



# 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 2009

## Will we call it 20-10 or 2000-10?

Dear Friends and Family of Christ Church,

Recently I heard talk on one of the news channels concerning what we might refer to our New Year as being Twenty-ten, or Two-thousand and ten. There was a poll taken but I did not see the results.

Well, I think at Christ Church we will refer to our New Year as being gloriously abundant in God's mercy! We are blessed with God's abundant mercy in so many ways! On January 10, 20-10 or 2000-10 we will hold our annual parish meeting. There will be one service only beginning at 10:00 am. During the service we will present our budget, have various reports and enjoy fellowship and communion. Lunch will be provided afterwards. Please look to the E-Letter for more upcoming details.

Three people will be rotating off our vestry having served 3-year terms. They have done an outstanding job! They are Sarah Martinez, Jim Hart and Charlie Cole. With these great vestry members rotating off we now have 3 more outstanding candidates who are willing to begin their service on the vestry. They are Kirsten Lynch, Bonny Moneyhun and Jo Ann Swahn. During our annual meeting we will vote to approve them and also to give our thanks for all of God's abundant mercies we experience day in and day out. We especially look forward to our New Year in what God has in store for each of us!

Please get to know these three new candidates who are called to serve on our vestry.

Bruce+

### **Kristen Lynch:**

Born in Eureka, California. Cradle Episcopalian. Baptized as an infant. Confirmed in 1963 by Bishop James A. Pike in San Francisco. Attended Cursillo (Connecticut #1) in 1979.

Married by Father Robert Wareing (first Vicar of Christ Episcopal Church) in 1985. (My husband passed away after 19 1/2 years of marriage in 2004.)

I have a business background and have worked since I graduated from the College of Idaho. I've been employed as a teacher, as a manager, as a management trainer, as a grant writer, and as an office administrator. I have worked both in the for-profit and the not-for-profit sectors. Since 1998, I have worked with Edward Jones Investments in Cedar Park. I'm an avid volunteer. I serve on the Boards of the United Way of Williamson County and Hope Connections Pregnancy Resource Center in Leander. I serve on the Leander City Council, the Mayor's Council on Disabilities, the Leander Fire Department as a volunteer, the CERT Program under the Cedar Park Fire Department, the Leander Police Department Citizens Police Academy, Capital Area Council of Governments, and LISD, amongst other fund-raising and civic committees.

Here at Christ Church, I serve as an 8:00 o'clock Altar Guild member, Lay Reader, and Chalice Bearer. I serve on CEC's Planning Committee, am active in Fr. Sid's Intercessory Prayer Group, and attend Adult Sunday School weekly. In the past, I have taught both children and adult Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, served on Discovery weekend teams, and supported my husband when he was on the Bishop's Committee. Our daughter Mary, was baptized by Robert Wareing in 1989, here at Christ Church.

I believe my management background and knowledge of the local community can assist our vestry during this growing and expanding stage. I have always stayed busy and given 110% to any effort I support. I look forward to being able to serve Christ Church! *(vestry bios - continued on pg. 2)*

# CEC Vestry bios - *(continued from pg. 1)*

## **Bonny Moneyhun:**

I've lived in Cedar Park now for 15 years. I moved with my daughter Alexis from Metairie, Louisiana, (it's a suburb community of New Orleans) when I married my husband Rick. Before marrying Rick, I taught English in middle and high school in the Jefferson Parish School system for 14 years. After moving to Cedar Park, I gained a wonderful stepson Alex and stepdaughter Elizabeth and began teaching English at Leander High School for 14 years and am now teaching Speech at LHS since last year. My children and grandchildren now live in Houston, New Orleans, and Portland, Oregon.

I was raised as a Methodist/Presbyterian/Baptist and joined a local Methodist church in Metairie as an adult. When I married and moved to Texas, I joined New Hope Baptist Church where my husband was a member. After my husband passed away in 2006, my good friend Patty Craig invited me to her church on Good Friday to walk the Stations of the Cross, and I discovered my true spiritual home.

Since joining Christ Episcopal Church, I've been confirmed as an Episcopalian, joined the Adult Sunday School class, begun working with the W2W women's group ministry, and assisted the Altar Guild ministry. I am also participating in a Church Leadership Training program called Crosspointes.

## **Jo Ann Swahn:**

Why on God's green earth Jim Hart nominated me to serve on the vestry is beyond me. Everyone else nominated is far more qualified than I. But these past few years my Christ journey has taught me to say "yes" when asked to serve. So here's a bit about myself, and you decide.

An Austin native by birth, I am the mother of two sons and grandmother of two grandchildren—although I am the extended parent and grandparent of others and constantly on the lookout for more! I have been an Episcopalian since my 30s, yet my earnest Christ journey and discovery has only just begun.

For 15 years, my younger son and I called New York home. There I was active with a struggling Episcopal church that, in fact, was on life-support with little hope for survival. The rector asked me to help build membership and get the church on a solid footing, which happily has occurred. Due to my mother's failing health, I returned to Texas in 2005, bought a home in Liberty Hill, and found Christ Church in 2007. Career was Priority One for most of my life-- marketing, public relations, communications, strategic planning -- just about anything to do with business development. My big

title and big salary in New York was as Chief Marketing Officer for a global hospitality company. Properties throughout the US, Canada and Europe kept me on the road 50% of the time.

Upon returning to Texas, I changed my priorities as well as my address. Setting up my own consulting practice serving both corporate clients and nonprofit organizations has allowed me to pursue new interests. I returned to school, usually the oldest person in the class, to learn some new skills. Recently I completed a certification program as a Professional Project Manager, and am now midway through a Nonprofit Leadership and Management course.

A lot of my time is devoted to the Honduras missionary work where I serve on the Board of Directors and am very active in broadening our efforts with the founding group. Jerry Halstead initially got me involved with this ministry in 2008 as a Mission: Honduras volunteer. Something miraculous happened for me there. Last November, Nancy and Robert Wren and Jan and Jerry Halstead sponsored me at my Cursillo weekend. I've been on my 4th Day ever since. The quest for knowledge and discernment now seems insatiable. Jan has a great group of ladies who meet at her house every week to study God's word.

Every day is a new day trying to discern God's will and obey His calling. While His long-term plan for me is still "under development," what is very clear is that I will do my best to love and serve God each and every day, and to love and serve others to the best of my ability. If it is His will and yours that I serve on your vestry, I will do my best to lend my talents and experiences to the tasks and challenges ahead for Christ Church.



# His Daddy's Tools

*An Epiphany Story - by Penny Byrnes*

Mark Knox and I were married in the Spring of 1984. Mark was a Senior Auto Mechanic by trade. He had a lifetime of tools that were stacked in tool boxes six feet tall. In the Spring of 1986, we had our son, James, and in the winter of the same year, Mark died. James was only nine months old. In my grief, I didn't want to look at Mark's tools. I didn't want to inventory them. I could not store them or transport them. So, I sold them to my brother-in-law for a mere one thousand dollars, and I never saw them again.

Now -- fast forward twenty-two years. James is 23 years old. His car, which he bought and paid for, broke down. He was very angry and frustrated that he had to rely on other people to fix his car. So, he enrolled in the Automotive Certification Program at Austin Community College. The advisor at the college gave James a list of tools necessary to be successful in the program. The cost of the tools was prohibitive, so, on a lark, I E-mailed my brother-in-law. I explained what had happened to James and what he wanted to do. I asked if Mark's tools were still around, but assured him that if they were not,

I would still love him, no matter what. He called back to say that the tools were available and that they had not moved from their spot in 22 years. We learned all this on Father's Day! This was a day we never celebrated -- except to send Grandpa a card.

The next week, we drove to North Texas to pick them up. I gave my brother-in-law his money back and James his daddy's tools and he is using them today. As of this writing, James is making straight A's and he often says how he feels his daddy's spirit is with him and is guiding him. Now, everyday is Father's Day.

Thank you, God, for letting us know that relationships don't end when we die.

Do not wait; the time will never be "just right." Start where you stand, and work with whatever tools you may have at your command, and better tools will be found as you go along.

*George Herbert*

## Where we belong

*by Sid Gervais*

HEB is on to something with their advertising: "My HEB."

You probably don't know that when a person is ordained in the Episcopal Church he gives up the privilege which was given when he was baptized: membership in a particular congregation. Ecclesiastically, he becomes a member of the Bishop's family.

This truth came to mind last night at the Ultreya where the thirty or so people sitting in a circle were instructed to identify themselves, telling which congregation they were of. Well, in identifying myself, I said I was a member of Christ Episcopal Church. Then I corrected myself and simply said I claim CEC as my church, whether they claimed me or not, and that I hoped they did and I felt that they did. UPROAR! Thereafter, the CEC people present identified it as "my church". That CAN be dangerous thinking if it gets to the point that it gives me (and it is a personal matter) any rights over the affairs of the church. The Church belongs to Jesus Christ, we are His Body. Baptism is firmly rooted in that fact.

So, if we're going to overstate it let's go all the way and say "My Jesus". That gets to the heart of the matter: it is a matter of the heart. I am my Redeemer's and He is mine, His banner over me is love ... that familiar hymn says it so well. And it feels so good to get in touch with that belonging to Him by belonging to each other.

It's where we get fed. Whether it's spiritual food or all the glitter of HEB where we get too much to eat.

Love and PEACE, Sid+

### 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*

# Where does the time go?

*by Fran Hart*

Last month I went on a 2-week business trip to Kunshan, China. That trip consumed most of the month of September. The week before the trip was spent getting ready for the trip, and the week after was spent recovering. For most of the 2-weeks I was there I was kept very busy with the first prototype build for a product that I'm working on. Fortunately, I also found time to experience the culture and dynamics of this foreign country.

For those who've not had the pleasure of International travel, I can highlight that one of the first humbling experiences is getting into the Immigration line for "Foreigners." I'm grateful that English is broadly adopted because my limited Mandarin skills are often inadequate for my needs.

During a Sunday afternoon walk around the city of Kunshan, I ventured into a part of town where no one spoke English and there were no English translations on the signs. I've never felt more like a stranger in a strange land. It gave me some appreciation for those who travel to foreign nations without benefit of translators in order to spread the Good News of Christ. During my stroll, I did my best to smile and exude the Spirit. I was rewarded with curious stares that turned to friendly smiles in response to my projected warmth. The longer I walked, the better I felt and the more I evangelized without the benefit of spoken words. Pretty soon I realized I was wearing what probably looked like a goofy grin, but I couldn't stop myself.

I might have felt overwhelmed and afraid as I traipsed around this foreign city, but instead I felt emboldened by grace. The experience gave me insight into the love Paul felt for the people in the foreign cities he visited. More importantly, I recognized that there's nothing stopping me from taking a similar approach to my life at home – after all, we are called to love one another. So if you see me walking around with a goofy smile on my face, know that I'm swept up in the Spirit and loving everyone I see.

Although International travel can be exhausting, and September flew by because of the trip, I found no better souvenir than the precious lesson about love. And now, in this Season of Advent, I am returning to China for another 2-week stint. This time I'm charged up on Fr. Bruce's recent sermon about prayerfully putting Christ back into Christmas. I will be praying for my fellow travelers, not just in a general sense but specifically for each person in line ahead of me and behind me, for the individuals in the seats beside me, in front of me and behind me. For the folks behind the ticket counter, for the flight staff and crew and for the people 30,000 ft. below (check out Arthur Calloway's [airprayer.org](http://airprayer.org) website for more on that last bit).

I could fret about the fact that Christmas will be here before I know it but I won't do that. It seems to me that spending so much time in prayer is a great way to get ready for Christmas.



*A street scene, Kunshan*

# Holiday Safety Tips

*Submitted by Elizabeth Burba for Faith Partners*

With the holidays coming up, it's a good idea to review a few facts and guidelines to keep your holidays safe and happy. Remember:

1. If you're going to a party and plan to drink, eat a snack before going.
2. If you're giving a party, be a good host rather than a "pusher" of alcoholic drinks. Be aware of heavy drinking, and don't let impaired people drive.
3. On average, a person processes alcohol at the rate of one drink per hour. That's a 12-ounce beer or wine cooler, 5 ounces of wine, 8 ounces of malt liquor, or 1.5 ounces of 80 proof distilled spirits. More than one drink per hour impairs judgment and motor skills.
4. If you are going out with others, agree on a designated driver who will not drink at all.
5. Do not get in a car with a driver who has been drinking. Remember some people do not appear inebriated even though they have drunk too much. If you can't find a driver who has not been drinking, call a cab.
6. Leave home a few minutes early. If you get stuck in traffic, who cares? Avoid anxiety.
7. It is illegal to have an open container of alcohol inside a vehicle.
8. Penalties for the first DWI offense include:
  - a. Up to \$2000 fine
  - b. 72 hours to 6 months in jail
  - c. Loss of driver's license for up to a year
  - d. \$1000 or \$2000 annual fee for 3 consecutive years to keep driver's license. Penalties increase with each DWI conviction
9. Legal fees for DWI cases can run into thousands of dollars.
10. If you provide alcohol to anyone under 21, there is a penalty of up to 1 year in jail and a \$4000 fine.
11. An adult may provide an alcoholic beverage to the adult's own underage child, ward, or spouse, but the minor must remain in the adult's visible presence while possessing or consuming the beverage.
12. If you are under 21, it is illegal to buy, possess, or drink alcohol. Penalties include juvenile detention and probation. Underage drinkers can lose their driver's license – even if they were not driving when arrested. For minors, alcohol rehabilitation is usually mandatory.

## **Christmas - (a wikiHow from wikipedia)**

1. Reflect on the reason for Christmas by doing some research. In the Bible, you can find the Christmas story in the Gospel according to Luke, Chapters 1 and 2, as well as the Gospel according to Matthew Chapters 1 and 2. Consider reading these chapters aloud as part of your family's holiday.
2. Choose some activities that you and your friends or family will enjoy which fit with the meaning of Christmas and are also socially enjoyable. Consider preparing some special foods for the poor and needy, as well as giving gifts to people you know.
3. Learn some of the non-commercialized Christmas songs. There are some beautiful carols that you can sing together - maybe someone in your family or circle of friends can play the piano or guitar - if so, encourage them to play, and have a sing-along. Consider carols like "O Come All Ye Faithful," "Joy to the World," and "The First Noel." You can find the lyrics online if you don't know them.
4. Spend time with others to celebrate. Gather together at the homes of friends and family, and spend some time in fellowship with others who believe as you do during this special time.
5. Wish others a Merry Christmas. You don't have to worry that you will offend them. If they want to wish you a Happy Hanukkah, in response, thank them and wish them the same. Wishing others a Merry Christmas helps spread the cheer.
6. Give to others. Whether to your family and friends, or to others less fortunate, spend some time this Christmas in giving. We give in remembrance of the gifts of the Magi to the Savior, but at the very heart of it all, recall that we are to give because He first gave to us.
7. Spend time quietly being thankful for the gift of Jesus to the world that we celebrate on Christmas. This is the day that Christians have set aside to celebrate the beginning of the greatest gift mankind has ever received. Coming into the Christmas season with a grateful heart is essential if you really want to make the extension from Jesus's giving of His amazing gift to your giving and receiving.
8. Invite God to come and celebrate the day with you. Some people choose to do this by attending a Christmas Eve service. Some do it by sitting before the Christmas tree and silently inviting God to just be with them. However you decide to do it, for the Christian, making God a part of your day is vital.

# Christmas Trees (A Christmas Circular Letter)

*Robert Frost (1920)*

The city had withdrawn into itself  
And left at last the country to the country;  
When between whirls of snow not come to lie  
And whirls of foliage not yet laid, there drove  
A stranger to our yard, who looked the city,  
Yet did in country fashion in that there  
He sat and waited till he drew us out  
A-buttoning coats to ask him who he was.  
He proved to be the city come again  
To look for something it had left behind  
And could not do without and keep its Christmas.  
He asked if I would sell my Christmas trees;  
My woods—the young fir balsams like a place  
Where houses all are churches and have spires.  
I hadn't thought of them as Christmas Trees.  
I doubt if I was tempted for a moment  
To sell them off their feet to go in cars  
And leave the slope behind the house all bare,  
Where the sun shines now no warmer than the moon.  
I'd hate to have them know it if I was.  
Yet more I'd hate to hold my trees except  
As others hold theirs or refuse for them,  
Beyond the time of profitable growth,  
The trial by market everything must come to.  
I dallied so much with the thought of selling.  
Then whether from mistaken courtesy  
And fear of seeming short of speech, or whether  
From hope of hearing good of what was mine, I said,  
"There aren't enough to be worth while."  
"I could soon tell how many they would cut,  
You let me look them over."

"You could look.

But don't expect I'm going to let you have them."  
Pasture they spring in, some in clumps too close  
That lop each other of boughs, but not a few  
Quite solitary and having equal boughs  
All round and round. The latter he nodded "Yes" to,  
Or paused to say beneath some lovelier one,  
With a buyer's moderation, "That would do."  
I thought so too, but wasn't there to say so.  
We climbed the pasture on the south, crossed over,  
And came down on the north. He said, "A thousand."

"A thousand Christmas trees!—at what apiece?"

He felt some need of softening that to me:  
"A thousand trees would come to thirty dollars."

Then I was certain I had never meant  
To let him have them. Never show surprise!  
But thirty dollars seemed so small beside  
The extent of pasture I should strip, three cents  
(For that was all they figured out apiece),  
Three cents so small beside the dollar friends  
I should be writing to within the hour  
Would pay in cities for good trees like those,  
Regular vestry-trees whole Sunday Schools  
Could hang enough on to pick off enough.  
A thousand Christmas trees I didn't know I had!  
Worth three cents more to give away than sell,  
As may be shown by a simple calculation.  
Too bad I couldn't lay one in a letter.  
I can't help wishing I could send you one,  
In wishing you herewith a Merry Christmas.



## DECEMBER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### Dec. 6

10:30 a.m. Carolyn Dupy/Bill Sterling: **Lectors**  
Carolyn Dupy/Bill Sterling: **LEMs**  
Cathy Valucek: **Altar Guild**

### Dec. 13

10:30 a.m. Charlie Cole/Kathryn Bonner: **Lectors**  
Kathryn Bonner/Burl Judy: **LEMs**  
Polly Enders: **Altar Guild**

### Dec. 20

10:30 a.m. Fran & Jim Hart: **Lectors**  
Fran & Jim Hart: **LEMs**  
Cindy Wells: **Altar Guild**

### Dec. 27

10:30 a.m. Jeanette Holahan/Marilee Verdesca: **Lectors**  
Jeanette Holahan/Marilee Verdesca: **LEMs**  
Martha McEver: **Altar Guild**

### Jan. 3

10:30 a.m. Jan Buntebart/Penny Byrnes: **Lectors**  
Jan Buntebart/Joan Steele: **LEMs**

#### 8:00 Worship Leaders

*Dec. 6: Thelma*  
*Dec. 13: Randall*  
*Dec. 20: Travis*  
*Dec. 27: Kirsten*  
*Jan. 3: Thelma*

**Vestry Person for Month of December: Travis Krischke**  
**Offering Counter for Month of December: Tony Martinez**

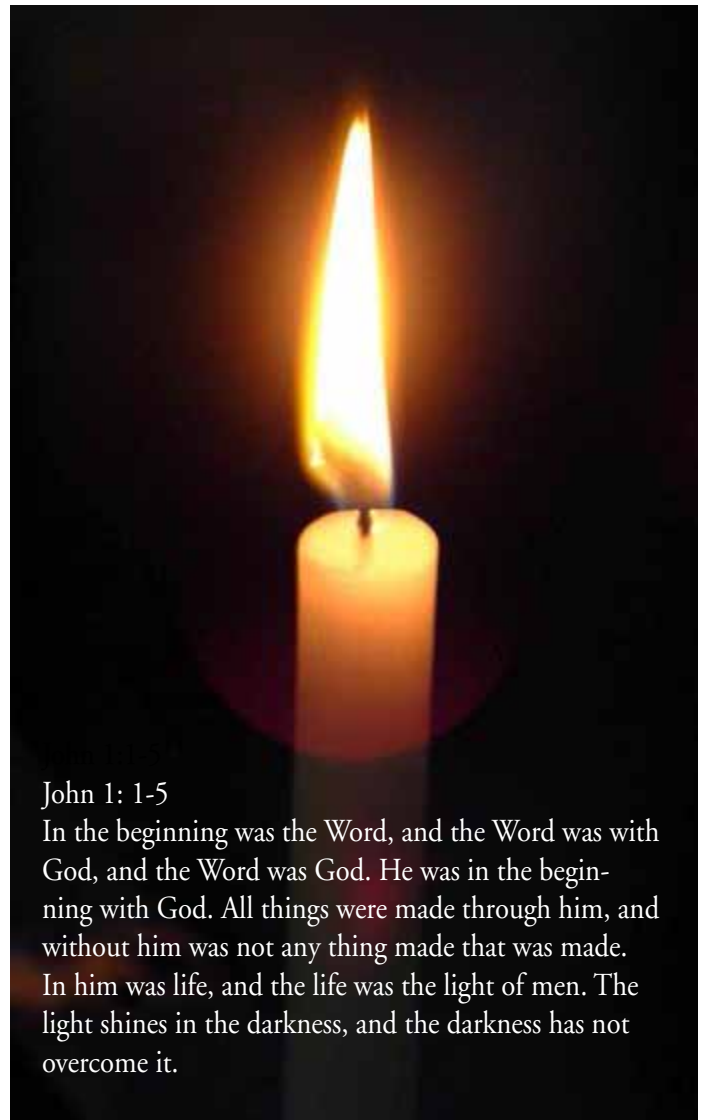
## CEC trip to Main Street Bethlehem in Burnet

### December 12

All CEC families are welcome to join us in the beautiful Texas Hill Country for this unique look at what Bethlehem may have been like thousands of years ago at Christ's birth. We will meet at the church at 4:00 PM on Sat Dec. 12th and carpool to Burnet, where we will try to get near the head of the line.

Gates open at 6PM. Admission is free (They accept donations). Afterwards, we will grab something to eat and head back to the CEC.

For more information call Cindie Scanlon at 267-2452.



#### John 1: 1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

## 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

## 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

## 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