



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

June 2008

Top Ten signs CEC will continue to be a blessing as we move into the summer months

- #10 New visitors continue to attend Sunday worship as they move into our area!
- #9 New state of the art air conditioners create a better spirit-filled worship environment!
- #8 New freezer for Hospitality committee comes in handy during hot months!
- #7 There's excitement over refurbishing classrooms and nursery renovation!
- #6 The number of kids attending Children's Chapel at the 10:30 service doesn't slow down!
- #5 Members give birth to new outreach ministries!
- #4 Ministry leaders make new plans for upcoming parish programs to begin in the fall.
- #3 VBA "Christianity Going Global" makes for an awesome week with our kids!
- #2 Parking expands beyond the pavement creating additional space for visitor parking!

And the number one sign CEC will continue to be a blessing as we move into the summer months...

- #1 The new road construction moves closer to its completion date; thus providing at our entrance our very own turn in lane, road crossover median and new driveway with an expanded paved parking lot!

Blessings,
Bruce †

New Church AC!
If you chill it...
they will fill it!

Nursery Renovation
If they crawl...
they'll have a ball!

Our Own Turn Lane!
Never easier to turn
your life around!

Is Faith Enough?

by Fran Hart

A few weeks ago, a trio from a local Baptist congregation stopped by my home in a door-to-door campaign. We chatted briefly, and at one point they asked if I was going to heaven. What an impertinent question!?! I wish I'd had Paul's answer at the ready: "I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me." (*1 Corinthians 4:3-4*)

I did protest that it was not for me to declare myself heaven-worthy. And their response? If you have accepted Christ as your Savior, then you are guaranteed entrance into Heaven. It turns out this is a widely held belief, but I protested - the answer is not quite this simple. In hindsight, I wish I'd invited them in for coffee and a theological discussion.

Jesus tells us "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.... Everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand." (*Matthew 7:21, 26*) When questioned directly "What good thing must I do to get eternal life?" Jesus responded, "Obey the commandments." (*Matthew 19:16-17*)

We are accountable for our actions. We can't settle for the easy answer of accepting God's grace without acting on that grace. Accepting Jesus as our Savior is not a statement, it is a way of life. "I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life." (*Matthew 25:45-46*)

Paul references Psalm 62 and Proverbs 24 when he says "God 'will give to each person according to what he has done.' To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal

life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger." (*Romans 2:6-8*) Paul goes on to confirm that God's grace reigns through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. We are now "slaves to righteousness" and therefore called to obedience. "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (*Romans 5:21, Romans 6:15-23*)

We are saved from our sins not because of our good works, but in order to do good works. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (*Ephesians 2:8-10*) Jesus' brother, James, writes "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith, but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? ... faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." (*James 2:14-17*)

Am I going to heaven? I went to www.areyougoingtoheaven.com and took the quiz (yes, there really is such a website) and got a score of 100, although there is no reference to right actions (and I "fudged" some responses). I turned back to the Bible and found comfort in Paul's message to Timothy regarding the measure of God's grace: Our faith requires us to seek a life of righteousness, and so we are saved. "Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen." (*1 Timothy 1:15-17*)

Faith Partners brings the strength of community to those in recovery

This spring, 84 members of Christ Church completed a questionnaire about alcohol and drug abuse. The responses (see next article) indicated that Faith Partners is an idea whose time has come. This ministry is a coalition, a network, of dozens of churches in several states, which is founded on more than 15 years of experience. Your team here has just completed a first round of formal training,

Substance abuse is America's #1 preventable illness. Clergy and churches are equal with doctors as the place people turn to with problems of substance abuse. Informed clergy and trained members offer hope to those who suffer and to those who want to prevent substance abuse. The hallmark of a healthy and healing congregation is permission to openly discuss alcohol and other drugs without automatic judgment. Formally trained, supported by the clergy, and with your help, the Faith Partners team hopes to:

- 1) provide materials, events, and programs of education
- 2) provide specific support, assistance and referral to services for individuals and families in trouble and
- 3) recognize and honor successful recovery

The information that follows comes from the Greater Dallas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, with information updated as of March, 2006. It is about alcohol, but several of the sources cited will give you drug information as well. Watch for more information in the Trumpet and the weekly electronic newsletter as the team gets established and begins its work. And please pray for this ministry and for those who are hurting.

-Elizabeth Burba

Faith Partners Survey Results

A few weeks ago, one of our congregants, Robert Wren, gave a brief talk about his recovery as a family member effected by his son's addiction. Following Robert's talk, 84 people turned in a questionnaire/survey about their opinions and experience with addiction and recovery.

Below are some highlights from the analysis completed at the University of Texas. If you would like to see the entire analysis, please contact Elizabeth Burba at 259-1345. The overall results showed strong support for a ministry such as Faith Partners.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Percentage of people who think it is very important for our congregation to help those who may have problems with alcohol or drugs : 69%
- Percentage of people who support offering programs about addictions and recovery: 84%
- Percentage of people who support offering programs about prevention: 87%
- Percentage of people who want to learn more about prevention: 58%

Note: 1 in 3 respondents reported that a family member has a problem with alcohol. More than 1 in 5 respondents reported that a family member has a problem with drugs.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

- Matthew 5:3-9

-Marilee Verdesca

The Facts on Alcoholism

INTRODUCTION

Every year, more money is spent promoting the use of alcohol than any other product. Perhaps through its elaborate and creative marketing, the most basic, yet important fact about alcohol is often overlooked – alcohol is a drug – the most commonly used and widely abused psychoactive drug in the world.

One concept that many people find difficult to accept is that alcoholism and alcohol problems are a disease. Research has shown that alcohol interacts with the body's systems in predictable ways to lead to physiological addiction.

Alcoholism is a disease – a chronic, progressive, fatal disease if not treated.

SHORT TERM EFFECTS

Even at low doses, alcohol significantly impairs the judgment and coordination required to drive a car or operate machinery safely. Low to moderate doses of alcohol can also increase the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts, including domestic violence and child abuse.

Effects of moderate alcohol intake include dizziness and talkativeness. The immediate effects of a larger amount of alcohol include slurred speech, disturbed sleep, nausea, and vomiting. "Hangovers" are another effect after large amounts of alcohol are consumed – symptoms including headache, nausea, thirst, dizziness, and fatigue

LONG TERM EFFECTS

Prolonged, heavy use of alcohol can lead to addiction (alcoholism). Sudden cessation of long term, extensive alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, and convulsions.

Long-term effects of consuming large quantities of alcohol can lead to:

- permanent damage to vital organs
- several different types of cancer
- gastrointestinal irritations, such as nausea, diarrhea and ulcers
- malnutrition and nutritional deficiencies
- sexual dysfunctions
- high blood pressure
- lowered resistance to disease

Mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with fetal alcohol syndrome. These infants may suffer from mental retardation and other irreversible physical abnormalities. In addition, research indicates that children of alcoholic parents are at greater risk than other children of becoming alcoholics.

ALCOHOL IMPAIRMENT

Despite the tireless efforts of thousands of advocates, impaired drivers continue to kill someone every 30 minutes, nearly 50 people a day, and almost 18,000 citizens a year. Remember – impairment begins with the first drink.

Alcohol affects individuals differently. Your blood alcohol level is affected by your age, weight, gender, time of day, physical condition, prior amount of food consumed, other drugs or medication taken, and a multitude of other factors. In addition, different drinks may contain different amounts of alcohol, so it's important to know how much and the concentration of alcohol you consume.

The body metabolizes alcohol at the rate of about one drink per hour. Does drinking strong coffee or taking a cold shower have an effect on the person who is drunk? The answer is yes – the result being an alert, cold, and wet drunk. **TIME, AND ONLY TIME** can sober a person up.

ALCOHOL STATISTICS

More than 100,000 U.S. deaths are caused by excessive alcohol consumption each year. Direct and indirect causes of death include drunken driving, cirrhosis of the liver, falls, cancer, and stroke. Among current adult drinkers, more than half say they have a blood relative who is or was an alcoholic or problem drinker. **ALCOHOL IS THE MOST COMMONLY USED DRUG AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE.**

- Substance Abuse: The Nation's Number One Health Problem, Feb. 2001

At least once a year, the guidelines for low risk drinking are exceeded by an estimated 74% of male drinkers and 72% of female drinkers aged 21 and older. **ALCOHOL KILLS 6-1/2 TIMES MORE YOUTH THAN ALL OTHER DRUGS COMBINED.**

- Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Youth who drink alcohol are 50 times more likely to use cocaine than those who never drink alcohol.

- National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse

Traffic crashes are the greatest single cause of death for persons aged 6-33. About 45% of these fatalities are in alcohol-related crashes.

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Nearly 14 million Americans meet diagnostic criteria for alcohol use disorders.

- Alcohol Health and Research World

More than 18% of Americans experience alcohol abuse or alcohol dependence at some time in their lives.

- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Analysis

Sixty-five percent of youth surveyed said that they got the alcohol they drink from family and friends.

-The Century Council

June MINISTRY SCHEDULE

June 1

10:30 a.m. Fran & Jim Hart: **Lectors**
Fran & Jim Hart: **LEMs**
Kathy Valusek: **Altar Guild**
Mandy Moore/Garrett Krischke: **Ushers**
Suzie & Emily Scanlon: **Accolytes**
Charlie Cole/Katie Scanlon: **Geek at the Wheel**

June 8

10:30 a.m. Travis Krischke/Randall Holahan: **Lectors**
Travis Krischke/Randall Holahan: **LEMs**
Jobie Guzman: **Altar Guild**
Belz Family: **Ushers**
Anaisa Kalita/Elias Martinez: **Accolytes**
Travis Hart: **Geek at the Wheel**

June 15

10:30 a.m. Sarah Martinez/Kathryn Bonner: **Lectors**
Sarah Martinez/Kathryn Bonner: **LEMs**
Martha McEver: **Altar Guild**
Elias & Tony Martinez: **Ushers**
Amelia Gossett/Joel Holliman: **Accolytes**
Randall Holahan: **Geek at the Wheel**

June 22

10:30 a.m. Joan Steele/Jan Buntebart: **Lectors**
Joan Steele/Jan Buntebart: **LEMs**
Michael Reeh/Frank Wells: **Ushers**
Jonah Reeh/Gianna Gordy: **Accolytes**
Polly Enders: **Altar Guild**
Tony Martinez: **Geek at the Wheel**

June 29

10:30 a.m. Jan & Jerry Halstead: **Lectors**
Jan & Jerry Halstead: **LEMs**
Alex Rogers/Adam Uthoff: **Accolytes**
Travis Hart/Hayden Rangel: **Ushers**
Kathy Valusek: **Altar Guild**
Suzie Scanlon: **Geek at the Wheel**

Vestry Person for Month of June:
Jim Hart

Offering Counter for Month of June:
Sarah Short

A very short Father's Day story with dogs, housepainting and yardwork

by David Enders

One of our neighbors died not long ago. He was a man in his 70's, maybe 80's, who often wore a fedora with style -- as only an old-timer can do -- and he took his German Shepherd dog for long walks around the neighborhood. I didn't know him very well, but he had a quality about him that made him one of those people you like to have in your neighborhood. His dogs (and he went through a few since we've been in the neighborhood) were always well mannered, calm, and heeled to his every command. He had the complete trust and confidence of those dogs. The dogs looked like they were proud of him and he was proud of them as well.

We had very few and short conversations over the years, but they were always of a rare quality. One weekend, many years ago, when I was a new father I was painting our house because we would soon put it up for sale to move all of one block away to a bigger house. With the birth of our son, we needed more space. I had been up and down ladders, on the roof, and all over that house for days working and sweating. I noticed our neighbor from across the street coming up our driveway with his German Shepherd dog quietly and obediently by his side. Just like his dogs, he kept his home and yard in tip-top shape and I expected maybe he was coming by to give me some pointers or advice because I have a tendency to do things the hard way. I was wrong. He told me, "I just want you to know I've been watching how hard you've been working and I think you are doing a great job!"

The old house was painted, sold, and we moved one street over from our old neighbor, but we would still see him almost daily on his long walks with the German Shepherd dog. He stopped once as I was doing lawn work in the front yard of our new home. "Now I'm mad at you," he joked. "My wife says we used to have the prettiest house in the neighborhood, but now she says you do."

I guess that is what I liked about our neighbor. He was the one guy that looked like he truly knew how to do things right, yet he would never lecture you. In fact, he went out of his way to let you know you were doing just fine. Everybody must find their own way and that is good enough.

Happy Father's Day Mr. Grunt.

