



# 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](http://www.cectx.org)

December 2008

## O' Come Our Lord, Emmanuel!

Dear Friends,

This season of Advent is poised to bring us many new beginnings! Our faith tells us: "Christ has died, Christ has risen and Christ will come again!" He is alive and in our hearts. He is alive and in our World! Advent is a special season to help open us to a new reality of God's grace discovered in Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's gift to us! His grace is the gift we share and give to others in joy! O' come our Lord, Emmanuel!

What areas of your life do you need to make a new beginning towards the gift and power of God's grace? Where can you begin to share more of this special gift with others? New beginnings always start with our prayers. Please continue with me to pray this opening Collect for the first Sunday of Advent:

"Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen."

Jesus is the reason for the season! Allow His spiritual presence come again and again into our hearts and into our world. Let this Advent be our special season of preparing ourselves for new beginnings of God's grace found in Jesus. A new birth we can celebrate at Christmas!

Peace,  
Bruce†

He will come like last leaf's fall.



# We are God's Temple

by Fran Hart

Each of us individually and together as a whole, we are the temple of God. In 1 Corinthians 3, we are addressed collectively “Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17) We are the bricks and mortar that make up the church, “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:20-22)

Threats to the integrity of the temple can come from within as well as from outside forces. At a time of change and growth, as we are presently experiencing at CEC, we are challenged to be flexible and dynamic in our interactions. We must maintain our faith as we grow to ensure we remain an appropriate temple for the Holy Spirit. In order to grow, change is required, but change inherently brings some level of stress. We must be open to new relationships, establishing new bonds, incorporating new members in our community. By our faith, we can overcome the strain brought on by change.

In 1 Corinthians 6 we are addressed as individuals “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) This lesson comes in the context of Paul's message on sexual morality, but in the greater sense we're told we need to value our bodies as a sacred place for God so the Spirit can dwell in us and control us, rather than letting ourselves be controlled by earthly pleasures. For myself, I must avoid indulging my sweet tooth during the holidays.

As individuals we have to maintain our integrity so as not to compromise the integrity of the church. A well designed building made with poor material will not last. We must persevere. We must develop our gifts, especially those that build up the church (1 Corinthians 14:12), building ourselves up in our faith and prayers in the Holy Spirit (Jude 1:20). We must also encourage one another and build each other up (1 Thessalonians 5:11).

During this Season of Advent, I'm impressed by the apparently boundless energy of some of our members. I offer them each my thanks. Whether the contribution is in painting the wall behind the altar (which looks fabulous!) or in making sure there's popcorn after the service (for which my belly is always grateful), your value may not always be acknowledged, but know that you are appreciated. I would also like to express my

willingness to help. Sometimes supporting the church may mean letting others know what they can do to help. As a whole, our active members may need to find ways to draw others into their ministries – adding bricks. As individuals we need to nurture ourselves and foster a wellness within – making our bricks stronger. This includes taking time to rest, reflect and replenish our spirits and encouraging the same for others. Look in the mirror and at one another and remind yourself: We are God's temple, and the resting place for His Holy Spirit.

With that in mind, I'll paraphrase Paul's prayer for us. “May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give us a spirit of unity as we follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth we may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 15:5-6)

## A Christmas Greeting from the Archbishop

One night when the November wind  
Has flayed the trees to bone, and earth  
Wakes choking on the mould,  
The soft shroud's folding.

He will come like the frost.  
One morning when the shrinking earth  
opens on mist, to find itself  
arrested in the net  
of alien, sword-set beauty.

He will come like dark.  
One evening when the bursting red  
December sun draws up the sheet  
and penny-masks its eye to yield  
the star-snowed fields of sky.

He will come, will come,  
will come like crying in the night,  
like flesh and blood, like breaking,  
as the earth writhes to toss him free.  
He will come like a child.

*By The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Rowan Williams*

# Truth *and* Consequences: Reflections on Conscience

by Sid Gervais

In this season of Advent, there is an inescapable reference to the question “What is it you believe?” It urges us to examine our conscience; look at what we have done, and said, and thought. Then, confess what we have committed which might be considered a sin -- and therefore needs to be confessed, repented of and avoided in our future behavior.

And this is true of the Church as well, the larger Church and also in each and every congregation. This is pretty heavy stuff, but I contend that “heavy stuff” is what the Church is all about: great joy (and what is happier than Christmas and Easter?) and also great sadness (what is sadder than the crucifixion?)

The conscience of each congregation is determined by the spiritual sensitivity of each of its members.

How's your conscience? Have you done any soul searching lately? Now is a good time. As the collect for the first Sunday of Advent reminds us: “Now is the time to put away the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.”

Now is the time to get ready for the coming of Jesus, that beautiful little Baby. HE came in order that WE, who call Him Lord, could do just that: PUT ON THE ARMOR OF LIGHT. And that Truth leads to all good consequences.

Have a good Advent and you will have a good Christmas... and a good life.

Peace in Christ Jesus,  
Sid†

## Share your Epiphany story in January Trumpet *The Roswell incident: We are not alone!*

by David Enders

Oh, the stories our Christ Episcopal Church congregation can tell! I was reminded again last night at a vestry Christmas gathering how important it is for us all to continually share our faith stories -- this is how we encourage and support each other. Everybody has a unique and special Christmas story to share -- an epiphanic moment where the true meaning of Christmas comes shining through. Share your story in the January *Trumpet Newsletter* for the season of Epiphany. Submit your story to: [trumpet@cctx.org](mailto:trumpet@cctx.org) by December 31.

To get the conversation going, I'll share one of my own. One Christmas when our son, Charlie, was still a little boy who had never really seen any measurable snowfall, we decided to take a trip to Ruidoso, New Mexico for Christmas. It happened to be an “El Nino” year -- so named for the Christ Child by Spanish speaking sailors who noticed that during Christmas time there was an unusually large mass of warm water in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. One of the effects of this mass of water is that it tends to produce above average rain and snowfall in the United States, and that year was no

exception. As we drove just outside of Roswell, New Mexico on our way to a cabin in Ruidoso, the night sky suddenly glowed yellow and a bright light in the sky began blinking. No...not a UFO (although the thought did cross my mind.) We were to find out later that it was probably a low-flying plane that preceded only by minutes a massive snow storm that dumped more snow than Roswell had seen in more than 20 years. My wife, Polly, gripped the wheel nervously as the roadway quickly disappeared in whiteness. Going down a steep hill, a sign sticking out of a snow drift to the right read “Bottomless Lake - 2 miles.” That's when the praying started: “Lord, save us from the bottomless lake,” I said to myself. “We just wanted to see some snow...that's all.” *Travel Tip:* Always check your windshield defrosters before travelling to higher elevations ... and why not invest a few dollars in a good set of snow tires? We're from Texas...who knew?

Somehow, we managed to stay on what we thought might be the road without getting stuck in the rapidly growing

*(continued on page 6)*

# CEC Kid's Kingdom December Schedule

*by Jennifer Cowles*

## **Lesson: Jesus' Birth Through the Eyes of the Shepherds**

### **Workshop Leaders:**

Thou Art Studio- Jane Hamlin

Master Peace Theatre- Jennie Kruschke

Garden of Eatin'- Kris Holliman

### **December 7**

Little Royals- Garden of Eatin'

The Knights- Thou Art Studio

The Crusaders- Master Peace Theatre

### **December 14**

Little Royals- Thou Art Studio

The Knights- Master Peace Theatre

The Crusaders- Garden of Eatin'

### **December 21**

Little Royals- Master Peace Theatre

The Knights- Garden of Eatin'

The Crusaders- Thou Art Studio

### **December 28**

No Sunday School

Little Royals- Ages 3 & 4

The Knights- Kindergarten/1st

The Crusaders- 2nd/3rd

The Disciples- 4th/5th

*Join us in the Kid's Kingdom  
on Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15.*

## **Cell Phone Vs. The Bible**

Have you ever wondered what would happen if we treated our Bible like our cell phone? What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets all the time? What if we flipped it open several times a day? What if we turned back to get it if we forgot it? What if we used it to receive messages from the text? What if we treated it like we could not live without it? What if we gave it to kids as a gift? What if we used it when we traveled? What if we used it in emergencies?

Unlike our cell phones and net texting, we do not have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill. There would be no dropped calls, no low bars, no out of range or out of network. Kind of makes you stop and think: "Where are my priorities?" Trust in the Lord always, A.S.A.P. (Always Say A Prayer). Remember what B.I.B.L.E. stands for: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.

## **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 2009 Kid's Kingdom Workshop Leaders
- Kid's Kingdom Music Team
- Rotation Curriculum Committee
- 2009 Vacation Bible Adventure Planning Committee
- Children's Special Events Committee
- Children's Chapel Leaders

Call Jennifer Cowles at 260-7575 or email

kidskingdom@cec.tx.org to be a part of this growing ministry.

To ensure the safety of our children, all volunteers working directly with our kids will be required to complete a Safe-guarding God's Children class.

## **Children's Chapel**

All children, ages 3 thru 3rd grade, are invited to join us in Children's Chapel. We will process to the education building after the children's sermon and return during the peace. Join us for an exciting chapel time just for kids!

# Parents and kids get the low down truth about alcohol abuse at CEC special recovery event sponsored by Faith Partners

In Texas, 50 percent of kids have taken their first alcoholic drink by age 12. One in five kids will have problems with alcohol addiction as an adult. When that drinking is mixed with driving, the results are disastrous: Texas currently leads the nation in the percentage of traffic fatalities linked to drunk driving, says Travis County Attorney Dan Joseph.

Joseph, along with Travis County Attorney Jessica Son, made a special presentation to Christ Episcopal Church on Nov. 19 as part of Recovery Sunday week, sponsored by Faith Partners. The message is clear and it is not too early to deliver it to your kids in no uncertain terms, says Joseph. "Your kids need to understand they are risking their lives every time they get into a car with a person who has been drinking." Sometimes the drinker is them, sometimes their friends or a large group of friends. No matter, says Joseph, "tell your kids you will pick them up at anytime, day or night, no questions asked." Many kids make a poor decision simply because they think they don't have any options, or the peer pressure is too great.

The attorneys made separate presentations at CEC to both parents and kids and shared some tips for avoiding common problems. Deciding with your child on a secret code word they can use when they need you to come get them, but they don't want to lose face in front of their friends is one solution. A couple of Christ Church parishioners attending said a good old fashioned, exasperated "Mom!" on the other end of the cell phone was their child's way of telling them they wanted them to come and get them, but couldn't say so in so many words.

While parents watched a video about the grim consequences of drunk driving, the youth watched a video about life in Travis County's youth lockup the Gardner Betts Juvenile Detention Center. The kids also experienced a field sobriety test -- trying to walk a line heel-to-toe while wearing "drunk goggles" which blur and distort your perception.

Attorney Jessica Son answered any and all of the kid's questions. Not an easy thing to do. "If alcohol is so bad, why is it legal," one youth asked. Good question, Son said, the paradox of alcohol is that most people who abuse it do so because they think it will make them happier or less inhibited and help them to have a good time. While there may be some short-term euphoria, Son said, don't forget alcohol is a depressant and if you have ever watched a heavy drinker over the course of an evening, you can see the slow, steady arc

from pleasant buzz to deep, dark depression. Poor judgment, violence, impulsive acts are all too often the result. "Even if someone seems fine after drinking. They are NOT FINE. They are physically and mentally impaired."

Son told the kids our society clearly understands the dangers of alcohol abuse and even tried to prohibit it and make it illegal at one time. But the result was illegal bootlegging and shady businesses that made it even more dangerous. It's as if our society has decided that because alcohol is so deeply rooted in our history and culture, they are going to let it go. But they are going to hold people responsible for how they use it or abuse it.

CEC Faith Partners team member Robert Wren believes the educational program for Recovery Sunday week was a success with about 24 youth and even more adults attending. "Mostly, we just want to let people know that Faith Partners is active and furthering our goals of ministering to those in need of help with substance abuse," Wren says, "and letting them know what they can do to keep themselves safe."

## FOR PARENTS:

It's tough to sort through all the mixed messages that society promotes about alcohol. Your child deserves a clear, uncompromising message from you -- the ones that truly care:

1. Set a good example because they're watching you. Be moderate or abstain in your own use of alcohol. "Do as I say, not as I do" just doesn't cut it with your kids.
2. Teach your child that actions have consequences at any age. Every choice matters. Talk to them about alcohol and everything else! And talk early. The ages 9 to 11 are a good time to start.
3. Set reasonable but firm rules that you plan to enforce. Explain the facts about alcohol as well as your family's opinions. Make it clear that alcohol is not an option until your child is 21. Discipline, curfews, and structure are non-negotiable, but they should be understood.
4. Teach your child about true friendship. When peer pressure hits, they'll be able to stand up to their friends. Get to know their friends and their friend's parents. Work together to provide a consistent no-use message.

*(continued on page 6)*

# Recovery Sunday special event at CEC

*(continued from page 5)*

5. Let them know you see what's going on. Tell them you know what happens among teenagers, maybe even their friends and discuss why your child shouldn't participate in these activities. Point out the dangers and consequences of alcohol.

6. Don't be naive. Watch for signs of abuse like dropping grades, switching friends, missing money, and withdrawal to name a few. If you sense a problem, seek help. It could save their life.

- from Mothers Against Drunk Driving

FOR KIDS:

1. Get the Facts: Alcohol affects your brain. Drinking alcohol leads to a loss of coordination, poor judgment, slowed reflexes, distorted vision, memory lapses, and even blackouts.

2. Know the Law: It is illegal to buy or possess alcohol if you are under age 21. One drink can make you fail a breath

test. In some States, people under age 21, can lose their driver's license, be subject to a heavy fine, or have their car permanently taken away. Binge drinking means having five or more drinks on one occasion. Studies show that more than 35 percent of adults with an alcohol problem developed symptoms -- such as binge drinking -- by age 19.

3. Know the Signs: How you can tell if a friend has a drinking problem? If your friend has one or more of the following warning signs, he or she may have a problem with alcohol:

- getting drunk on a regular basis
- lying about how much alcohol he or she is using
- believing that alcohol is necessary to have fun
- having frequent hangovers
- feeling run-down, depressed, or even suicidal
- having "blackouts" -- forgetting what he or she did while drinking

Be a real friend, encourage your friend to stop or seek professional help.

## The Roswell incident

*(continued from page 3)*

snowbanks...until we reached the outskirts of Roswell. The city was completely paralyzed. Nobody was out on the streets (save for a few idiotic tourists travelling to Ruidoso who had apparently failed to read the weather reports.) Power lines on the side of the road were arcing and some were snapping throwing sparks into the black sky. It was surreal. We realized we could go no further and started looking for a place to stay in Roswell when we became stuck in the snow in the middle of an intersection. After only a few minutes of useless pushing, a police officer appeared out of nowhere. I mean, we had not seen another living person since we pulled into town. He helped me get the car unstuck and pointed us down the street to an Inn where we could ride out the storm. We were lucky, the Inn was not full and we could walk across the street to eat a late supper. Charlie had a blast playing in the snow outside the motel room. It was more snow than any of us had seen our whole lives.

The next morning, after securing the very last set of tire chains from Western Auto (apparently there was a run on them) we finished driving the last leg of the trip to Ruidoso.

I will never forget that Christmas Eve. I took Charlie "snow tubing" at a nearby foothill within walking distance from our cabin. The whole evening it snowed. It was a mystical kind of silent, peaceful snowfall. Huge, fluffy flakes. No wind whatsoever. Walking back to the cabin through a snow covered field, I had to pick up my son and carry him because the snow was nearly to his chest.

No, our little trip to the mountains had not gone anything like we had planned -- or not planned, as the case may be. But in that snow covered field was a supreme quietness. A white blanket of awesome peacefulness. You could hear yourself breathe. You could hear yourself think. And I thought: This is Christmas. There were no presents, no Christmas tree back at the cabin, no special dinner ... just our family sharing these moments. Just the peace of mind knowing that as we tramp through this snowy field, we may be out here in the cold, in the dark, in the wild...but, by the Grace of God who saves us from the Bottomless Lake, we are going home to the warmth and to the Light.

## DECEMBER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### Dec. 7

10:30 a.m. Fran & Jim Hart: **Lectors**  
Fran & Jim Hart: **LEMs**  
Martha McEver: **Altar Guild**  
Mandy & Noah Moore: **Ushers**  
Brittany Alvarez/Emily Scanlon: **Acolytes**  
Susie Scanlon: **Geek at the Wheel**

### Dec. 14

10:30 a.m. Bill Sterling/Kathy Wood: **Lectors**  
Bill Sterling/Jan Buntebart: **LEMs**  
Cindy Wells: **Altar Guild**  
Belz Family: **Ushers**  
Tony Alvarez/Adam Uthoff: **Acolytes**  
Fran Hart: **Geek at the Wheel**

### Dec. 21

10:30 a.m. Marilee Verdesca/Charlie Cole: **Lectors**  
Marilee Verdesca/Jerry Halstead: **LEMs**  
Kathy Ashlock: **Altar Guild**  
Tony and Elias Martinez: **Ushers**  
Alex Rogers/Elias Martinez: **Acolytes**  
Travis Hart: **Geek at the Wheel**

### Dec. 28

10:30 a.m. Joan Steele/Carolyn Dupy: **Lectors**  
Joan Steele/Carolyn Dupy: **LEMs**  
Travis Hart/Katie Scanlon: **Ushers**  
Rachel Holliman/Joel Holliman: **Acolytes**  
Martha McEver: **Altar Guild**  
Tony Martinez: **Geek at the Wheel**

### Jan. 4

10:30 a.m. Travis Krischke/Randall Holahan: **Lectors**  
Travis Krischke/Randall Holahan: **LEMs**  
Cathy Valusek: **Altar Guild**  
Travis Krischke: **Geek at the Wheel**

**Vestry Person for Month of December: Charlie Cole**  
**Offering Counter for Month of December: Tony Martinez**

## **CEC Stewardship:** **Our Giving Report for 2009**

We have currently received 51 Financial Commitment Cards totaling \$164,000.00 to be applied towards our 2009 budget. If you would like to help contribute and make a financial commitment, please fill out one of the cards that can be found on the table in the entry room of the church and place it in the offering plate or drop it off in the office.

*Thank you!*  
*The Stewardship Committee*

## **A HEADS-UP ON BEING GREEN AT CEC!**

Many of you are well aware, and are putting to good use our green Abitibi Paper Retriever Recycling Dumpster on the side of the church. We appreciate your continued use and support of this program, as it also generates money which goes back to our church, however we are continuing to have problems in communicating some of the information which is actually printed all over the outside of the dumpster, most importantly **NO PLASTIC!** (Yes, this even means **NO** plastic bags full of shredded or other paper products). We would truly hate to see our dumpster privileges revoked for failure to follow instructions!

Please be aware of what you are depositing into this dumpster, and if you witness anyone else who might be unaware of the rules, please tell them kindly that all paper contents delivered in plastic must be removed prior to dumping. All accepted/unaccepted items are listed on the dumpster, or visit their website at: [www.PaperRetriever.com](http://www.PaperRetriever.com)

Thanks for your cooperation!

