



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

February 2010

To everything there is a Season!

Dear Friends,

On Wednesday, February 17, we will enter upon one of the most important seasons of the Church year – the 40 days of Lent. The word Lent is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word *Lencten*, or spring. It becomes the time of the year when our days begin to lengthen by changing into spring. Lent itself is always the same length of time, but its starting date is tied to the moveable date of Easter Sunday. I've heard some of you commit, "Easter seems to be coming up sooner this year!" Well, that's because Easter Sunday is always the Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox sometime around March 21 or April 18. If the full moon falls on a Sunday, Easter Sunday will always fall a week after. However, Easter Sunday cannot fall earlier than March 22 or later than April 25. If you're still a little confused, try finding the date of Easter Sunday by using the two points of reference (The Golden Number and The Sunday Letter) for any given year in our Book of Common Prayer beginning on page 881. Can you find the date of which Easter Sunday will occur in the year 2020? Can you believe that season will occur just ten years from now?

On Tuesday, February 16, we will celebrate our Fat Tuesday event at the church from 6:30 pm until 9:00pm. Please make plans to attend this family fun event: featuring pancakes or gumbo, deserts, bingo, karaoke, and prizes along with an Elvis impersonator to be on hand. For entry to this event please bring (one, or more) can goods for the food pantry benefiting Hill Country Community Ministries outreach program. A monetary love offering to HCCM will also be accepted. Some of the staff personal from HCCM will be

among us to offer a short presentation and update of how our gifts and contributions to HCCM are used to support people in need within our community. And Elvis of course will enter the building and perform for us! A great Fat Tuesday event will be had by all!

On Ash Wednesday, February 17, Ash Wednesday services will be held at noon and 7:00pm. Please make plans to attend this solemn yet celebratory service with imposition of ashes in the sign of the cross on our foreheads. This worshipful action of Ash Wednesday begins our spiritual season for Lent. During the Lenten season, on each Wednesday evening from 6:30pm to 7:00pm, services of healing prayers and Holy Communion will be offered. All adult class and youth activities will continue afterwards at their normal time periods.

Those of you who are interested in forming a Daughters of the King organization or would like to learn more of what DOK is all about, please simply ask me. If you are interested in attending a DOK event, a Lenten quiet day retreat is planned for February 20, from 9:00am until 12:30pm at St. David's Episcopal Church in Austin, Texas. It is called: A Circular Path in the Wilderness. The cost is \$10 with lunch provided. To register, call 512-610-3500 or use www.stdave.org. For other questions on this event contact Louise Reick at 512-371-1505.

Happy season of Lent to us all!
Bruce

The Bible in a Year

by Fran Hart

There are times when it is necessary to share accomplishments as a way of encouraging others. When we set a goal for ourselves and achieve that goal, we demonstrate that the goal is achievable. In telling others about our achievements, it's necessary to balance pride in the accomplishment and humility in knowing that to God goes all glory. With this in mind, I share with you an accomplishment that leaves me proud yet humble.

Last year I decided to read the Bible in year. I considered reasons why I was doomed to fail:

- It was already a few weeks into January
- Inevitably work gets hectic, life gets busy
- Business travel & vacations might interfere
- Many distractions compete for my time
- In previous attempts I'd never made it past Exodus

Then I ignored those reasons and opened up a copy of "The One Year Bible". Even if I didn't succeed, I figured I'd be better off for trying.

One thing I really like about "The One Year Bible" format is the daily mix of Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs. Throughout the year I found connections and relevance that I wouldn't have discovered if left to my own devices. Better yet, I was often struck by the relevance of God's word in my daily life.

Although I tried to maintain the discipline of daily reading, there were times (such as at the start of the year) when I was playing "catch-up." At other times I found myself ahead of schedule;

Old Testament drama can be more gripping than anything offered on television.

There are a variety of available formats for reading the Bible in a year, including on-line resources. There also two-year and three-year plans. Last year I read the New International Version (NIV). This year I'm tackling the Chronological Study Bible, New King James Version (NKJV). I'm joined in this effort by several members of my Reunion Group who are reading various chronological versions.

I share all of this with you not from pride but from humility. As Christians we are called to read and study God's word – we "do not live by bread alone; rather, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD." (Deuteronomy 8:3b) "For the word of God is alive and powerful.... It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires." (Hebrews 4:12)

Now I appreciate how little effort it takes (about 15 minutes a day) and my only regret is waiting so long to pursue this goal. I encourage each of you to consider this challenge for yourself. "Then the name of our Lord Jesus will be honored because of the way you live, and you will be honored along with him. This is all made possible because of the grace of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ." (2 Thessalonians 1:12)

If I can, I know you can too.

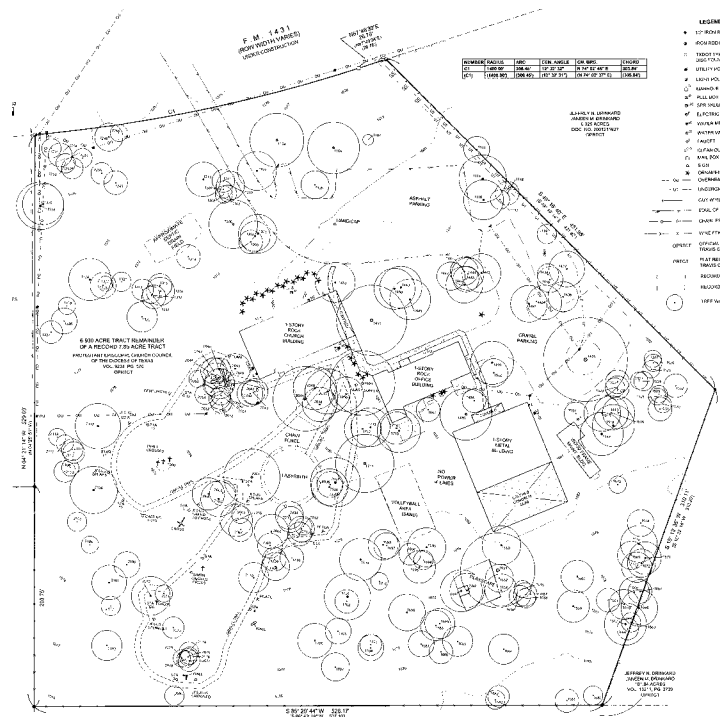
CEC Annual Meeting 2010

Christ Episcopal Church on January 17th approved a budget of nearly \$240,000 to help continue the work God has called us to do in 2010. In a Sunday Worship Celebration Meeting the church approved the budget which earmarks \$32,500 for facilities and grounds expenses in 2010; \$15,781 for outreach; \$5,700 for events-based expenses; \$3,700 for liturgical expense; and \$2,700 for education and organizational expense. Some \$83,319 were approved for administrative expense in 2010 as well as \$96,564 in payroll expense.

CEC Stewardship Chair Travis Krischke updated the congregation on Ripe for the Harvest priorities completed in 2009 and new priorities scheduled for 2010.

First quarter 2010 improvements will include:

- Update sound system in sanctuary
- Replace stone wall around oak tree in front lawn
- Add landscaping to north side sanctuary
- Improve landscaping on south side sanctuary
- Improve landscaping around office/library
- Repair sidewalk near office/library
- Add lighting to new church sign on FM 1431
- Repair basketball goals on back patio
- Decide on exterior color scheme for sanctuary
- Prioritize next steps for sewer project (hook up to city sewer services)



ALL GOD'S CHILDREN WELCOME

At Christ Episcopal Church we approach sound theological teaching to meet our practical everyday needs. We place ourselves in God's hands through worship and praise to His Son, Jesus Christ, as the "Way, the Truth, and the Life," to a relevant message and music for today's world. We believe in blending the great traditions of our church with a fresh, modern, contemporary approach to the Gospel. We are a vibrant loving community of God's children who are saved by His grace!

Reflections on Lent

by Dennis Bratcher, St. David's Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia

We enjoy celebrating Palm Sunday. The children get to make paper palm branches and for many is one of the few times they get to take an active role in "big church." We wave the palm branches and celebrate. And we all love Easter Sunday! It is a happy time, with flowers, new clothes, and the expectation of Spring in the air.

But it is too easy and promotes too cheap a grace to focus only on the high points of Palm Sunday and Easter without walking with Jesus through the darkness of Good Friday, a journey that begins on Ash Wednesday. Lent is a way to place ourselves before God humbled, bringing in our hands no price whereby we can ourselves purchase our salvation. It is a way to confess our total inadequacy before God, to strip ourselves bare of all pretense to righteousness, to come before God in dust and ashes. It is a way to empty ourselves of our false pride, of our rationalizations that prevent us from seeing ourselves as needy creatures, of our "perfectionist" tendencies that blind us to the beam in our own eyes.

Through prayer that gives up self, we seek to open ourselves up before God, and to hear anew the call "Come unto me!" We seek to recognize and respond afresh to God's presence in our lives and in our world. We seek to place our needs, our fears, our failures, our hopes, our very lives in God's hands, again. And we seek by abandoning ourselves in Jesus' death to recognize again who God is, to allow His transforming grace to work in us once more, and to come to worship Him on Easter Sunday with a fresh victory and hope that goes beyond the new clothes, the Spring flowers, the happy music.

But it begins in ashes. And it journeys through darkness. It is a spiritual pilgrimage that I am convinced we must make one way or the other for genuine spiritual renewal to come. I have heard the passage in 2 Chronicles 7:14 quoted a lot: ". . .if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." This usually is quoted in the context of wanting revival or renewal in the church, and the prayer is interpreted as intercessory prayer for others. But a careful reading of the passage will reveal that the prayer that is called for here is not intercessory prayer for others; it is penitential prayer for the faith community, for us. It is not to call for others to repent; it is a call for us, God's people, to repent. It is our land that needs healed, it is our wicked ways from which we need to turn, we are the ones who need to seek God's face.

Perhaps during the Lenten season we should stop praying for others as if we were virtuous enough to do so. Perhaps we should take off our righteous robes just long enough during this 40 days to put ashes on our own heads, to come before God with a new humility that is willing to confess, "Lord, be merciful to me, a sinner." Maybe we should be willing to prostrate ourselves before God and plead, "Lord, in my hand no price I bring; simply to the cross I cling." That might put us in a position to hear God in ways that we have not heard Him in a long time. And it may be the beginning of a healing for which we have so longed.

O Lord, begin with me. Here. Now.



Yes, there is a solution

Submitted by Elizabeth Burba for Faith Partners

The most gratifying work I have done in my life was training families and friends to intervene with their loved ones to present an accurate picture of what their addictive substance was doing to them and to the people who loved them. This was followed by presenting options for help that the addict could accept with dignity. But effective intervention can also sometimes be done by an individual, even in an early stage of the disease. The information below is from Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church, Inc. by way of Faith Partners, Christ Church's own recovery ministry. To make a confidential inquiry, call Elizabeth Burba at 259-1345.

Disguised Cries for Help

Addicted persons are often in such denial that they not only refuse help but are angry and resentful when it is offered. Yet when people in recovery are interviewed, they consistently report the following:

- I couldn't see that it was that bad.
- I didn't know I was hurting so many people.
- I didn't think anybody still cared.
- I couldn't see a way out with dignity.

Who Should Intervene?

If someone is concerned, he has the right to intervene. Because concern for our fellow men is a hallmark of Christianity, we have an obligation as Christians to step in and try to help end the pain of addiction.

Caution: When there is a history or a threat of violence, professional assistance should be sought before attempting to intervene.

Someone who the alcoholic/addict respects can be an effective intervener. Certainly one who possesses data about the person's unacceptable behavior under the influence can play a valuable role. Anyone with leverage or authority can have a great deal of influence.

How Does Intervention Work?

Intervention works because of the power of dissonance. Dissonance is that mental and emotional state that is reached when a person can no longer tolerate the difference between the way he is behaving and the way his values say he should behave.

Without help, the alcoholic/addict does not experience enough dissonance to motivate change because he is deluded and in denial about the true nature of his illness. Intervention breaks through that wall of delusion and creates enough dissonance to motivate the person to accept help.

Change will not happen until there is enough pain (dissonance) to motivate change. When the people who surround an alcoholic/addict stop enabling, the intervention process has begun.

Intervention can be a scary proposition. However, experience shows that, when the intervention attempt is packaged in love and concern; does not judge, label, or moralize; and offers dignified help options, unhappy reactions are seldom the result.

The Many Faces of Intervention

Intervention can take many forms. From a simple telephone call suggesting there is a problem and recommending sources of help to the classic structured, professionally facilitated concerned group model.

In every case, however, the following Core Message outline is suggested:

- Express love and concern;
- Relate specific unacceptable behavior under the influence;
- Describe the emotional impact on those who care for the person; and
- Offer help that can be accepted with dignity.

A Spiritual Martial Art

Intervention has been described as a spiritual martial art because like the martial art protagonists the interveners make no effort to overpower the other person. Instead the interveners avoid the negative energy surrounding this disease by conducting their effort in an atmosphere of love and concern, and an absence of anger, judging, moralizing, labeling, and arguing.

People who have been through an intervention and have achieved recovery frequently report that no one had ever before approached them in a concerned, non-antagonistic manner and showed them a solution that they could accept with dignity.

Most people seek recovery because someone cared enough to intervene.

FEBRUARY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Feb. 7

10:30 a.m. Suzie Scanlon/Sarah Martinez: **Lectors**
Carolyn Dupy/Sarah Martinez: **LEMs**
Martha McEver: **Altar Guild**
Suzie Scanlon/Elena Martinez: **Accolytes**

Feb. 14

10:30 a.m. Penny Byrnes/Brittany Alvarez: **Lectors**
Fran Hart/Jan Buntebart: **LEMs**
Cindy Wells: **Altar Guild**
Adam Uthoff/Cierra Abbott: **Accolytes**

Feb. 21

10:30 a.m. Jan & Jerry Halstead: **Lectors**
Jan & Jerry Halstead: **LEMs**
Polly Enders: **Altar Guild**
Travis Krischke/Zach Holhan: **Accolytes**

Feb. 28

10:30 a.m. Bill Sterling/Kathryn Bonner: **Lectors**
Bill Sterling/Kathryn Bonner: **LEMs**
Kathy Ashlock: **Altar Guild**
Rachel Holliman/Christopher Knox: **Accolytes**

March 7

10:30 a.m. Randall Holahan/Marilee Verdesca: **Lectors**
Randall Holahan/Marilee Verdesca: **LEMs**
Sarah Martinez/Emily Krischke: **Accolytes**

8:00 Worship Leaders

Feb. 7 - *Thelma*
Feb. 14 - *Randall*
Feb. 21 - *Travis*
Feb. 28 - *Kirsten*
March 7 - *Thelma*

Vestry Person for Month of February: Andrew Verdesca
Offering Counter for Month of February: Jobie Guzman

FROM THE DAVIES FAMILY

The Davies family (Bernie, Christian and Kathryn) would like to extend our gratitude to Christ Episcopal Church during our time of losing Deborah. You have all shown so much love and grace towards us words cannot express our thanks enough. Through comments I have heard you have also shown the Love of Christ to the greater community that knew Deborah. All I can say is Thank You and Bless each one of you in Jesus Name.

Bernie Davies

CEC EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

Feb. 7 - EYC Super Bowl Party (info. coming)
Feb. 11 - N. Rim HOA Mtg.
Feb. 12-13 - Diocesan Council
Feb. 13 - EYC Babysitting Fundraiser 3-8:00pm
Feb 14 - Potluck Sunday sponsored by the EYC after 10:30 service. Bring a dish to share.
Feb. 16- Mardi Gras / Shrove Tues. 6:30-9:00
Feb. 17 - Ash Wednesday Services @ noon & 7:00pm
Feb. 20th - Kiaros Retreat in the Ed. Bldg. @ 9:00am
Feb. 24th - Lenten Prayers & Eucharist 6:30-7:00pm
Feb. 26 - Vestry Retreat Dinner & Bonner's 6:30
Feb. 26-28 - Intermediate/Jr. High Midwinter Retreat
Feb. 27 -Vestry Retreat 9-12:30 in the Parish Hall

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

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

2010 Bishop's Committee:

Members:

Tony Alvarez.....986-5678
Jan Buntebart.....528-9338
David Enders.....259-4430
Jerry Halstead.....259-5430
Travis Krischke.....259-0409
Kirsten Lynch.....259-3545
Bonny Muneyhun.....bonny.moneyhun@leanderisd.org
Joanne Schwann.....jaswahn@aol.com
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