



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

March 2008

Special Gifts from God!

Dear Friends,

As we move through this season of Lent towards the Resurrection of Easter, I have been renewed in so many ways by experiencing special gifts from God.

On February 16, our church became a parish at the 159th Council of the Diocese of Texas. Many of you made the trip to Galveston to be a part of this special induction. Jim Craig announced our arrival with a series of trumpet blasts of "charge!" We then marched in singing with tears in our eyes: "When the Saints go Marching In!" It was a special moment! I had asked previous Christ Church vicars the Rev's. Robert Wareing, Doug Richnow and Mary Green to march in with us. It was a special emotional moment for them too.

I know that everyone could not make the bus trip to Galveston to be a part of this special event, but I do know you were with us in prayer. I certainly felt and experienced your prayers as I was able to speak and address all the gathered delegated members of our Diocese who were assembled at Council as we celebrated Christ Church becoming a parish. It was indeed a special moment I will cherish the rest of my life! What a special gift God has given to us! In my address to the Council I wanted to bring glory to God for this moment and acknowledge the gift we all share in Jesus Christ. I read St. Paul's words from 2 Corinthians 5: "If it seems we are crazy, it is to bring glory to God. And if we are in our right minds, it is for your benefit. Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have

all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun...And all of this is a gift from God."

Easter is about new beginnings in God's special gift to us through Jesus Christ. I can't think of any better words to describe what our Lenten journey pointing us towards the Resurrection of Easter is all about! A new life has begun in us all as a parish community through our Lord and Savior! There is still much work to do and I am looking forward to what God has in store for us as we continue the journey to live into the vision and mission He is calling us towards: "To seek and serve Christ in others, by loving our neighbor as ourselves." God's special gifts bless us abundantly with His grace and love – "Let us bless the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia!"

Peace,
Bruce†



Stations of the Cross is a blessed and unique part of the Christ Episcopal Church community

by *Burl Judy*

Look out the windows of Christ Episcopal Church and you will see beautiful live oak trees with a path meandering through them. Along the path, you may also notice a bronze rooster, a crucifix, a crown of thorns, a tomb. You can't miss the black kiosks that explain just what this unique architectural landscape is all about: CEC's Stations of the Cross. Fourteen of the stations along the crushed granite pathway wander through acres of property just south of the church. The fourteen stations are clearly marked and the kiosks include biblical narrative that travelers can read and meditate on before moving on. The stations are laid out on the path in order from Station One (The Last Supper) near the labyrinth to Station Fourteen (The Tomb Where Jesus Was Laid) ... and where Jesus arose to new life which is placed, appropriately enough, directly behind our church altar.

The path is 1,310 feet long and takes approximately 30-45 minutes to walk, but you will want to take your time. Sit on a bench by each station and meditate for as long as you desire. The stations are designed to be walked as a group or by a single individual and are open 24/7. Lighting along the path and kiosks is planned for the future. The stations are non-denominational and all churches and interested individuals are invited to walk.

The stations were begun in 2004 by volunteers from our church. In fact, more than 85 percent of the work done so far has been done by church members. Only three stations have been done by outside contractors. But there is still so much to be done and, in time, Christ Episcopal Church will have something unique that will draw other churches and visitors from near and far. We have already had visitors from as far away as Houston, Taylor, Georgetown, Marble Falls, Lago Vista, and Austin come to visit our Stations. They have

heard via word of mouth and through the church's website (cectx.org) and were interested enough to make the trip. Comments from visitors have always been positive and some have even offered donations towards further work.

The next planned workday is to raise the hill (Calvary) by two feet and realign the three crosses. Raising Calvary is necessary because the three crosses were not set deeply enough and need more support from the wind. This work day for raising the hill is planned for the latter part of March or the first part of April. The work day will be announced in the weekly bulletin so be sure to come out and help us raise the hill. If you are new to our church, you will find that these "work days" are a great way to meet other members of our community.

Funding for the continuation of the Stations is always ongoing and, of course, voluntary. There is still much to be done. One way to make a contribution is to add yours or your family's name to the Calvary Sponsorship Board located in the back of the church. For a donation of \$50 or more you can have a gold plate placed on the board. You may dedicate your plate "in memory of," or anything else that you desire, but remember the plate is one inch wide by two inches long, so space is limited. The application for a plate is immediately beneath the Calvary board. If you are donating via check, please indicate in the memo section that it is for the Stations of the Cross.

If you are new to CEC or you are just visiting and would like to tour the Stations after the worship service, I would be very pleased to escort you. Ask any church member to point me out to you...everyone knows me. My name is Burl Judy and I'm proud to be a Christian.

He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver

Malachi 3:3

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study. That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining Silver. As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities. The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot; then she thought again about the verse that says: 'He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver.' She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed. The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, 'How do you know when the silver is fully refined?' He smiled at her and answered, 'Oh, that's easy -- when I see my image in it.'

Out of our suffering is an opportunity for healing and wholeness

by Fran Hart

There was a beggar, blind since birth, who could be found on most days sitting in his usual spot near the entrance of a local church. One morning, he heard some men approaching. Soon he realized he was the topic of their discussion! “Surely this man is a sinner! Is it possible God cursed him with blindness at birth for sins he’d yet committed?”

“No, his blindness is punishment for his parents’ sins. He’s a burden on society and his parents must be ashamed for so obviously displeasing God.”

“You’re both wrong,” a third man said. “This man’s afflicted so that a miracle might be performed to show God’s power. While there is light, we must show what God can do. I am the light of the world by which you can do God’s work.”

While the third man was talking, he scooped some dirt into his hand, spit and made a mud paste which he pressed onto the beggar’s eyes.

“Now go down to the river and wash the mud from your eyes,” the third man said. The bewildered beggar did as he was told. At the river’s edge he bent and washed the mud from his face, and soon realized that for the first time in his life, he could see.

(inspired by John 9:1-6)

“This” has happened so that God can demonstrate His mighty power. I can find no better explanation for why bad things happen to good people. The Bible tells us that it is a blessing to suffer: Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. ... Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. (James 1:2-4,12)

We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (Romans 5:3-5)

When we suffer, we have an opportunity to seek God, and God has an opportunity to demonstrate His power. And we have an opportunity to be closer to God and to share our stories with others so they might find comfort.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

We’re not exempt from suffering, but that doesn’t mean our suffering is meant to be prolonged. When we find ourselves in a place of suffering, we should seek healing.

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. (James 5:13-16)

Through our suffering we glorify God by letting God put an end to our suffering.

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12:2-3)

And finally, remember, God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. (1 Corinthians 12:25-27)

The Wayward Bus: On becoming a parish

by David Enders

*I pray you all give your audience,
And hear this matter with reverence,
By figure a moral play --.
The Summoning of Everyman called it is,
That of our lives and ending shows
How transitory we be all day.*

- From the English Morality Play "Everyman"

By 6 a.m. we should have been on our way that cold, gray morning. But it was now 6:30 and our bus had not arrived. We knew all too well that it is not difficult to miss our church in the dark and this morning was particularly foggy. It is also understandable as most drivers are navigating the dangerous S-curve on FM 1431, they generally don't have the opportunity to glance left or right to enjoy the peaceful scenery – they are rightfully concerned for their life. Our church has always been hard to see...you really, really have to be looking for it.

Someone checked with the bus company and they confirmed that the bus driver had passed by some time ago and was now in Jonestown. He came by again about 6:45 and almost missed the driveway again, but one thoughtful parishioner parked by FM 1431 with parking lights on to flag down the wayard bus. Sometimes, you just have to make it obvious that you exist in this world.

After 22 years of journeying in faith as a mission, Christ Episcopal Church was finally on the road to the Diocesan Council meeting in Galveston and becoming an official parish. Our bus had arrived. Barry, the bus driver, was a nice enough fellow and extraordinarily cheerful at 6:45 in the morning. He apologized for missing us the first time around and estimated that we would arrive at the Moody Garden Convention Center between 10:45 and 10:50 a.m. I thought this certainly was a specific prediction, especially with this weather: fog, violent storms, possibly hail and even tornadoes had been predicted the night before. A misty rain was falling. Barry seemed none too concerned and drove on steadily through the fog. He drove in no particular hurry, but steadily and enjoying himself as much as possible chatting with parishioners in the first few rows. He was exactly right: we arrived at the door at 10:47 a.m. just as he had prophesied, plenty of time to grab lunch, browse the exhibits and reconvene at 1 p.m. for

the grand parade which would mark our entrance into parish life.

Many faces from the past appeared as the time grew near. The Rev. Robert Waring; Doug Richnow; Mary Green, our vicar when my family first attended CEC; even Brad, our interim priest during some lean years; and of course, Bruce, our first ever rector. All were ready and waiting at the council meeting.

With a trumpet call from Jim Craig announcing our entrance, (the same trumpet he blew when our church first became a mission 22 years ago -- the same trumpet which lends its name to this newsletter) some seventy-something CEC members paraded into the convention hall singing "As the Saints Come Marching In." Bruce made some remarks to the council on how the real journey of our church had just begun. How we were finally in a position to really begin looking outward and fulfilling our mission in the world: Seeking and serving Christ in others, by loving our neighbor as ourselves. Bruce called his wife, Kathryn, who was sick and could not make the trip, from the stage so she could be a part of the celebration.

There were some congratulations all around, some quick photo ops, and a short prayer of thanks and praise as we reconvened outside the convention hall.

The bus was waiting...Barry was smiling. We loaded up and headed back home. The ride home had some rough weather reminding us it won't always be smooth sailing – becoming a parish is by no means the end of the road. Despite the storms, there was a general calm on the bus and an excitement too...but a calm excitement. Folks were talking, making plans for our new parish church, discussing endless possibilities. There seemed to be no doubt we would make it home OK and it didn't matter so much when.

Finally arriving back in the Austin area, the clouds broke just as the sun began to set. It is amazing how one can travel in day. From a warm bed to a cold bus stop. From Leander to Galveston. From mission church to parish. From cloudy to sunny. From inspirational to mundane. It is also all too apparent that God has places for us to go, important things for us as a church to do. So we might as well enjoy our work, enjoy each other, and enjoy the trip. With a good bus driver, we know we can always make it home.

When The Saints...



Go Marching In.



Christ Episcopal Church becomes a parish at the Feb. 16 Diocesan Council meeting in Galveston.





Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas:

We are one Church reconciled by Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called by God through worship, witness, and ministry, building the Kingdom of God together.

Mission of Christ Episcopal Church Parish:

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



MARCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

March 2

10:30 a.m. Suzie Scanlon/Joan Steele: **Lectors**
Jan Buntebart/Joan Steele: **LEMs**
Cindy Wells/Jennie Krischke: **Hosp**
Polly Enders/Betty Sigler: **Altar Guild**
Mandy Moore/Hayden Rangel: **Ushers**
Rachel Holliman/Elias Martinez: **Accolytes**

March 9

10:30 a.m. Burl Judy/Bill Sterling: **Lectors**
Burl Judy/Bill Sterling: **LEMs**
Shirley Murphy/Cindie Scanlon: **Hosp**
Cathy Valusek: **Altar Guild**
Frank Wells/Travis Krischke: **Ushers**
Brittany Alvarez/Tony Alvarez: **Accolytes**

March 16

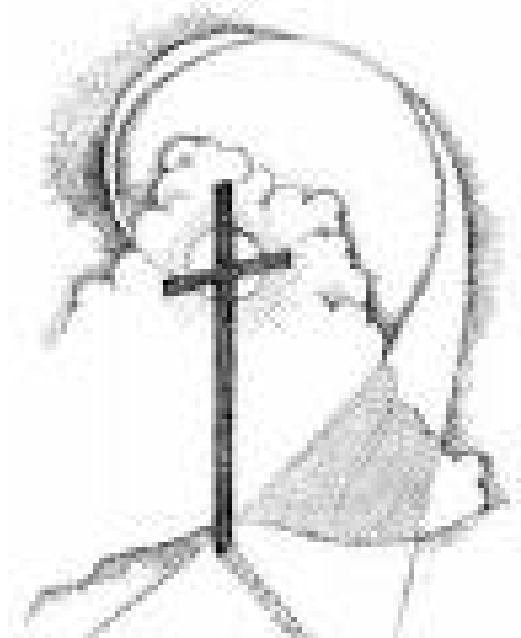
10:30 a.m. Wil Carmona/Jeanette Holahan: **Lectors**
Wil Carmona/Jeanette Holahan: **LEMs**
Fran Hart/Jan Buntebart: **Hospitality**
Jobie Guzman: **Altar Guild**
Arthur Callaway/Jennifer Krischke: **Ushers**
Suzie Scanlon/Joel Holliman: **Accolytes**

March 23

10:30 a.m. Jan Buntebart/Carolyn Dupy: **Lectors**
Jan Buntebart/Carolyn Dupy: **LEMs**
Muriel Kalita/Cindy Wells: **Hospitality**
Travis Hart/Michael Reeh: **Ushers**
Jonah Reeh/Gianna Gordy: **Accolytes**
Martha McEver: **Altar Guild**

March 30

10:30 a.m. Sarah Martinez/Randall Holahan: **Lectors**
Sarah Martinez/Randall Holahan: **LEMs**
Elizabeth Burba/Cindy Wells: **Hospitality**
Alex Rogers/Emily Scanlon: **Accolytes**
Tony and Elias Martinez: **Ushers**
Polly Enders/Betty Sigler: **Altar Guild**



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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:Kelly Thomas
Children's Sunday School: Brielle Giard 388-0175
Communications: ..Marilee Verdesca 864-1942
Connections Class: Rev. Bruce Bonner 267-2428
Cursillo: Randall & Jeanette Holahan 260-1774
Episcoplayers:.....Randall Holahan 260-1774
Flower Ministry:Jill McDonald 248-1938
Food Ministry: ..Cindy & Frank Wells 778-5421
God's Geeks:Fran Hart 291-2726
Greeters:.....Tony Alvarez 986-5678
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
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Trumpet:David Enders 259-4430
Ushers:Mandy Moore 528-9588
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Youth Ministry:Brandon Wilson 438-9036

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Charlie Cole & Sarah Martinez

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