



# 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)

January/February 2009

## A little animal Labradoodle-ology!

*"I said in my heart with regard to human beings that God is testing them to show that they are but animals. For the fate of humans and the fate of animals is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and humans have no advantage over the animals; all are from the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knows whether the human spirit goes upward and the spirit of animals goes downward to the earth? So I saw that there is nothing better than that all should enjoy their work, for that is their lot." (Ecclesiastes 3:18-22)*

Dear Friends,

For a few years now Kathryn and I have been empty nesters away from our two daughters who are now married to wonderful husbands. Since that time we have enjoyed our freedom. However, something inside of us has now changed! On a whim, we both decided to start off our New Year with a bang! We decided to be proud owners of a 4-month old Labradoole. Our Labradoodle is a registered part Labrador and part Poodle. Her name is Ellie. She has all the characteristics of a beloved Labrador and does not shed a blessed curly hair like a Poodle. The perfect fit for a pet you would think, if you were thinking on a whim! To pick her up, Kathryn and I drove to Lubbock. But by the time we got to Abilene, our whim had disappeared and turned into reality. At that point we decided we've traveled too far to turn back and so we ventured onward into Labradoodleness. After picking her up in Lubbock we immediately turned around and drove her back home in one long day. After a few hours sleep the following day, Kathryn and I began repeating to each other the words, "What have we done?" I am sure Ellie was saying the same thing to herself. After a few days of getting to know each other we decided to take a little break and put Ellie in her crate and went to see the movie: "Marley and Me." I think it helped somewhat to ease the life change we were experiencing from being empty nesters to now having a young life

around us grabbing all of our time, attention and energy. As a 35-pound puppy, Ellie has to go outside and do her business about every 4 hours day or night. We have learned that the hard way! And so we are doing the proper things to potty train our beloved Ellie and are trying to do everything we can to acclimate her more fully into our family. I have forgotten how much effort it takes to raise and care for a young life one is responsible for. I have regained much appreciation for all of you who have children under your care. When I see you on Sunday mornings holding yourself up from sleep deprivation I will remember it's not because you stayed up late watching television, it is because you care for your family. Therefore, I am always grateful for your participation and attendance during our Sunday mornings together.

Warren Wiersbe once wrote the famous quote: "If life is to have meaning, and if God's will is to be done, all of us have to accept who we are and what we are, give it back to God, and thank Him for the way He made us. What I am is God's gift to me; what I do with it is my gift to God."

These past few mornings I have to admit I rather enjoyed getting up at 4 am and taking Ellie outside to do her business. The stillness of the morning at that time is incredibly peaceful. The moon light had been luminously iridescent covering both Ellie and me in soft blue light. In that moment of prayer I have experienced God's wonder and awe. For me it's been a foretaste of standing with Him in eternity somewhere between peace and light! It's as though God is saying to me: "Bruce, be still and know I am God." I think that is the true message of Epiphany. So, I am thankful to God for Ellie who has shown me this righteous gift. My only hope is that I can give back to her as much as she has already given to me. However, the potty training is still another thing!

Blessings.

Bruce†

# God *is* in the details

by Jennifer Cowles

The five-o'clock traffic seemed no different than any other day. Stop. Go. Stop. Go. But my mind focused on something else as I drove home. Contracts were due at the school where I had labored and ministered for fourteen years of my life. I wore many hats while there - teaching assistant, afterschool coordinator, lead teacher, assistant director - and now the time had come to make a big decision. Do I continue with the hour-long, twenty-two mile commute to a familiar setting? Or do I return my contract unsigned and apply for a teaching position closer to home? The pay would be greater, but I didn't have a job yet, and it's the "not knowing" that always gets to me.

Traveling up Highway 183 at rush hour took a little longer in the days before toll roads. Luckily, I had my 4-year-old and the radio to keep me company. Boy, could we belt out a few good sing-a-long tunes in the privacy of our Honda Accord! Sometimes I even had reading material with me. At the red lights, I would pick up a magazine from the passenger seat and look at a couple of pages. Stop. Read. Go. Stop. Read. Go - all the while worrying about my teaching contract with the school. Suddenly it hit me. Right there on the pages of the magazine, in an ad for furniture polish. God is in the details. It said it. Right there. Right on the page. God is in the details.

My mental light bulb flickered on as I made the connection. Aha! God is in the details. He has it all figured out, but how do I make the right choice? How do I know what He wants me to do? I quickly tore out the magazine page and held it front of me on the steering wheel, as if willing it to answer my question. And then it, or rather He, did. The late-day sun shone through the paper revealing a guide word on the next page. Knees. Yes, the word was KNEES! And the message was clear. God is in the details and will guide your life when you get on your knees and PRAY! Hmmm. I understood it, but it wasn't going to be easy. You see, I'm not one to enter into prayer easily. Sure, when I'm in need or afraid, like a lot of people, I pray. But those conversations with God sometimes come as an afterthought.

Trying my best to discern God's call, I took the leap of faith, turned in my contract unsigned and interviewed with the local school district. And prayed. "Where do you want me, God?" I would send up a little prayer now and then.

"God help me. What do I do?" Often times I felt that the answer was to be still and wait. So wait I did. Four months passed, the new school year started and I still didn't have a job. After I walked my daughter to school every day that first week I would go home to an empty house, sit there and wonder, "What do I do? I don't have a job. How am I going to pay the bills?" By Friday, I got a little gutsy and let the school secretary know that I was an experienced teacher looking for a classroom. She accepted my resume with a knowing gleam in her eye. That very next Monday, the assistant principal called me; interviewed me on Tuesday; hired me on Wednesday. Hallelujah!

It's true. God really *is* in the details. He knew right where I was supposed to be. He knew I could use an around-the-block commute. He knew I should be at the same school as my daughter. He knew the countless lives I would touch and be touched by in this new place. As we begin a new year with many new blessings, I'm working on entering into communication with God more often and listening to His messages even in the simplest of places. But I'll leave the details up to Him.

## Share your Epiphany in The Trumpet

*Everybody has those "Aha!" moments: epiphanies big and small. Those rare times when everything makes sense for a change. Those times when God is speaking to you and you hear the message soft and still ... or loud and clear. 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](mailto:trumpet@cec-tx.org)*

# Resolutions and Revelations

by Fran Hart

Bruce recently noted that “Lose weight” and “Exercise more” are consistently the most common New Year’s Resolutions. Magazine covers, advertising, and popular books all push this topic to the forefront in stores and on the Internet. This morning I did a quick Google search on the subject of resolutions and it is clear that not only are those 2 top items of concern, but popular resolutions also include “Quit smoking,” “Quit drinking,” “Reduce Stress,” “Go back to school” and other variations on this theme of self-improvement.

What surprises me is the lack of mention of our spiritual self. It seems to me that an annual renewal of our commitment to “Obey God” will render most other resolutions unnecessary. I do believe it takes a conscious effort to maintain the commitment, but taking care of our bodies, our minds and our souls is our Christian obligation. “If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.” (John 14:15-17)

We have been blessed with the Holy Spirit and the Spirit is in us. We are God’s temple. We are sacred vessels. “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) Since we know that overeating, lack of exercise, sedentary lifestyles, bad habits, etc. are the path of self-destruction, it stands to reason that healthy living is a requirement for us in our obedience to God’s will. Seems simple enough, but I know from experience that I do not do well with lifestyle changes that are not easily measured. When I was ready to quit smoking, it was easy to measure my success. I could count the days, then weeks, then months, then years (4 -and counting) since my last cigarette. This hasn’t worked for me when I am trying to “lose weight and exercise more”. During the last six months of ’08 I got on the scale every day ... and watched my weight creep up! I can’t stop eat-

ing completely. I get cranky when I’m hungry (Jim and Travis will be quick to confirm this if you ask). How do I manage to eat less? And exercise? I’ve been working out (15-20 minute aerobics at least 5 days a week) for most of the last year. My schedule doesn’t permit much more. I expected a higher return on the investment I’m already making.

So, as we began ’09, I changed my commitment to one of obedience. “Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Romans 12:1-2)

It’s about changing our habits, changing our lifestyles. It’s about waking up every morning and thinking, “God has granted me another day to worship Him. I promise to take care of His temple.” I am renewing my mind. I am renewing the way that I look at my body. I am renewing the way that I look at the choices I make during the course of the day. I am parking at the far side of the parking lot at my office and walking briskly to the door. I am taking the stairs instead of the elevator. I am conversing with God during these extra moments of worship. Sometimes this is as simple as “God, grant me the strength to make it to the top of the stairs!” Before meals, I am praying that I can “eat right.” In pulling together my thoughts for this article, I found this Proverb that I will incorporate in my personal prayer for grace before meals: “Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.” (Proverbs 3:7-8)

“God, let me not rely on my own judgment, but let me trust in your guidance as I learn to live in a way that brings health to my body and nourishment to my bones. It is your call to us that we tend your temple and be a sanctuary for your Spirit. Let me obey your will. Amen.”

# Christ Episcopal Church in unique position for growth in 2009

## *Both physical and spiritual*

by David Enders

With a church full of spirit-led ministers, a younger than average Episcopal Church congregation, continued population growth in the area and even a road to our church that has been made straight thanks to God and the Texas Department of Transportation, CEC is uniquely positioned in 2009 to deliver on its mission to “seek and serve Christ in others by loving our neighbors as ourselves.”

CEC Rector Bruce Bonner spoke to the congregation in a combination Annual Meeting and Worship Service January 11th following a pancake breakfast hosted by the Men’s Ministry and served by the vestry. Taking over as the vicar more

than two years ago at the then mission status Christ Episcopal Church, Bonner said his primary goals were to simply be a “non-anxious presence” in the church and help to change a struggling mission attitude to one of abundance. He envisioned a ministry-led church backed by resources, supported by the vestry and led by God to fulfill our

church’s special mission in the world.

Our church last year achieved parish status, has continued to grow and revitalize its ministries and did some necessary infrastructure work. Co-senior Warden Charlie Cole reported a phenomenal year last year in terms of stewardship at CEC and broke down the 2009 CEC budget of \$357,460.

Much needed improvements last year included a new air conditioning system for the sanctuary, completion of a comprehensive engineering site survey, a remodeled nursery, water fountains, a new freezer, grounds improvements and the first phase of tying in to the city sewer system, reported Jim Hart.

Continued improvements in 2009 will include expansion and repaving of the church parking lot and a new inviting entry sign off the newly straightened FM 1431.

And the physical improvements merely provide an environment for the real work of the church to continue to grow. Co-senior warden Sarah Martinez reported a revitalization among many CEC ministries in 2008 and several new ministries were added, including Angel Food Ministry, Pet Ministry, Faith Partners Ministry and the Lay Eucharistic Minister Outreach Ministry. “If you have something you believe in and God is calling you to do it, we have a way to make that

happen at Christ Church,” said Martinez. “Each and every one of us has been called to be here.”

The Ripe for the Harvest stewardship program in the Fall further identified what is important to us as a congregation, said Martinez adding “and now we need to discern who we are and what is God’s plan for us.” She pledged

the vestry would be available to “listen to your concerns as we experience this new growth” and she asked for the entire congregation’s support in:

1. Living into our vision: seeking and serving Christ in others by loving our neighbor as ourselves
2. Communicating ideas and concerns with the vestry with faith and patience
3. Becoming involved and stepping out in faith to serve in an existing ministry or start a new one if you feel called
4. Pray for our church and our community -- we need each other.



## Prayer For the Church

Gracious Father, we pray for thy holy Catholic Church. Fill it with all truth, in all truth with all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it. Where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ thy Son our Savior. Amen.

## Prayer for the Mission of the Church

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## Prayer for Clergy and People

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our bishops, and other clergy, and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and, that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Prayer for the Diocese

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless our Bishops, and other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Prayer For the Parish

Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
Cedar Park, Texas

*To seek and serve Christ  
in others,  
loving our neighbor  
as ourselves.*



# A new ministry

by Fran Hart

This year's Epiphany coincided with a personal epiphany; an epiphany similar to Dorothy's realization that she was not in Kansas anymore and Alice's epiphany that things in Wonderland are not as they seem. I love that just when I think I have things all figured out, God leads me to something new, exciting and adventurous. Something that offers personal growth and expanded horizons.

If asked directly if we're ready for an adventure, if we are willing to take on something grand, we might decline. "I'm not ready for that." "I am too busy." "I have other commitments." "I am afraid." "I am inadequate." But when we find ourselves in Oz or Wonderland despite the absence of a tornado or a plummet down a rabbit hole, we find that we are able to cope as well as the fabled heroines. Especially when the new territory is part of God's kingdom.

My journey started with a simple request for help. In fact, I can look back and see a string of requests for help. Each one took me one step further along a path to a new ministry. At no time during the journey did I see where I was going. Only now, as I lift my eyes up, do I begin to realize what was in store for me. What is in store for me.

To get here I didn't do anything remarkable. I had to step

away from other ministries. I've taken small risks. I've bowed out of areas where I thought I was critical - sometimes I forget that I am merely an instrument in God's orchestral symphony. At each step I prayed for discernment and guidance to ensure that I was in harmony with God's plan. And I skipped along the yellow brick road merrily singing and establishing partnerships with people who bring me strength and support. I thought I knew where I was going so I never really checked the compass along the way. I am not at my destination but I've certainly hit a milestone. It is time to include you in this journey; to invite the women of CEC to participate.

As part of the W2W's studies, you will now be able to participate on-line. Two studies began last week: Beth Moore's "Esther" and Tommy Tenney's "Finding Favor with the King." You are invited to post your comments on-line and follow along with the group even if you are not able to join us during the Wednesday night fellowship and discussion. It is not too late to purchase the relevant book and begin these studies with us. If you are interested, you can e-mail me at [hartfg@gmail.com](mailto:hartfg@gmail.com) or contact Barbara Alvarez or Bonny Moneyhun. Or visit our discussion site at <http://CECW2W.wordpress.com>. Your comments and feedback are welcome.



*God Bless Christ Episcopal Church  
... and pass the syrup*

It's going to take plenty of work to keep Christ Episcopal Church moving in the right direction and living into God's mission for us. The youth of the church stock up on carbohydrates with a pancake breakfast before the CEC Annual Meeting. Energy is in abundant supply.

## Jan/Feb MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### Jan. 18

10:30 a.m. Burl Judy/Jeanette Holahan: **Lectors**  
Burl Judy/Jeanette Holahan: **LEMs**  
Kathy Ashlock: **Altar Guild**  
Travis & Joel Holliman: **Ushers**  
Tony Alvarez/Joel Holliman: **Acolytes**

### Jan. 25

10:30 a.m. Bill Sterling/Charlie Cole: **Lectors**  
Bill Sterling/Jerry Halstead: **LEMs**  
Cathy Valucek: **Altar Guild**  
Jonah Reeh/Garrett Kruschke: **Ushers**  
Neal Mundy/Adam Uthoff: **Acolytes**

### Feb. 1

10:30 a.m. Jan Buntebart/Joan Steele: **Lectors**  
Jan Buntebart/Joan Steele: **LEMs**  
Martha McEver: **Altar Guild**  
Brittany Alvarez/Elena Martinez: **Acolytes**

### Feb. 8

10:30 a.m. Barbara & Tony Alvarez: **Lectors**  
Barbara & Tony Alvarez: **LEMs**  
Rachel Holliman/Emily Scanlon: **Acolytes**  
Cindy Wellsr: **Altar Guild**

### Feb. 15

10:30 a.m. Cindie Scanlon/Brittany Alvarez: **Lectors**  
Cindie Scanlon/Marilee Verdesca: **LEMs**  
Jonah Reeh/Zach Holahan: **Acolytes**  
Jobie Guzman: **Altar Guild**

### Feb. 22

10:30 a.m. Kathryn & Wes Lowe: **Lectors**  
Kathryn & Wes Lowe: **LEMs**  
Suzie Scanlon/Elias Martinez: **Acolytes**  
Kathy Ashlock: **Altar Guild**

#### 8:00 Worship Leaders

*First Sunday of the Month: Thelma Thompson*  
*Second Sunday of the Month: Randall Holahan*  
*Third Sunday of the Month: Travis Kruschke*  
*Fourth Sunday of the Month: Kirsten Lynch*  
*Fifth Sunday of the Month: Kathryn Bonner*  
*Alternates: Jan & Jerry Halstead*

**Vestry Person for Month of January: David Enders**  
**Offering Counter for Month of January: Jan Halstead**  
**Vestry Person for Month of February: Andrew Verdesca**  
**Offering Counter for Month of January: Barbara Alvarez**

## Online Care Calendar

An online care calendar has been set up for Diane Young as she recovers from eye surgery. Please sign up to bring a meal at: [www.carecalendar.org](http://www.carecalendar.org) ID#: 10762 / Security Code: 6280. Just click on the need for the date you wish to help, and enter your information. Please call ahead before you bring your meal. Thanks for caring?

## Calling All Musicians

We are in the process of expanding our Music Ministry to include some new contemporary music in our Sunday worship mix and we could really use a drummer, percussionist, lead guitarist and/or bass player! We can always use vocal talent as well! If you enjoy playing, love praise music, or in any way feel the call to join us, please contact Donna Reeh at: [beebo@austin.rr.com](mailto:beebo@austin.rr.com) (h) 257-7340 or (c) 293-5441 or just come to our Thursday night practice at 6:30 pm.

## Attention CEC Music Team Members

We will begin holding weekly music practices on Thursday evenings beginning Thursday, Jan. 8th, 2009 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the church. Musicians please arrive at least 30 minutes prior to vocalists to tune instruments and check sound equipment.

## Kid's Kingdom

### Sunday School Schedule

#### January Topic:

The Anointing of David  
You're Never Too Small for God  
Workshop Leaders and Activities  
Thou Art Studio - Polly Enders  
Design a life-size paper person of yourself.  
Garden of Eatin'- Kris Holliman  
Discover why the muffins bake flat.

#### January 18

Little Royals/Knights- Garden of Eatin'  
The Crusaders- Thou Art Studio

#### January 25

Little Royals/Knights- Thou Art Studio  
The Crusaders- Garden of Eatin'

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.

