



# 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)

February 2008

## A CEC Lenten Dialogic

Dear Friends,

There have been a few of you who have asked me why we observe Shrove Tuesday and the season of Lent. The word shrove is a past tense of the English verb of "shrive," which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by confession. From our past, we as Christians have observed Shrove Tuesday as a time to prepare ourselves for a special time to shrive (confess) our sins on Ash Wednesday. In England Shrove Tuesday originated as the last day of "shrovetide," which became the equivalent to the word "Carnival." This day also developed separately from other European countries and has become known as, "Tuesday of Carnival" (Martes de Carnaval), or as "Fat Tuesday," (Faschingsdienstag), and of course from the French as "Mardi Gras."

The season of Lent (a forty day period) originated in the Church during the 4th century. The word "Lent" comes from the Old English word for "spring" during the time of which this season falls and is derived from the Latin term Quadragesima, meaning "forty days." Traditionally Lent has been a time of prayer, fasting, almsgiving and preparation for those to receive baptism.

We today continue to observance in many ways of penitential prayer and spiritual preparation as we mark the forty days and celebrate the full impact and meaning of God's love for us on Easter morning. Lent is not about having to let go of something by being penitential! Lent is about being penitential in creating some new space in our lives for God to reach us as we open ourselves to receive His grace in new ways!

Therefore, at CEC please feel free to take on some new things in your life that will draw you to God's love through His life, death and resurrection. A wonderful way we can do this is through a new program of our stewardship of "Talents" that will be launched and explain in more detail on Sunday, February 10th. This program is designed to draw us closer to God and to each other in many new ways as we can extend our reach (outreach and inreach) during this season of Lent.

### **Lenten Program**

**Ash Wednesday Services** Noon to 1:00pm &  
7:00 to 8:00pm

### **Wednesdays in Lent**

7:00 am Walking the Stations of the Cross  
7:00-8:00 pm Music with Penitential and Healing service  
7:30 -8:00pm Godly Play for children pre-K to 5th grade  
6:30 -8:00pm Youth ROOTS class

**Palm Sunday** Celebrating our Talents!

During the period of Holy Week we will celebrate a Wednesday night Tenebrae service at 7:00pm, a Maundy Thursday evening service at 7:00pm, and two Good Friday services at Noon and 7:00pm.

I invite you all to an observance of a Holy and special season of Lent.

Bruce†

# CEC member goes through refining fire in 2007 and comes out with renewed faith and new life

It is often said that God never gives you more problems than you are able to handle, but conversely there do seem to be those times when He certainly doesn't seem to give you any less than you can handle. One Christ Episcopal Church member recalls being given the maximum load of worry and woe in 2007, but miraculously received also an equal measure of grace. And she came through it all with not only her faith intact, but strengthened and deepened in a profound way.

Kristi Uthoff, a relative newcomer to CEC, had one tough year. She had ended a 12 year relationship with an alcoholic spouse early in 2007 and spent much of the year in a bitter custody battle for her two young sons. The battle was not pretty, she confesses, and was often painful and humiliating. But through it all, she says, she never felt alone. "He didn't make it easy for me at all, but by gosh, He didn't abandon me. He forged through the battle with me at His side, even though I didn't realize it much of the time."

Like the biblical trials of Job, Kristi says there were times she tried to be obedient to God's will, but felt the rug was pulled out beneath her. "Sometimes, it seemed it would never end. I felt suspended in air in such a way that only a miracle could save me. And my only course of action was to submit, completely and totally to God." This submission came to a head when during one particularly tough court hearing she prepared to be cross examined by a hostile attorney. Composing herself in the bathroom during a break, she remembers, "God told me every shred of dignity was going to be taken from me and I said 'Okay, let it happen, just please don't let the disease of alcoholism hurt my children any more.'" Tough questioning followed...a refining fire. But a surprise witness, an able and spiri-

tual attorney at her side, and a calm strength she never realized she had all worked together and revealed God's answer to her prayer. She was awarded custody of her children that very day. "He did it in a way that was unmistakable and powerful."

She also learned a great deal about herself. "I realized that even when I am so overwhelmed that I cannot pray for myself, there are people out there who are ready and willing to do the job for me. I'm not normally one to ask for this under random circumstances, but in this case, I knew God's will was not complete. I needed others to pray for me to have the strength and courage to do what needed to be done and I felt way to beaten down to take this task on my own. I am still shocked at how enthusiastically some people I didn't even know prayed for me."

As she has come to know herself better through these trials, so has God revealed His spirit. "I am still learning to listen carefully to what my deeper knowing is telling me. Some might call this the Holy Spirit. Semantics aside, this deeper knowing has come to me in dreams and in prayerful meditation. It has given me a sense of completeness and freedom in place of insecurity, confusion and a lack of space to know myself. In some ways, that is what recovery is all about. Yet, as simple as it sounds, it can be excruciatingly difficult to listen to that voice when you are suffocating in an abusive situation. So, when I was able to breathe again, I discovered a whole new world, a new sense of being, and a new appreciation for those gentle whispers guiding me through life."

2007 was a indeed a tough year, but it wasn't too much trouble for her to handle...or too little. With God's help, it was just the right amount.



# Talent exercise in stewardship this Lent all about growing, giving in faith

*For the one who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough. But the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken from him”  
(Matthew 25:29)*

Christ Episcopal Church has got talent! It’s not a new game show...it’s an exercise in stewardship and faith that kicks off February 10 at CEC. On that Sunday, a second offering plate will be passed around, but instead of putting something in, you will be invited to take something out. Color-coded envelopes for adults, teens and children will contain a “talent” of \$10, \$5 or \$2. What you choose to do with this talent is what the program is all about. Can you double your investment, as did two of the faithful slaves in the parable?

At the end of the program, the talents (along with any growth) will be collected and distributed to World Vision International (WVI) through our church’s EYC program. World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Each Lent, CEC and other area Episcopal youth groups participate in WVI’s 30-hour famine to better understand world hunger and to collect canned goods to help fight hunger in our own community. Now, through our talents donation to World Vision, they will also be able to fight hunger globally.

The Talent program is certainly a little radical and “out of the box” in its approach, but then again so was Jesus. It has been tried in other churches with fascinating results. Stewardship Chair Andrew Verdesca is hoping many will participate, have fun with the program, and learn a most valuable lesson in stewardship. “Jesus taught so effectively by using parables,” Verdesca says. “I anticipate this Lenten program will prove just as effective in bringing us closer to Him and to each other. Having experienced this program first-hand in another church once before, I know it can be very powerful for everyone who participates in it...and I hope everyone at CEC does.”

As the Talents program progresses over the season of Lent, parishioners will be invited to share their faith experiences at the Wednesday night Lenten service. How will you respond to what the Master has entrusted with you?

As with any new responsibility you take on, there may be a bit of the fear factor – the same one that made one servant bury his talent. What if I can’t grow my talent? What if I lose it completely? Relax. Pray about it. What does God want me to do with this? And...consider the awesome returns on your investment in faith: the knowledge that God has faith in you. Well done, good and faithful servant.

## Just who does God use anyway?

*The next time you feel like GOD can't use you, just remember...*

Noah was a drunk  
Abraham was too old  
Isaac was a daydreamer  
Jacob was a liar  
Leah was ugly  
Joseph was abused  
Moses had a stuttering problem  
Gideon was afraid  
Samson had long hair and was a womanizer  
Rahab was a prostitute  
Jeremiah and Timothy were too young  
David had an affair and was a murderer  
Elijah was suicidal

Isaiah preached naked  
Jonah ran from God  
Naomi was a widow  
Job went bankrupt  
John the Baptist ate bugs  
Peter denied Christ  
The Disciples fell asleep while praying  
Martha worried about everything  
The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once  
Zaccheus was too small  
Paul was too religious  
Timothy had an ulcer...AND  
Lazarus was dead!

*No more excuses now. God can use you to your full potential.*

# Pledging of time, treasure and talent is committing oneself to God

by Fran Hart

During our 2008 annual meeting, Robert Wren made several points that resonated with me. I really liked his perspective on pledges. Although the Bible may not refer to pledge cards specifically, in 1 Peter 3 we are called to maintain a pledge:

God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.... (1 Peter 3:20-21)

In practice, we're asked to make tangible our financial commitment to Christ Church. I also feel the challenge to make tangible my commitment of time and talent. Lent is upon us and this is a wonderful opportunity to make such a commitment to God. Are you ready? Can you commit a tithe (10%) of your time, talent and treasure to be devoted to God? Bible study, daily prayers, witnessing for God – all of these are ways that we can spend time intentionally devoted to God. Joining a Ministry is a terrific way to devote your talents. Currently, there are volunteer opportunities in many areas (Ushers, Greeters, Geeks, Hospitality, Kid's Kingdom, etc). Lent is a special time for us,

a time when we can devote ourselves with steadfast attention, keeping our eyes upon Jesus. What a great opportunity we have to make a conscious commitment of ourselves in response to all that has been provided for us. Not every denomination has this practice. It is a blessing that we celebrate this season of reflection and repentance. Perhaps it's odd, but I look forward to Lent every year. I like looking within and seeing if I can kick it up a notch. How about you? Can you give more of yourself? More importantly, can you give of yourself with joy?

As David said, "I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. O LORD, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you." (1 Chronicles 29:17-18)

I pray that we all take this opportunity to commit ourselves to a closer relationship with God, and that we find tangible ways to demonstrate that commitment, even if only for this Season of Lent.

Fran

## Relax, you're the messenger ... not the message

1. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
2. Dear God, I have a problem; it's me.
3. Growing old is inevitable; growing UP is optional.
4. There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.
5. Silence is often misinterpreted but never misquoted.
6. Do the math; count your blessings.
7. Faith is the ability to not panic.
8. Laugh every day; it's like inner jogging.
9. If you worry, you didn't pray. If you pray, don't worry.
10. As a child of God, prayer is kind of like calling home everyday.

11. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.
12. The most important things in your house are the people.
13. When we get tangled up in our problems, be still. God wants us to be still so He can untangle the knot.
14. A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.
15. He who dies with the most toys is still dead.

In the Circle of God's love, God's waiting to use your full potential.

May God Always Bless You and Yours!

# It takes awareness within the church community to safeguard our children

by David Enders

Safeguarding God's children is everyone's job at Christ Episcopal Church. And the biggest part of keeping our kids safe is simply keeping our eyes open.

As of January, some 59 church members had completed the Safeguarding class, 26 of those just since May, according to Children's Ministry Coordinator Brielle Giard. "As our children's programs become bigger, we have had an increased need to offer more training courses onsite to our volunteers, parents and members of the congregation. In addition to offering more training, we have also just distributed a new policies and procedures manual for all of our volunteers who work with children." The manual includes guidelines on the appropriate ways to show affection to children, rules for parent drop-off and pick-up, policies for required background checks for all those working with children, policies for adult visitors, etc. Even physical improvements in the Kid's Kingdoms such as high locks on the outside of doors are intended to minimize risk.

If this kind of attention to detail seems excessive for a church environment, consider that some experts estimate that one in four girls and one in eight boys will be sexually abused sometime in their childhood. And the abusers are not typically the scary stranger, but rather someone the child knows well. Thirty percent of abuse is perpetrated by family members and 60 percent by others known to the child – in many instances by someone who has managed to gain the trust of the child's parents. To think that this kind of abuse cannot happen within a church community would be foolish. As in any matter involving children, always better to be safe than sorry.

## **Warning signs to watch for in adults are:**

- Physical Boundary Violations – often through tickling, wrestling or other close contact games
- Emotional Boundary Violations – buying gifts or sharing secrets to leverage control over a child
- Behavioral Boundary Violations – talking or tricking children into inappropriate behavior

## **Warning sign to watch for in children are:**

- anxiety, shame, self-blame, guilt, feeling different, feeling dirty, feeling used, difficulty concentrating

If you suspect any unusual behavior that may indicate or lead to child abuse or neglect, says Giard, report it immediately. Internally, reports can be made to the Vicar or to the Children's Ministry Coordinator. Reports may also be made to the Diocese or local authorities. Those reporting the allegations in good faith, will remain anonymous.

As our church – and our Kid's Kingdom – grows, everyone's responsibility to safeguard our kids grows with it. "I think as a smaller congregation we do get comfortable and feel that nothing could happen at our church," says Giard. "Unfortunately, predators are everywhere. We should let everyone know that we have many eyes watching at all times, and we place the safety of our children as our number one priority. The purpose of Safeguarding God's Children is to help prevent abuse from happening at all. The more people we train and the more awareness we bring to our congregation and community, the more likely we are to deter a predator from abusing a child at CEC. We strive to make CEC a safe place for all of God's children."

# CEC Kids Corner

## Kid's Kingdom Rotation Schedule

### **Lesson: *Jesus as a Child***

#### Workshop Leaders:

Thou Art Studio- Jane Hamlin  
Master Peace Theatre- Sarah Short  
Garden of Eatin' - Christine Luchini

#### February 3

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

### **Lesson: *Jesus' Baptism***

#### Workshop Leaders:

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

#### February 10

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

#### February 17

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

#### February 24

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

Join us in the Kid's Kingdom  
Sunday Mornings from 9:15-10:15

## 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

2008 Vacation Bible Adventure Planning  
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](mailto:ceckids@cctx.org)



## Going Global

### Christianity Around the World

Grab your passports for this exciting  
Vacation Bible Adventure

Volunteer Kick-off Meeting- **February 3** after the  
10:30 service in the Parish Hall. Come learn more  
about the 2008 VBA program.

2008 VBA Dates: June 16-20, 6:00-8:30PM

### Children's Chapel

All children, ages 3 thru 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

## FEBRUARY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### Feb. 3

10:30 a.m. Cindie Scanlon/Kathryn Bonner: **Lectors**  
Cindie Scanlon/Kathryn Bonner: **LEMs**  
Elizabeth Burba/Cindy Wells: **Hosp**  
Polly Enders: **Altar Guild**  
Tony and Elias Martinez: **Ushers**  
Travis Hart/Gianna Gordy: **Accolytes**  
Randall Holihan: **God's Geek**

### Feb. 10

10:30 a.m. Arthur Callaway/Robert Wren : **Lectors**  
Arthur Callaway/Robert Wren: **LEMs**  
Shirley Murphy/Cindie Scanlon: **Hosp**  
Cathy Valusek: **Altar Guild**  
Mandy Moore/Michael Reeh: **Ushers**  
Anaisa Kalita/Jonah Reeh: **Accolytes**  
Tony Martinez: **God's Geek**  
Sarah Short/Jennifer Cowles:  
**Children's Chapel**

### Feb. 17

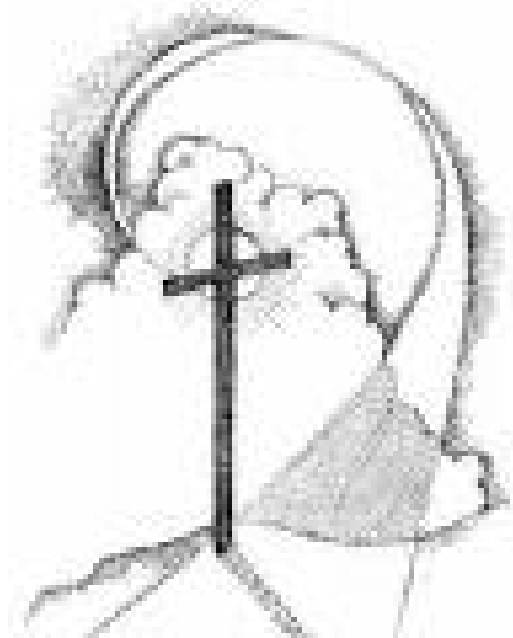
10:30 a.m. Marilee Verdesca/Cathy Valusek: **Lectors**  
Marilee Verdesca/Cathy Valusek: **LEMs**  
Fran Hart/Jan Buntebart: **Hospitality**  
Cindie Scanlon: **Altar Guild**  
Travis and Joel Holliman: **Ushers**  
Brittany Alvarez/Alex Rogers: **Accolytes**  
Fran Hart: **God's Geek**  
Sarah Short/Cindie Scanlon:  
**Children's Chapel**

### Feb. 24

10:30 a.m. Fran and Jim Hart: **Lectors**  
Fran and Jim Hart: **LEMs**  
Muriel Kalita/Elizabeth Burba: **Hospitality**  
Katie and Suzie Scanlon: **Ushers**  
Martha McEver: **Altar Guild**  
Amelia Gossett/Adam Uthoff: **Accolytes**  
Charlie Cole/Travis Hart: **God's Geeks**  
Sarah Short/Jennifer Anderson:  
**Children's Chapel**

### March 2

10:30 a.m. Jan Buntebart/Joan Steele: **Lectors**  
Jan Buntebart/Joan Steele: **LEMs**  
Cindy Wells/Jennie Krischke: **Hospitality**  
Rachel Holliman/Elias Martinez: **Accolytes**  
Jerry Halstead: **God's Geek**



## 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:.....TonyAlvarez986-5678  
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  
Pet Ministry: .....Jill McDonald 248-1938  
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

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