



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

September 2008

By His Grace we are able to Celebrate!

“O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our Salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise”

(Psalm 95:1-2)

Dear Friends,

There are so many new and exciting things we can joyfully celebrate this month at Christ Church!

September 7th - The Amazing CEC Celebration: This will indeed be a joyful event for us all. Many thanks to Sarah Martinez and the Ministry Council for planning and making this special event come to life. The CEC celebration is about celebrating all our ministries at Christ Church. God is truly blessing us abundantly! If you are not currently involved in a particular ministry of our church and would like to know more and how to get involved ... well, this is your opportunity as we celebrate our lives and how we live them out by ministering through God's grace. Please feel free to come and attend our Amazing CEC Celebration after the 10:30 service on Sept 7th. There will also be hot dogs, cotton candy, snow cones and an inflatable air castle. The Men's Group will be providing BBQ chicken dinners with sides for eating on site or for take home dinners.

September 7th - The Amazing EYC Celebration Kick-off Swim Party and Planning Meeting for all Teens and Parents: The celebration will start at 5:00pm with swimming. Dinner will also be provided. After dinner will be have our teen and parent organizational planning meeting. Melissa Cox will serve as our youth minister and Thelma Thompson will lead our meeting. Our goal is to form a team of adult and youth council members to work together throughout the year on organization for ROOTS Wednesday night's activities and special event programs such as mission trips. Please attend this important meeting. Many thanks go to the Hart family for

providing their home and pool for hosting this important event. They are located at 4341 Rock Hill, Round Rock 78681. Their phone is 291-2726.

September 21st - Will be our Special Needs Awareness Sunday: On September 21 our church will focus special attention on how we can better support those around us with special needs. We are all God's children and we all have special gifts in how we serve each other. This Sunday is about new discovery. During our Sunday school time we will have special curriculum offered to all ages. We will also have special prayers and gospel refecton during our worship services.

September 20th - "Ripe for the Harvest" special gathering: We are asking for all Ministry Council leaders and anyone else who would like to attend this important meeting from 9:00 am until 2:00pm on Sept. 20th. A fabulous lunch will be provided. The Rev. Dr. Steven Rottgers will be consulting with us through this great new program. "Ripe for the Harvest" will take place on several Sundays through October and November. It is designed for us to incorporate many new opportunities for our church life as we step forward transitioning into new growth and vision. Please plan on attending this important initial meeting on Sept 20th. For more information contact Travis Krischke at traviskrischke@yahoo.com who will be our stewardship chair.

Let us truly celebrate with joy all our abundant blessings given to us through God's grace!

Peace,
Bruce†

This fall, CEC is "ripe for the harvest"

by Travis Krischke

Are you ready for the harvest? Are you ready, willing and able to help carry Christ Episcopal Church to the next level of maturity as a new parish? When I think of the word "ripe" and what it means to me I think of two things. First, I think of a piece of fruit that's reached it's full potential and is ready to be picked and eaten. Second, and not as pleasant, I think of something rotten, smelly and not to be eaten. Lucky for us "Ripe For The Harvest" is the former of these two examples!

So what is this whole harvest thing about anyway? Many of you have probably heard the buzz in ministry meetings, in the weekly announcements, or around the proverbial water cooler before church on Sunday morning. Very simply it is a new program that we'll be introducing in a few weeks to help CEC, as a congregation, bring to light our celebrations, pains and concerns, and dreams. By capturing the most important topics in each of these categories we will be able to prioritize, focus on, and effectuate improvements to the various ministries at CEC. Most importantly, everyone will be able to participate and be an integral part of this transformation

I want to share a personal faith story with you. I'll admit when I was asked to take over as the Stewardship ministry leader I was a bit apprehensive. A ton of doubts crept into

my mind. Would I have the ability to do a good job? Did I know enough about stewardship to really be effective? What if I failed and let the whole church down? And, most importantly, would I have the time, precious time, to devote to this ministry? My Mom always said "the Lord works in mysterious ways". This couldn't be more true for me. He brought me and my family back to CEC. He has enriched my relationship with my wife and children on a spiritual level more than I could ever imagine. He has provided more time in my busy day even when I know there really are only 24 hours in a day. And, he gave me the confidence to accept this leadership role knowing through him all things are possible.

As we all embark on this new, fun and exciting journey that is "Ripe For The Harvest" I would ask each of you to consider what God is calling you to do. Not so much in your mind but deep inside your heart. Our time is stretched thin with the demands of our careers, personal obligations, and other important involvements. On Saturday, September 20th, we'll be hosting Steven R. Rottgers, D. Min. at CEC for an exciting workshop to help us prepare for the harvest. I'd like to ask that you consider attending this event. We'll have fun, fellowship, door prizes, and maybe even a special appearance by the Holy Spirit!

Did you hear the one about the Holy Spirit? *I guess you had to be there.*

I have been asked to share with you something which is on my mind in the life of CEC. What a privilege! And, I happily comply.

The word which is on my mind today, and has been for some time now is PRESENCE. Something we all have all the time and are not sufficiently aware of. "Being There," a movie with Woody Allen years ago, was onto it. And I'm talking particularly of the presence at WORSHIP. Have you ever noticed after Sunday services, you will be able to remember who was "in Church" that morning? Try it. Have someone call out any name within the Congregation and you likely will be able to say whether they were there ... or not. We just are turned onto the presence of those here. Your presence is *felt* more than noticed.

I think it is true of Christ Episcopal Church that we feel good about being there. We enjoy the experience. It's not too much to say we can feel the presence of God. This is a pure

gift. And that experience is enhanced by the presence of all of us -- "the more the merrier". Why? Because it is centered; we are doing this together. The Psalmist says it so well "How good and pleasant it is when brothers (and sisters) live together in unity. ... It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion (or it was raining outside). For there the Lord bestows His blessing, even life forevermore!" (#133) It's nothing less than a little touch of Heaven.

That being true, the rest of the truth is that WHEN YOU'RE NOT THERE YOU ARE MISSED. That is true for each of us: We, all of us, constitute the church.

No guilt trip here, just the Gospel truth: if you are not in church on Sunday morning, you are missed. You are the body of Christ.

*Faithfully in the living Lord of love and PEACE,
Sid Gervais+*

Hill Country Community Ministries helps CEC help those in need

by Dorothy Keelin

I am appealing to my CEC family to help a ministry that is dear to my heart -- Hill Country Community Ministries. A ministry dedicated to helping those in need at a time when there is no where to turn.

I grew up in a family of nine to a hard-working mother and father on a small farm where faith in God was unquestionable. I knew too well some of the lean years when it was a struggle for my parents to make ends meet. HCCM is an organization specifically blessed to help out in those times. Those that turn to HCCM are people we know: someone who has just lost a job, someone who is facing mounting medical bills due to an illness in the family, or someone who is simply struggling to make ends meet in the midst of rising gas and food prices. These situations are very common in our community and HCCM is at the epicenter of organizations poised to serve the needs of the Hill Country. They serve an average of 300-350 families each month in Williamson and northwest Travis counties. HCCM provides food and clothing as well as financial assistance for rent, utility, dental needs and prescriptions. Seasonally, they also provide school supplies, fans, heaters, and food boxes at Thanksgiving.

Imagine an unemployed mother or father finally being called in for an interview and having nothing appropriate to

wear. HCCM provides a Clothes Closet offering gently used clothing and shoes for men, women and children. Real and immediate assistance like this makes a huge difference in the lives of those in need. Those who humbly turn to God and their neighbor when they need help with the basic needs we tend to all take for granted.

Summer time, in particular, is a challenging time for HCCM and the families they serve. Food and financial donations tend to decline, while demand for services remains high. HCCM has a critical need for food for the Food Pantry and donations to support the general fund. Participating churches are asked to donate a designated series of items. CEC's items include shampoo/conditioners, dish soap and bar soap, toothpaste, baby formula and baby food, and diapers. But any items are welcome as are gently worn clothes for the Clothes Closet.

This ministry has certainly enriched my life. The outpouring of generosity and the involvement from the hill country community in general and our church in particular is truly inspiring. As life gets busy this fall, please don't forget those in need. Those who have only their faith and friends like you to help pull them through difficult times.

*For more information: www.hccm.org
or Dorothy Keelin at dkeelin@att.net*

Founded in 1983, **Hill Country Community Ministries** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, a coalition of churches assisted by area businesses, civic organizations, service clubs and concerned individuals that provides food, clothing and financial assistance for people in crisis and those living in poverty in southwest Williamson and northwest Travis counties. Our goal is to serve our clients with dignity and compassion in an atmosphere of neighbor helping neighbor.

Mission Statement

We are people of faith cooperating in the love of Christ and neighbor to help those in need.

Core Values

- * Serving Christ by serving all people.
- * Dignifying the process of serving those in need.
- * Cooperating with churches, organizations and communities.
- * Respecting one another as we serve together.
- * Advocating on behalf of the powerless.

Vision Statement

We envision a future where Hill Country Community Ministries is the coordinator of choice for local church involvement personally impacting the health and welfare of under-resourced families and individuals. Responding to our neighbors in the Hill Country area, our ultimate goal is to break the grip of hardship and hopelessness.

How can I serve the Lord at Christ Episcopal Church?

A few ideas from existing ministries, but the sky is the limit at the Christ Episcopal Church "Amazing Celebration Sunday"

Angel Food Ministry

Angel Food Ministry provides good food and lots of it for a low price. Purchase of a box makes food budget dollars go farther and aids in getting out of debt and staying out.

Faith Partners Ministry

Faith Partners promotes prevention of substance abuse, provides referrals, and celebrates recovery. Contact Elizabeth Burba, Robert Wren, Tish Rogers, or Jan Halstead. Inquiries are confidential.

Liturgical Lay Ministry

Serving God and Christ Church as a Worship Leader (Lector) and/or Eucharistic Minister (Chalice Bearer).

Food Ministry

We deliver meals to families in our congregation who need help because of serious illness or death of a family member.

Pet Ministry

Learning about God's Kingdom through the eyes and unconditional love of our pets.

Prayer Ministry

Offering hope and encouragement through prayer for all who seek God's endless mercy.

Altar Guild Ministry

Whether it's setting His table for Sunday Eucharist or blowing up balloons for Pentecost Sunday, the Altar Guild meets the challenges of tradition meets contemporary in quiet, behind-the-scenes efficiency. We are blessed in our ministry and want to share that blessing and knowledge with any others that would like to participate.

God's Geeks Ministry

God's Geeks provide behind-the-scenes support for our Sunday Services. We click and drag so you can sing and pray.

Ushers Ministry

Shepherding God's people into worship is how we serve.

Children's Ministry

Encouraging children and their families to enjoy and embrace their walk in faith through Christ-centered, kid-friendly children's programming.

Hospitality Ministry

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing. (Hebrews 13:2)
Everyone is invited for light refreshments following the Sunday services. We meet either in the Hospitality Room or on the front lawn.

Honduras Mission Ministry

We provide medical services and hope to rural Hondurans.

Woman 2 Woman

We know that each woman of CEC is longing for fresh, fun and Christ-centered relationships, and want to find ways to connect with other women. W2W is a slightly new approach to our women's ministry. We are casting a vision for reaching and connecting with the women in church. We want it to be fun as well as fulfilling, where you can giggle and grow. Where you grow spiritually and emotionally and live with purpose and passion for Christ!

Greeters Ministry

Remember the first time you visited Christ Church and what or who made you want to come back? Be that person to someone you don't know.

Acolyte Ministry

Acolytes serve by assisting the celebrant at Sunday worship service. Acolyte is derived from a greek word meaning companion, assistant or helper...and that's just what we do.

Trumpet Newsletter Ministry

Help tell our CEC story in our church newsletter. Your story of faith is our story of faith.

Flower Ministry

Providing flowers for Sunday worship and for special services at CEC.

Communications Ministry

We distribute a weekly E-newsletter and keep you constantly informed about what is going on at CEC.

Cursillo Ministry

Providing the "short course" to God's love and grace for our Christian community.

Episcopal Youth Ministry

Serving the spiritual needs of CEC youth from 6th- 12th grade.

Nursery Ministry

We cherish children as members of God's Kingdom. This is a core value at CEC and we believe the growth, safety and spiritual enrichment of our children is essential to the health of our community.

Hill Country Community Ministry

The Holy Spirit moving among us, cooperating in the love of Christ and neighbor to help those in time of need.

Youth Sunday School Ministry

From ages 3 through to the 12 grade, CEC's Sunday School Ministry offers customized, Christ-centered, and age appropriate classes that are fun and engage our youth and celebrate their importance to our church.

Music Ministry

A Praise Team that "makes a joyful noise" at the 10:30 CEC worship service and invites all to join in.

PrayFast Ministry

The PrayFast Pray for a Soldier Team is a committed group of CEC people that want to serve our service men and women that serve us by holding them up in prayer.

Adult Sunday School Ministry

You never stop learning about God's grace at CEC. Adult Sunday School provides opportunity for relaxed Christian fellowship to learn about our faith from the Bible and from each other.

Connections Ministry

A study of the Episcopal faith for those seeking to further their commitment to Christ through baptism, confirmation or reception.

Property Ministry

This ministry takes care of our buildings and beautiful grounds at CEC.

Stewardship Ministry

Prayerfully keeps CEC moving forward and living into our mission to seek and serve Christ in others by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

How to help kids make good choices

by Elizabeth Burba

The Faith Partners coalition of some 200 churches in several states has a quarterly journal. This year's spring issue poses some thoughtful tips for parents, which are listed below. Why not show them to your spouse and review together which ones you would like to use or perhaps use more often. See Elizabeth Burba or Robert Wren if you would like to see the whole issue. (By the way, we respect confidentiality.)

1. Try to be there after school when your child gets home. The "danger zone" for drug use is between 3 and 6 p.m., when no one's around. Arrange flexible time at work if you possibly can. If your child will be with friends, ideally they have adult supervision – not just an older sibling.
2. Eat together as often as you can. Meals are a great opportunity to talk about the day's events. To unwind, reinforce and bond. Studies show the kids whose families eat together at least 5 times a week are less likely to be involved with drugs or alcohol.
3. Call parents whose home is to be used for a party. On party night, don't be afraid to stop in to say hello and make sure that adult supervision is in place.
4. Create rules – and discuss in advance the consequences of breaking them. Make your expectations clear. Don't make empty threats or let the rule-breaker off the hook. Don't impose harsh or unexpected new punishments.

5. Set a curfew. And enforce it strictly. Be prepared to negotiate for special occasions.
6. Ask open-ended questions like "How?" or "What Do You Think?" or say "Tell me About ..."
7. Listen with an active mind. Listen to your children without rushing to give them advice. Wait to reply until you have listened and understood what your child said. Remember, they may not need to be told what to do. They might just need to know that you are there, that you understand, and that you care.
8. Give honest answers. Don't make up what you don't know, offer to find out. If asked whether you've ever taken drugs, let them know what's important: you don't want them using drugs.
9. Don't react in a way that will cut off further discussion. If your child makes statements that challenge or shock you, turn them into a calm discussion of why your child thinks people use drugs, or whether the effect is worth the risk.
10. Listen to your instincts. Don't be afraid to intervene if your gut reaction tells you that something is wrong.

And mark your calendar! Christ Church will have a beautiful liturgy on November 23 to celebrate Recovery Sunday. Also in November, Faith Partners will be offering two programs to promote awareness and prevention. Details to follow.

Jonah and the call to ministries

by Fran Hart

Recently Fr. Bruce spoke to us about our responses to God when He calls to us. Bruce highlighted the story of Jonah, reflecting on the dynamics of our relationship with God as we are called to action.

Initially, when Jonah hears God's call to preach of imminent destruction to the people of Nineveh, Jonah runs away - literally. I know that on more than one occasion my response to God has been the same, at least figuratively. I can think of a few times when I did everything in my power to avoid heeding God's call. Fortunately, God is very persistent and no matter how hard we try to run, He pursues us. Jonah boarded a ship to sail far away from Nineveh. He eventually recognized that his attempts to flee were futile and he allowed himself to be thrown overboard into a tempestuous sea, subjecting himself to God's mercy.

Next, Jonah was consumed by a great fish. He remained in the fish's belly for three days and nights, praying his praise "with a voice of thanksgiving" and committing himself to God's will. God returned Jonah to dry land, and repeated his command. Jonah, now humbled, immediately obeyed. Ironically, when he obeyed, his fears were not realized. He preached of God's impending wrath to the people of Nineveh, but he didn't get the reaction he expected. His message in Nineveh was well received. The people of Nineveh believed God and immediately repented.

I'm reminded of the times when I've set aside my anxieties and ignored my self-doubt to step out in faith. I can't think of single time that I've regretted taking such action. In Jonah's example, great things happened and an entire community was saved through his obedience.

(continued on pg. 7)

SEPTEMBER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Sept. 7

10:30 a.m. Carolyn Dupy/Travis Krischke: **Lectors**
Bill Sterling/Travis Krischke: **LEMs**
Jobie Guzman/Kathy: **Altar Guild**
Belz Family: **Ushers**
Travis Hart/Emily Scanlon: **Acolytes**
Tony Martinez: **Geek at the Wheel**

Sept. 14

10:30 a.m. Jan Halstead/Cathy Valusek: **Lectors**
Jan Halestead/Cathy Valusek: **LEMs**
Martha McEver: **Altar Guild**
Mandy Moore/Hayden Rangel: **Ushers**
Tony Alvarez/Elena Martinez: **Acolytes**
Travis Hart: **Geek at the Wheel**

Sept. 21

10:30 a.m. Kathy Wood/Marilee Verdesca: **Lectors**
Jerry Halstead/Marilee Verdesca: **LEMs**
Cathy Valusek: **Altar Guild**
Jonah and Mike Reeh: **Ushers**
Alex Rogers/Zach Holahan: **Acolytes**
Suzie Scanlon: **Geek at the Wheel**

Sept. 28

10:30 a.m. Sarah Martinez/Kathryn Bonner: **Lectors**
Sarah Martinez/Kathryn Bonner: **LEMs**
Garrett and Travis Krischke: **Ushers**
Rachel Holliman/Joel Holliman: **Acolytes**
Kathy Ashlock: **Altar Guild**
Jerry Halstead: **Geek at the Wheel**

Oct. 5

10:30 a.m. Fran and Jim Hart: **Lectors**
Fran and Jim Hart: **LEMs**
Cindy Wells: **Altar Guild**

Vestry Person for Month of September: Carolyn Dupy
Offering Counter for Month of September: Jan Halstead

Let us pray over you Wed., October 1

We will be taking a break from the Bible study this evening and will form a "Soaking Room of Prayer" for you. This will be a quiet peaceful time of prayer. You will not hear much spoken, and yet you will experience the peace of a flowing river of grace as you are prayed for this evening. There will be soothing music playing in the background allowing you to be worshipful while experiencing the love and healing power of our Lord. Come and join us for this evening of prayer. With school starting back, the Holidays right around the corner, the hustle and bustle of the things to come in the next few months, be intentional to cover all of it in prayer. As Christians we were made for intimacy with God, to depend upon our Lord for all of our needs, dreams, and concerns. Come and draw strength for each new day, and breathe in the power of God's love.

Jonah...

(continued from pg. 6)

After Jonah completed the task God set before him, he expected God to destroy the people of Nineveh, despite their confession and repentance. When he realized God relented, and spared the community, Jonah got angry! How often do we find ourselves guilty of "righteous indignation"? Jonah's reaction, "See! You didn't need me to achieve this goal" is understandable. Sometimes we have to step back from a situation to appreciate the greater glory of God's grand design. Jonah went off and waited, perhaps pouting, to see if God would change his mind again and perhaps destroy Nineveh after all. I love that God patiently came to Jonah and offered insight into His actions. We don't always get to see the big picture, and we don't always get the benefit of such insight.

Sometimes it's hard to be sure what we are being called to do. As we review our commitments to the ministries of CEC, and as we consider where we might step out in faith, remember Jonah and know that we are all called to be a part of God's plan. And if, for some reason, you end up spending a few days in the belly of a big fish before you are ready to sign up, don't fear. Our ministry leaders will welcome your involvement whenever you're ready to commit.

Moms In Touch brings moms together in hope and prayer

Do you worry about your children? Come experience how you can replace your anxiety and fear with peace and hope by praying with other moms. Moms In Touch International gathers moms together for one hour each week during the school season, to pray specifically and scripturally for our children and their schools. Won't you join with us in prayer for this next generation?

Chances are there is already a MIT group formed for your child's school, so please contact Area Coordinator Donna McCall (388-8967) to find the name of the group leader for a specific school (elementary-high school).

For more information about Moms In Touch International, visit www.MomsInTouch.org. You may also attend our Fall Kick-off event: Tuesday, September 9th from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Church of the Hills (3502 Hatch Road, Cecar Park 78613).

Dads are welcome too!

