
The Christ Bearer

Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Vol. 16, No. 5

May 2010

From the Rector:

One of the Major Feasts of the church year falls in the middle of May this year, the Feast of the Ascension, on May 13th. This feast always falls on the Thursday forty days after Easter Sunday. Thus, based upon that peripatetic holiday, the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Vernal Equinox (yes, that's how Easter is determined in the West), the Feast of the Ascension can occur as early as April 30th or as late as June 3rd. This year it falls in the middle of that range.

The Feast of the Ascension commemorates the occasion of the Christ's bodily elevation from Earth into Heaven forty days after His Resurrection, in accordance with the Scriptures. The earliest assertion of His ascension into Heaven is probably in Paul's Letter to the Romans, 10:5-7, written about the year 57 or 58. But the most commonly held image of the Ascension is that written by Luke in the Acts of the Apostles, 1:1-11, penned between 80 and 90 *anno domine*. Extra-testamental writings from the middle of the Second Century testify to the observance of this commemorative date in the annual cycle of the new Christian faith. By the years 381-384, the Feast of the Ascension was preceded by an elaborate Vigil beginning after sundown on Wednesday, the 39th day after Easter according to the written journal of Egeria (or Aetheria) a Galician woman pilgrim from what is now southern Spain. During those years she traveled throughout the Holy Land visiting sites associated with the life of Jesus of Nazareth and giving us the first description of those sites to be read outside of the biblical accounts. For instance, she is the first one to write that the citizens of Capernaum had built an octagonal wall around Peter's house there, where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law and she got up and got cooking!

Ancient customs associated with this Feast include the blessing of beans and grapes, as well as the blessing of other "first fruits," and the blessings of candles. Whatever the practice of early days, we at St. Christopher's will observe a vigil of sorts at our regular service on Wednesday evening, May 12th. You traditionalists may want to bring beans and grapes, although I hope, not in the same pot.....

Blessings!

Edson

The Christ Bearer

As members of St. Christopher's, we seek to act as a part of the body of Christ in response to God's love and grace by:

- praising God together in Christ-centered worship
- providing opportunities for education and spiritual growth for all
- loving and supporting each other in our life together, and
- reaching out to our community and larger world in love and service.

a monthly publication of
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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Weekly Services
Sunday - 8:00, 10:00 Holy Eucharist
Wednesday - 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist
w/ Holy Unction

Rector - The Rev. J. Edson Way
Deacon - Melissa Wafer-Cross
Deacon - Les Jackson
Deacon - Kathleen Borsch



Income & Expenses
(through March 31, 2010)

	Budgeted	Actual
Plate	\$ 6,250.03	\$ 4,066.14
Pledge	46,963.78	53,666.00
Other	<u>1,800.00</u>	1,200.00
Total Income	\$ 55,013.81	\$ 58,932.14
Expenses	\$ 55,013.66	\$ 67,711.17
Balance: Inc.-Exp.	\$ 0.15	\$ (8,779.03)

Vestry Meeting Highlights

- A thank you letter from The Rev. Lee Brodie Sinclair was shared for her ordination gift, and a report from Josh Rodriguez on his life at Yale Divinity School was read.
- The vestry approved going forward with having pens made and sold from the ends of the pews that were cut off .
- There was discussion of ideas for expanding the Wednesday evening program.
- John Wolf will inventory the prayer books, so we can order more, if needed.
- Our children are invited to participate in Vacation Bible School with St. Paul's. The theme will be *Trip to Rome*.
- Completion and details of the remodeling project were shared.
- The vestry accepted a bid from West Texas Data to install a communication system at \$1228.81 for the basement, office and narthex from the outside door.
- Missy Ratcliff will poll the congregation to see if there is interest in CPR classes.
- The vestry approved the annual parochial report.
- The vestry will meet next on April 15.



New Study to Begin

Linda Lawson will lead another Bible study series, "The Miracles of Jesus," beginning on Saturday, May 8. The class will run from 10:00 am until about 11:30. A lesson is presented on a DVD, and those present discuss points based on the lesson. Each lesson is independent of the others, so come



*Kay McCurdy, a long-time

of St. Christopher's, died on March 24 following a long illness that took her to live with her family in Plano. We all miss her sweet smile. Our condolences to Cliff and Diane and to all her family.

*Jim Burns, also a member for many years, died on April 15 from complications of Muscular Dystrophy. We offer our sincere sympathy to his wife, Helen, his daughter, and to all his family. *May their souls be at rest and their spirits shine upon them.*

Thank You!

Dear St. Christopher's Family,

I want everyone at St. Christopher's to know how grateful our family is for the many, many kindnesses shown us during Jim's illness and his passing. St. Christopher's was and is our lifeline. There is no greater honor than to be a part of this church family.

With sincere thanks,
Helen Burns



Food Pantry Requests for May

While you are grocery shopping during the month of May, please remember our hungry. The Food Pantry is asking for help with evaporated milk and saltine crackers. Again, many thanks to our generous congregation.

Big Thank You!

The Seamen's Church Institute staff, on behalf of the mariners we serve, wishes to thank you for your gift of the large box of calendars.

The Peace of God be with you. With appreciation.

Christmas at Sea



Congratulations to Karl Morris and Joan Russell who will be married on Saturday, May 1, at St. Christopher's. The ceremony will be held at 11:00 am, with a

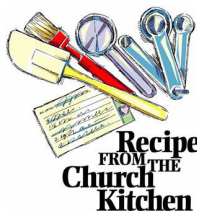


Deacon's Corner

One of the interviewers I had the opportunity to visit with over the past few months made the comment that, "Something must die, so that something new might live," and I was reminded of the scripture that encourages us to "die to self and pick up our cross and become followers of Christ." As Valinda and I begin to pack boxes and go through all the stuff we have collected over time, I've begun to realize how much self is tied up in these material things and how exhausting, and yet freeing, getting rid of most of these things, that at one time were our treasures, can be. By eliminating the majority of this stuff we become freer to follow Christ, first to seminary, and then wherever God may lead us. We've made an effort to donate most of our material belongings, except for the bare necessity of running a home, to organizations like Mission Lubbock or Hope Shalom, which are ministries that do not resell what we've donated and make what God has blessed us with a blessing to others who are truly needy and without monetary resources. It has been a challenge, but there is a real sense that God is doing something new in our lives and maybe in the lives of others as well.

Yours in Christ,

Les



The following recipe was widely requested following the Easter brunch. It is donated by Jenny Way:

MORNING GLORY BRUNCH CASSEROLE

from *Kitchen Keepsakes* by Bonnie Welch & Deanna White

- 18 hard-boiled eggs sliced thin
- 1 lb. bacon, cooked and drained
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 cup cream
- 1 cup milk
- 1 lb. jar Cheese Whiz
- 1/4 tsp. thyme (crushed leaf) [I used 1/2 tsp.]
- 1/4 tsp. marjoram [I used almost 1/2 tsp.]
- 1/8 tsp. garlic powder [I used 1/4 tsp. +]
- 1/4 cup parsley [I used 2/3 cup], fresh if possible

Serves 8-10. Hard boil eggs, cool and slice. (If you have an egg slicer, it saves a lot of time.) Make a cream sauce, adding flour to melted butter. Gradually add milk and cream, stirring constantly until thick. Add Cheese Whiz and stir until melted. Add seasonings including half the parsley. In a buttered 9 X 12 inch baking dish, layer egg slices, sauce, crumbled bacon, etc., ending with sauce. Bake about 40 minutes, covered, in a 350 degree oven. Garnish with fresh parsley. Serve hot and bubbly. This is an exceptional brunch dish, especially when made a day ahead...gives the flavors a chance to blend, and the cook an extra hour of sleep!

New Prayer Books to be Purchased

The vestry has authorized the purchase of 120 copies of the Book of Common Prayer to replace the old, worn and damaged copies that are in our pews. If you would like to contribute to the Memorial Fund to pay for one or more copies of these books at the special price of \$16.00 in memory of, or in honor of someone, please make your contribution to the Memorial Fund at St. Christopher's, along with a note naming the "honoree," and your gift and designation will be inscribed on a book plate inside the front cover of a copy of a book for our

Sundays & Wednesdays in May

You will get more out of our worship together if you take a little time beforehand to look at the Scripture lessons and think about our special prayer intentions.



Sunday, May 2

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Acts 11:1-18

Psalm 148

Revelation 21:1-6

John 13:31-35

Wednesday, May 5 - Feast of Monnica

1 Samuel 1:10-11, 20

Psalm 115:12-18

Luke 7:11-17

Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper following service

Sunday, May 9

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Acts 16:9-15

Psalm 67

Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John 14:23-29

Wednesday, May 12 - Eve of Ascension Day

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper following service

Sunday, May 16

Seventh Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Acts 16:16-24

Psalm 97

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

John 17:20-26

Wednesday, May 19 - Feast of Dunstan

Ecclesiasticus 44:1-7

Psalm 57:6-11

Matthew 24:42-47

Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper following service

Sunday, May 23

Day of Pentecost (Year C)

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

Romans 8:14-17

John 14:8-17, 25-27

Wednesday, May 26 - Feast of Augustine, Archbishop

2 Corinthians 5:17-20a

Psalm 66:1-8

Luke 5:1-11

Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper following service

Sunday, May 30

First Sunday after Pentecost (Year C)

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1-5

John 16:12-15



**NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**

May 15

send information to

jambbarnes@suddenlink.net

Notes from the Senior Warden

Easter is my favorite time of the year. It puts a smile on my face to see plants blooming, and the sound of little league teams practicing and getting ready to compete again. There is something about the sound of kids playing outside, making noise, and having fun that gives me a true feeling of spring. I'm sure I'm not alone.

Saint Christopher's on April 10th had it's first "Spring Cook Out" for all the youth and their parents. There is going to be a once-a-month event, and I encourage everyone to get involved. Even if you don't have children that participate, you can still enjoy good food, fellowship, and maybe even some horse-shoe throwing. We had about 30 folks for the first one, and we even had 5 neighborhood kids join us.

The older EYC will continue to have a once-a-month activity, separate from the younger group. It was great to see all the kids together and having fun. Becky DelHotal will be scheduling these events, and a flyer will be mailed to remind everyone. If you would like to help out with these activities, please let us know, and we will get you in on the fun. I want to thank John Edwards for helping Paula and me cook at this first event. I also want to thank all the parents and kids for helping to clean up.

We visited about a church-wide trip to Palo Duro Canyon for a cook-out and perhaps enjoying the play "Texas". What do you think about that? Let me know your thoughts, and possibly we can put something together.

Donnie



The highlight of our April activities was the parish Easter Sunday breakfast. Thanks to Martha Robinson and Allison, Michaela, and Emily Crites our parish hall was colorfully decked out for Easter. The food everyone brought was fabulous. A big thanks to all you talented cooks, and those who pitched in to help set up, serve, and clean up. It was a lovely parish family gathering.

At its April meeting the ECW agreed to take on the project to sell handmade ballpoint pens made from the top portions that were cut off of our pews. Watch for more information to come.

The only scheduled event in May is our annual graduation luncheon on Saturday, May 22nd, hosted by Karen Barrington at her lovely home in Ransom Canyon. If you know a graduate to be recognized please let Karen or Missy know. Bring a salad or dessert, or just come.

Serving St. Christopher's and the community through God's love and grace, we are ECW.

Missy Ratcliff

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



On May 1, from 6:00 - 9:00 pm the young people of St. Christopher's will get together for dinner and a movie. On May 15, from 6:00 - 9:00 pm there will be an end-of-school barbeque with games for all church children and their parents. Please RSVP to Becky DelHotal at 792-0402 or by email at queeniebeck@yahoo.com by Wednesday, May 12. if you plan to attend the end-of-school



A Reader's Corner

Calendar of Saints: Character Sketches of the Saints, by David L. Veal. Cincinnati, OH: Forward Movement Publications, c2004. (198p.)

For those of us wondering about our Episcopal saints (Major and Lesser), here is a wonderful and handsome paperback book written by one of our own rectors, the Rev. David Veal. Now in its fourth, updated and revised edition, it was originally published in 1972. This fourth edition, organized chronologically by date, is comprised of a collection of 180 saints (each saint has his or her own date in our official Episcopal calendar) with a full page devoted to each and includes their date of death (if known) and several paragraphs briefly describing their lives and why they are important. An example of saints, include John Chrysostom (d. 407; Saint's day, January 27), Brigid, Abbess of Kildare (d. 535; Saint's day, February 1), Dame Julian of Norwich (d. about 1417; Saint's day, May 8) and Francis of Assisi (d. 1226; Saint's day, October 4). Sometimes a fitting prayer concludes the brief narrative, such as the one following Bernard, Abbot of Clairveaux (d. 1153; Saint's day, August 20): "Almighty and everlasting God, who did kindle the flame of your love in the heart of your servant Bernard; Grant to us, your humble servants, the same faith and power of love" (p.117). Seventeen other saints who have never become "official" in our calendar but who are considered popular and who "have Episcopal churches named for them in the United States and [who] appear in other Anglican calendars" (p.189) are identified with their dates and short descriptions at the end of the official listing. An index is included in the back of the book.

This book is a delight to read as well as being very informative. Those of us who have been blessed with a brief glimpse into Father Veal's personality will find him emerging in his vignettes. I recommend this book for all these reasons.

An open invitation:

I would like to invite any reader or viewer to join me in this column. If you have read a book or seen a movie that you wish to recommend to other readers/viewers, please email me (candia.thew@tuhs.edu) with your suggestion. I can also submit a "guest" review or I can add an addendum to my own contribution by naming the book or movie (title) and recommended by (your name).



2010 Summer Camp Schedule - Quarterman Ranch

The theme for the Primary, Middle School and Senior High camps this year is "I Am," and the curriculum was designed by The Rev. Jim Haney, Rector of St. Paul's-on-the-Plains. Dates for the various camps are:

Senior High Camp - June 20 - 26

Primary Camp - June 27 - July 3

Middle School Camp - July 4 - 10

Deadline for registration - May 24.

For more information on any of these camps, contact Becky DelHotal or Claire

This 'n That

- **USED EYEGLASSES** - If you have old pairs of glasses at home that you no longer need, please consider contributing them to the Lubbock Lions' Club, so they can be refurbished and given to people who could not otherwise afford glasses. Betsy Brock-Easley is collecting these used glasses.
- **LINE DANCING CLASS** - A new class of beginning line dancing has started here at St. Christopher's. This class meets on Tuesdays at 5:00 pm in the basement. No experience is needed. Martha Walker is teaching the class, and she suggests wearing leather-soled shoes. Men and women come, join the fun and get some great exercise.
- **CROSS BOARDS** - More crosses are needed to fill the third cross display board in the basement. You may leave your donated cross on the small table just inside the door to the parish hall. Please put your name on it.
- **FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS** - Sign up to provide snacks for the Sunday fellowship hours.
- **PRAYER REQUESTS** - Submit prayer needs via the Daughters of the King prayer cards in the pews. Put the cards in the offering plate or in the little box on the credence shelf at the back of the church.
- **WEAR YOUR NAMETAG!** If you need one - if you've lost yours or never had one, tell Karen Hodges, and she'll arrange for you to get one.
- **PRAYER SHAWL GROUP** - Please bring any shawls you have completed to our meeting on Monday, May 3, at 4:00 pm at the church. Come and see all the lovely shawls that are being created and sit and knit or crochet and visit.

Happy Camp Donations

Remember last year when we raised over \$6000 to help send 30 students from our neighboring Wheelock Elementary School to Quarterman Conference Center for Happy Camp? Well, it's time to do that again. Registration forms are being distributed to the children and their families, so we need to raise some money to help with their expenses. If you want to make a donation, please write "Happy Camp" on the memo line of your check and place it in the offering plate or drop it by the church office.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Debbie Cummings	May 1
Jonathan Walker	May 4
Mary Mixon	May 6
Shirley Webb	May 9
B.L. Jones	May 10
David Bartl	May 16
Jack Bettis	May 17
Elizabeth Middleton	May 17
Ellen Stanley	May 18
Edson Way	May 18
Gerald Wilson	May 20
Presley Thomas	May 21
Mitzi Lehne	May 22
Debbie Maines	May 22
Amanda Rogers	May 22
Del Dyche	May 25
Beth Harlan	May 28
Malorie Stofel	
May 28	
Adam Eckleberry	May 29
Donnie Evans	May 30

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Roger Schaefer & Dannie Botros	May 16
Les & Valinda Jackson	May 22
Don & Nancy McReynolds	May 24
Sam & Catherine Lanham	May 30



St. Christopher's chapter of Daughters of the King will meet after the 10:00 service on Sunday, May 2. Everyone should have read the second section of our current book of study, *Dialogue: Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Dialogue*, by Leonard Swidler, Reuven Firestone, and Kalid Duran.

If you are willing to serve as an officer - as President or Vice-president, let Bobbie ~~Matches~~ know.

St. Stephen's Spring Fling

DATE:	Saturday, May 8, 2010
TIME:	6:00 pm
PLACE:	Ben & Shirley Edward's place (call St. Stephen's for directions)
TICKETS:	\$20.00
ACTIVITIES:	Live & silent auctions, food, beverages, raffle of Toni Arnett painting, entertainment
CONTACT:	St. Stephen's office, 799-3439

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The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer., Bishop
The Rev. J. Edson Way, PhD., Rector
Kathleen Borsch, Deacon
Les Jackson, Deacon
Melissa Wafer-Cross, Deacon

Elaine Howard, Administrative Assistant
Linda Swartz, Financial Assistant
Jane Barnes, Newsletter Editor
David Cross, WebMaster

The Vestry

Donnie Evans, Senior Warden
John Edwards, Junior Warden
Nancy McReynolds, Clerk
Jan Kireillis, Treasurer

David Bartl
Missy Ratcliff

Doug Cashell

Carolyn Jones
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