are no longer open – scorn, impatience, complaining, criticism. When all such easy and habitual options are cut off, a wonderful clarification takes place in the spirit. The dross settles out, leaving room only for the gold of joy.

Joy is the ultimate sacrifice. Sometimes in a mood of reckless thankfulness, I'll pray, "Lord, You've done so much for me. What can I do for You in return?" Seldom have I received a specific answer to this prayer, for simply by praying it I'm already offering the Lord the greatest gift possible – a joyful heart. Being joyful in Him means I've already given Him everything else; I hold nothing back.

Once when I gave blood at a Red Cross clinic, a small red sticker was placed on my lapel. Shaped like a drop of blood, it bore these words: Be nice to me. I gave blood today. When I arrived home, in a moment of

inspiration I stuck this sticker on a cross. And there it stayed for a long time, reminding me that Jesus gave His blood for me and that I owe Him my very life. Every day He continues to give and give, sustaining my life in every way. The least I can do in return is to be nice to Him by being happy about what He's done.

For years I went around expecting God to be nice to me and wondering why He wasn't. I had to learn this rule: Be nice to Jesus and He'll be nice to you. He's nice to you anyway, but without joy you won't notice it. Why not thank and praise the Lord, giving Him the sacrifice of joy by being a happy Christian?

From *Champagne for the Soul*.

Psalm 27

Of David.

- 1 The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?
- 2 When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.
- 3 Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.
- 4 One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek him in his temple.
- 5 For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.
- 6 Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD.
- 7 Hear my voice when I call, O LORD; be merciful to me and answer me.
- 8 My heart says of you, "Seek his [b] face!" Your face, LORD, I will seek.
- 9 Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.
- 10 Though my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will receive me.
- 11 Teach me your way, O LORD; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.
- 12 Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes, for false witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence.
- 13 I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
- 14 Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.

CEC Kids Corner

Kid's Kingdom December Schedule

Lesson: *Jesus' Birth in the Eyes of Isaiah*

December 2

Intergenerational Sunday School
Advent Calendar & Jesse Tree Activities

Workshop Leaders:

Thou Art Studio- Jill McDonald & Susan Wilson
Master Peace Theatre- Brielle Giard
Garden of Eatin' - Kris Holliman

December 9

Little Royals- Garden of Eatin'
The Knights- Thou Art Studio
The Crusaders- Master Peace Theatre

December 16

Little Royals- Thou Art Studio
The Knights- Master Peace Theatre
The Crusaders- Garden of Eatin'

December 23

Little Royals- Master Peace Theatre
The Knights- Garden of Eatin'
The Crusaders- Thou Art Studio

December 30

No Sunday School

Children's Chapel

All children, ages 3 thru 3rd grade, are invited to join us in Children's Chapel.

You will be released after the children's sermon and return during the peace. Join us for an exciting chapel time just for kids! Remember to bring your baby items for offering.

Calling All Volunteers!

Looking for a great opportunity to serve God and the children of CEC? We are looking for volunteers to assist with our children's programs.

Volunteer Opportunities Include:

Spring 2008 Kid's Kingdom
Workshop Leaders

Kid's Kingdom Music Team

Rotation Curriculum Committee

2008 Vacation Bible Adventure Planning
Committee

Children's Special Events Committee

Children's Chapel Teachers

To ensure the safety of our children, all volunteers working directly with our kids will be required to complete Safeguarding God's Children. For more information on how you can help with our growing Children's Ministry program, please contact Brielle Giard at ceckids@cctx.org



Giving Thanks

During the Thanksgiving Celebration our Kid's Kingdom created a very special banner showing their gratitude for the many ministries at CEC. During Chapel, the children made a special Thank You card for our Lord, Jesus Christ.

DECEMBER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Dec. 2

10:30 a.m. Robert Wren/Marilee Verdesca: **Lectors**
Robert Wren/Marilee Verdesca: **LEMs**
Elizabeth Burba/Cindy Wells: **Hosp**
Martha McEver: **Altar Guild**
Travis & Joel Holiman: **Ushers**

Dec. 9

10:30 a.m. Fran & Jim Hart : **Lectors**
Fran & Jim Hart: **LEMs**
Shirley Murphy/Cindie Scanlon: **Hosp**
Polly Enders: **Altar Guild**
Suzie & Katie Scanlon: **Ushers**

Dec. 16

10:30 a.m. Joan Steele/Charlie Cole: **Lectors**
Joan Steele/Jeanette Holihan: **LEMs**
Fran Hart/Jan Buntebart: **Hospitality**
Cathy Valusek: **Altar Guild**
Mandy Moore/Ben Anderson: **Ushers**

Dec. 23

10:30 a.m. Amelia Gossett/Cassie Hart: **Lectors**
Carolyn Dupy/Jan Buntebart: **LEMs**
Muriel Kalita: **Hospitality**
Frank Wells/Mandy Moore: **Ushers**
Jobie Guzman: **Altar Guild**

Dec. 25

10:30 a.m. TBD

Dec. 30

10:30 a.m. Cathy Valusek/Wil Carmona: **Lectors**
Cathy Valusek/Wil Carmona: **LEMs**
Jan Halstead: **Hosp**
Martha McEver: **Altar Guild**
Frank Wells: **Ushers**

Jan. 6

10:30 a.m. Burl Judy/Kristi Gordy: **Lectors**
Burl Judy/Kristi Gordy: **LEMs**
Elizabeth Burba/Cindy Wells: **Hosp**

Vestry Persons for December:
Sarah Martinez and Robert Wren

Poinsettias now available for Season of Advent

Order your poinsettias now to help decorate Christ Episcopal Church for the season of Advent . The poinsettias cost as little as \$10. Contact Jill McDonald to order or for more information.

Prayers of the People for Season of Epiphany scheduled for Dec. 15

If you would like to help write the Prayers of the People for the season of Epiphany, please meet with us Dec. 15 at 9:30 a.m. in the church kitchen. No experience is necessary for this ministry in which we write prayers of praise as well as prayers for our church, our nation, the world, those in need and those departed from this world. All are welcome.

Christ Episcopal Church "Quiet Room" is nothing to cry about

There is a place high above Christ Episcopal Church where one can worship in peace and ... well, not exactly quiet -- not all the time anyway, but peace and comfort. The church "quiet room" or "cry room", to use the old school terminology, is a 15 ft. x 25 ft. bird's nest of a view of the Sunday worship service. A place where parents tending the youngest of lambs in our flock can take their kids and not have to worry about being excluded from the service. In addition to the great view, visitors to the quiet room can read along with the service on the room's own computer screen. Sounds from the service are brought in courtesy of two speakers.

Parents with newborn babies can rock in rocking chairs while enjoying the full experience of the worship service. A changing table is also available. Toddlers can amuse themselves with toys. And don't worry about the fastest of crawlers getting away -- the stairs can be sealed off via a safety gate.

A young couple visiting our church several weeks ago with a very young daughter remarked at how convenient the quiet room made coming to church. "We are just so glad there is a place we can come with her," the young mother commented.

There wasn't any crying going on that Sunday, just a small family enjoying worship together. And as any parent knows, the sounds that come from your own child -- whether its crying, or laughing, or maybe talking a little too loud or having a little too much fun -- these sounds can be distracting to others, but in your own ears -- it is the most joyful of noise.

Staff and Ministry Coordinators:

Bishop:The Rt. Rev. Don Wimberly
Vicar:Rev. Bruce Bonner 267-2428
Acolytes: Richard Pelkey & Fran Hart 291-2726
Adult Ed.:David Enders 259-4430
Altar Guild:Jobie Guzman 267-1462
Angel Food Ministry: Arthur Callaway 218-9150
Children's Ministry:Brielle Giard 388-0175
Children's Chapel:Kris Holliman 267-2266
Children's Sunday School: Cathy Callaway 218-9150
Communications: ..Marilee Verdesca 864-1942
Connections Class: Rev. Bruce Bonner 267-2428
Cursillo: Randall & Jeanette Holihan 260-1774
Episcoplayers:Rndall Holihan 260-1774
Flower Ministry:Jill McDonald 248-1938
Food Ministry: ..Cindy & Frank Wells 778-5421
God's Geeks:Fran Hart 291-2726
Greeters:Christine Luchini 267-2476
Hill Country Comm. Min.: Shirley Murphy 267-1588
Honduras Med. Mission: Jerry Halstead 259-5430
Lectors/LEM's:Jan Buntebart 528-9338
Music Ministry:Patty Craig 267-7981
Prayer Ministry: ...Rev. Bruce Bonner 267-2428
Prayers of the People: ...Elizabeth Burba 259-1435
PrayFast Ministry: ..Christine Luchini 267-2476
Treasurer:Sylvia Jones 331-9126
Trumpet:David Enders 259-4430
Ushers:Mandy Moore 528-9588
Womens' Ministry: .Kathryn Bonner 260-7797
Youth Ministry:Brandon Wilson 438-9036

Bishop's Committee:

Senior Warden.....Robert Wren 255-7494
Members:
Charlie Cole.....294-2958
Bernie Davies.....930-5087
Carolyn Dupy.....267-2633
Jim Hart.....291-2726
Sarah Martinez.....260-1326

Christ Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 638, Cedar Park, TX 78630
phone: 512.267.2428
fax: 512.267.7337
web: www.cectx.org
e-mail: office@cectx.org
requests: prayerrequest@cectx.org

