



# 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)

July 2008

## On independence and freedom

*Excerpted from a study of Henry David Thoreau by Ira Chernus, Professor of Religious Studies, Univ. of Colorado*

Mind is the way to the absolute. This led Henry David Thoreau to a principle that was absolutely crucial for him: since every person's mind is different, every person has their own unique route to the absolute. Everyone has their own unique way to fit into the divine plan. "I would have each one be very careful and find out his own way, and not his father's or his mother's or his neighbor's instead." So he urged everyone to dig always deeper toward the truth: "Be a Columbus to whole new continents and worlds within you, opening new channels, not of trade, but of thought. Every man is the lord of a realm beside which the earthly empire of the Czar is but a petty state.... Explore the private sea, the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean of one's own being.... Let them wander and scrutinize the outlandish Australians. I have more of God, they more of the road."

Thoreau made this notion the center of his philosophy. If each person's way to truth is different, then each person's path in life must be unique. The goal of life is to discover and fulfill one's own destiny, not to accept it second-hand from others: "If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away." The only way to discover the truth of reality is to follow one's own conscience.

The great evil of human life is conformity to the beliefs, values, and behaviors of others. Yet conformity was virtually all that Thoreau saw around him, in Boston and its suburbs in the 1830s and 1840s. A man expressing his own opinion was "a phenomenon so rare that I would any day walk ten miles to observe it." He understood that every society produces social institutions and routines that confine the individual. But he saw conformity to the rules and routines made by others as the main threat to the independent search for the truth. And he saw political life as a constant spur to conformity, because it is always a matter of coercion. Yet Thoreau did not blame political leaders. When they impose their will on the masses, he said, the fault lies with the masses who let themselves be coerced.

Thoreau added economic to political analysis. He lived at a time when industrialization and the new market economy were changing every aspect of life. His main complaint was that the dominance of marketplace thinking reduced all individual freedom to the economic terms of free enterprise—the freedom to produce, sell, and buy goods. Therefore people no longer understood the real meaning of human freedom. He lamented the "seemingly wealthy, but most terribly impoverished class of all, who have accumulated dross, but know not how to use it, or get rid of it, and thus have forged their own golden or silver fetters." People were fascinated by the rapid advances in technology and the freedom it seemed to open up. But their lives were being narrowed to fit the confines of what technology allowed and demanded: "But lo! Men have become the tools of their tools." Most people cared only about the trivial and superficial aspects of life related to material goods. Moreover, the luxuries of life were too often produced by systems that depended, somewhere along the line, on slavery or war.

"Simplify, simplify," was Thoreau's famous prescription. A person who does not own or use luxuries does not have to depend on the market economy. Therefore he or she can escape its corrupting influence and superficial life. "The only true America is that country where you are at liberty to pursue such a mode of life as may enable you to do without these [material luxuries], and where the state does not endeavor to compel you to sustain the slavery and war and other superfluous expenses which directly or indirectly result from the use of such things." With enough simplicity, he argued, a person can become really free, which means free to improve the self morally and indeed to re-create the self. "I know of no more encouraging fact than the unquestionable ability of man to elevate his life by conscious endeavor."

# Freedom

by Fran Hart

Independence is defined as “freedom from the control, influence, support, aid, or the like, of others.” This should not be confused with freedom from consequence. My first taste of freedom came when I learned to ride a bicycle. I quickly appreciated the exhilaration of speeding around the neighborhood. I learned that hitting bumps can lead to skinned knees, braking too quickly can lead to unexpected dismounts, and riding too far meant having to find my way home, and to be back in time for meals or risk missing them.

Acquiring my driver’s license offered me significant freedom - but that was eclipsed by the freedom I found after I left home. Like many who suddenly find themselves free of imposed consequences, I began to test the boundaries of my new freedom ... and again found myself having to learn about natural consequences.

As we mature, the transition from rules imposed by our parents to life as an adult is similar to the transition from following the laws of Moses, to following the law of the Spirit - “because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.” In this freedom, “there is no condemnation”. (*Romans 8:1,2*) Jesus fulfilled Isaiah’s prophesy, proclaiming our freedom. This is the good news, but it is not without challenge.

In the Psalm 119, David speaks of freedom within the law: “I will always obey Your Law, forever and ever. I will walk as a free man, for I look for Your Law.” (*Psalms 119:44-45 NLV*) He describes the joy of living within the precepts of God’s word. In the New Testament we learn that living by the letter of the law is not the path of righteousness. Rather, it is by the Spirit that we are free. “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” (*2 Corinthians 3:17*) To be clear, freedom is not lawless. “But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” (*Galatians 5:13b-14*)

When we are young, our parents laid down rules and set expectations for obedience. Most of us have left

home and our now operating with some level of independence. God has adopted us as his children, and is calling us to be mature Christians. “The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.” (*Romans 8:16*) In maturing, we learn to make wise choices. Paul speaks of the risk found in freedom when he reminds us in his message to the Corinthians that “‘Everything is permissible’—but not everything is beneficial. ‘Everything is permissible’—but not everything is constructive.” (*1 Corinthians 6:12*) As children of God, we are afforded the freedom of choice, and allowed to learn from the consequences.

Paul cautions against giving in to natural desires. “So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.” (*Galatians 5:16-17*) We are not required to choose to obey God and rely on Him, our Father, for all things – but it is the right thing to do. Unfortunately, like rebellious children, our tendency is to turn away from God and to disregard his will for us. This sentiment is captured in one of our hymns, “Come Thou Fount”:

*Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave  
the God I love;  
Here's my heart, Oh take and seal it, seal it for  
thy courts above.*

With our hearts bearing the heavenly seal, we should “speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom.” (*James 2:12*) We are called to celebrate our independence by submitting to God’s law, giving Him control, and obeying His will.

## FAITH PARTNERS AT CEC: *A Testimonial*

In my "former" life, I was married to an alcoholic. I was a young bride (too young) and had never been exposed to any addiction behaviors before. I thought that my (former) husband just liked to have a beer now and then. Boy, was I mistaken. If only I had known about Al Anon or AA, I think life might have been more manageable. I had no idea that Al Anon or AA even existed!

Today, my life is very different and I am very thankful for it! Having gone through 13 years of living with a person addicted to alcohol, I felt it important to be a source of comfort and information to those who may be walking in my old shoes today. This is why I have joined forces with CEC's new ministry, Faith Partners. Faith Partners' ministers are here to provide a safe and confidential avenue to bring help to those who need it.

Over the next few months you will be hearing more about Faith Partners. If you or a loved one is in need of assistance, please contact Robert Wren, Elizabeth Burba, Tish Rogers, or myself.

God's Peace!  
Marilee Verdesca

## A Prayer for Loved Ones in Iraq

*from ExploreFaith.org*

Gracious God, I ask that your hand of protection be on all those who are serving in Iraq, especially \_\_\_\_\_ . It is hard to endure the separation from the ones we love and our hearts feel ragged with worry at times because of the danger they might be in. While our hearts are filled with deep love, our love alone cannot bring \_\_\_\_\_ back to us safely. So, I pray that you will do for them what we are unable to do. I pray also that when they are troubled by fear, confusion, loneliness, and doubt that you will wrap them in your embrace until the time of turbulence has passed. May your love bring them peace and strength and the certainty of knowing they are loved. I ask this in your name. Amen.

## How to Raise a Juvenile Delinquent

*by W. Clement Stone*

Very often, it is possible to use a negative approach to achieve a positive action. One of the finest examples of this technique is the following set of rules from The Presbyterian Journal. Negative and shocking in their context, they were written to provoke every parent into taking one or more positive steps. How many of these rules for the raising of a juvenile delinquent are you following?

1. Begin from infancy to give the child everything he wants. This way he will grow up to believe that they world owes him a living.
2. When he picks up bad words, laugh at him. It will encourage him to pick up "cuter" phrases that will blow the top off your head later.
3. Never give him any spiritual training. Wait until he is twenty-one and then let him decide for himself.
4. Avoid the use of the word "wrong". It may develop a guilt complex. This will condition him to believe later, when he is arrested for stealing a car, that society is against him and he is being persecuted.
5. Pick up anything he leaves lying around--books, shoes, clothing. Do everything for him so he will be experienced in throwing the responsibility onto others.
6. Let him read any printed matter he can get his hands on. Be careful the silverware and drinking glasses are sterilized, but let his mind feed on garbage.
7. Quarrel frequently in the presence of the children. Then they won't be too shocked when the home is broken up.
8. Give the child all the spending money he wants. Never let him earn his own. Why should he have things as tough as you had them?
9. Satisfy his every craving for food, drink, and comfort. See that every desire is gratified. Denial may lead to harmful frustrations.
10. Take his part against the neighbors, teachers, and police men. They are all prejudiced against your child.
11. When he gets into real trouble, apologize for yourself by saying, "I never could do anything with him." Prepare for a life of grief--you will have it.

Summertime,  
And the livin' is easy  
Fish are jumpin'  
And the cotton is high

Your daddy's rich  
And your mamma's good lookin'  
So hush little baby  
Don't you cry

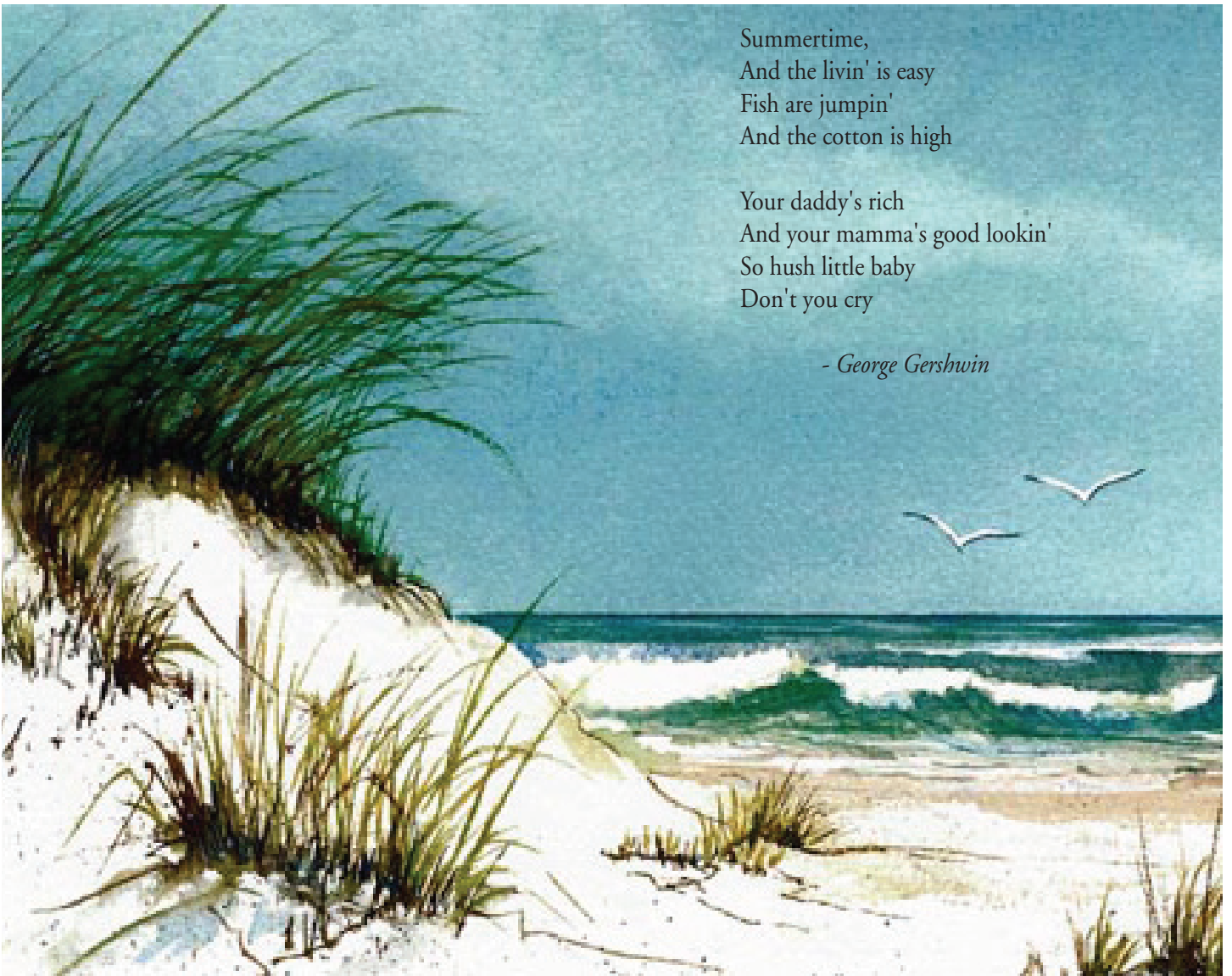
One of these mornings  
You're going to rise up singing  
Then you'll spread your wings  
And you'll take to the sky

But till that morning  
There's a'nothing can harm you  
With daddy and mamma standing by

Summertime,  
And the livin' is easy  
Fish are jumpin'  
And the cotton is high

Your daddy's rich  
And your mamma's good lookin'  
So hush little baby  
Don't you cry

*- George Gershwin*



## JULY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

### July 6

10:30 a.m. Travis Krischke/Bill Sterling: **Lectors**  
Travis Krischke/Bill Sterling: **LEMs**  
Jobie Guzman/Kathy & Cindy: **Altar Guild**  
Travis & Joel Holliman: **Ushers**  
Suzie Scanlon/Joel Holliman: **Accolytes**  
Fran Hart: **Geek at the Wheel**

### July 13

10:30 a.m. Fran & Jim Hart: **Lectors**  
Fran & Jim Hart: **LEMs**  
Martha McEver: **Altar Guild**  
Mandy Moore/Mike Reeh: **Ushers**  
Jonah Reeh/Adam Uthoff: **Accolytes**  
Randall Holahan: **Geek at the Wheel**

### July 20

10:30 a.m. Kathryn Bonner/Kathy Wood: **Lectors**  
Kathryn Bonner/Jeanette Holahan: **LEMs**  
Cathy Valusek: **Altar Guild**  
Belz Family: **Ushers**  
Travis Hart/Gianna Gordy: **Accolytes**  
Katie Scanlon: **Geek at the Wheel**

### July 27

10:30 a.m. Marilee Verdesca/Joan Steele: **Lectors**  
Marilee Verdesca/Joan Steele: **LEMs**  
Travis & Garrett Krischke: **Ushers**  
Suzie & Emily Scanlon: **Accolytes**  
Cindy Wells/Jobie Guzman: **Altar Guild**  
Tony Martinez: **Geek at the Wheel**

### Aug. 3

10:30 a.m. Jan Halstead/Charlie Cole: **Lectors**  
Jan & Jerry Halstead: **LEMs**  
Brittany Alvarez/Elena Martinez: **Accolytes**  
Jobie Guzman/Kathy & Cindy: **Altar Guild**  
Travis Hart: **Geek at the Wheel**

**Vestry Person for Month of July: David Enders**  
**Offering Counter for Month of June: Robert Wren**

## How about some spiritual rejuvenation?

Applications for Cursillo #221, running from August 7-10, are now being accepted. If you have not had the opportunity to attend a Cursillo weekend, your CEC and Austin Convocation Cursillistas urge you to prayerfully consider what many describe as “Awesome!” “Amazing!” “Life-changing!” and “Blessed!”

If God has been tugging on your heart to spend some quality time with Him, Cursillo is a great place to start. For more information and/or an applications, please contact Jeanette Holahan at [Jeanette@randallh.com](mailto:Jeanette@randallh.com).

## Top Ten Helpful Church Definitions

*submitted to Trumpet by Bernie Davies*

1. AMEN: The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.
2. BULLETIN: Your receipt for attending church.
3. CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the Parish to lip-synch.
4. HOLY WATER: A liquid whose chemical formul is H2OLY.
5. HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.
6. RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song of the service, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.
7. INCENSE: Holy Smoke!
8. JESUITS: An order of priests known for their ability to find colleges with good basketball teams.
9. JONAH: The original “Jaws” story.
10. JUSTICE: When kids have kids of their own.

