
The Christ Bearer

Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Vol. 16, No. 3

March 2010

From the Rector:

Our custom at St. Christopher's at the 5:30 pm Wednesday Evening Service is to observe the commemorations of the various Saints of the Church as presented in the book of Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2006. The "lesser" feasts are distinguished from "Principle Feasts," "Feasts of our Lord Jesus Christ," "Holy Days," and "Other Major Feasts" which are enumerated on pages 15 through 18 in the Book of Common Prayer. Some of these major feasts fall on a fixed date, such as The Feast of the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary, March 25th, nine months before December 25th, (you can figure that one out), while others are determined in relation to other principle feasts, Easter, for instance, whose calendar date is subject to change from year to year. An example of the latter is the Feast of the Ascension which occurs on a Thursday, forty days after Easter, regardless of the calendar date.

The lesser feasts all fall on fixed calendar dates, although they may be "bumped" by the precedence given to the major feasts. And, like New Year's Day or the Fourth of July, which fall on the same date each year, they are subject to fall on different days of the week from year to year. At St. Christopher's we commemorate those saints whose dates fall on Wednesdays when we have our regular evening service and potluck supper. On rare occasions a given Wednesday is still "open," without an assigned saint, and so we "transfer" a saint's commemoration from one of the other days within the same week. In this way we have the opportunity, week to week, year by year, to learn about the variety of individuals whose lives of faith and witness to our Lord are cited by the Church as exemplary models for our instruction and emulation. Some are well-known around the world, like St. Francis, while others are less well-known even in our own Episcopal tradition, like St. David Pendleton Oakerhater. You might want to "google" him if you don't know him! Or come to church on September 1st!

One of the modern saints who is commemorated in Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2006 is [Óscar Romero] *Archbishop of San Salvador, 1980, and the Martyrs of El Salvador*. The brackets around his name indicate that his commemoration is "presented for trial use" by the Episcopal Church as of the publication date of the book. There are about a half-dozen individuals presented for such trial inclusion in the Church Calendar. Óscar Romero, who was the subject of a popular film a few years ago, is remembered on March 24th, the anniversary date of his assassination by government soldiers while he celebrated the Eucharist in a small chapel for the poor in 1980 during the civil unrest in El Salvador at that time. A statue of him stands at Westminster Abbey, London, acknowledging him as a 20th Century martyr for the faith.

Have a Holy Lent remembering the cloud of witnesses who have gone before!

Edson+

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.

The Christ Bearer

a monthly publication of
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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website:www.stchristophers.org

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 January 31, 2010)

	Budgeted	Actual
Plate	\$ 2,083.37	\$ 1,567.41
Pledge	15,654.62	18,780.00
Other	<u>600.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 18,337.99	\$ 20,347.41
Expenses	\$ 18,337.78	\$ 17,600.17
Balance: Inc.-Exp.	\$ 0.21	\$ 2,747.24

Vestry Highlights - January

- Fr. Way reported all three services have had an increase in attendance throughout the past year.
- The vestry voted to accept the report of the Holy Orders Discernment Committee for Les Jackson to move forward toward ordination as a priest.
- The congregation raised \$3200 for Haiti relief. \$500.00 will go to Breedlove Dehydration Plant and the rest to Episcopal Relief and Development.
- Donnie Evans reported that approximately \$21,000 has been spent on renovations. The upstairs will be furnished with a new refrigerator, stove and microwave. Some appliances will be paid for by parishioners. The media system is working downstairs. Donnie and Paula Evans are donating a laptop computer for the media system.
- The ECW board will meet on Jan. 30, and the new officers will be installed at 10:00 on Jan. 31.
- St. Christopher's will host "Safeguarding God's Children" at 10:00 am on February 13. Jenny Way will host the session.
- Fr. Way reported that on Wednesday nights during Lent we will have soup and bread and no desserts for supper. He will also have a lesson from the book *When Bad Christians Happen to Good People*. Ash



March 15
send information to
jambarnes@suddenlink.net



Condolences to K and Michael Landress on the death of K's mother, Lou Verne Vance on January 29. Mrs. Vance lived for 94 years.

Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.



Food Pantry Requests for March

The Food Pantry workers thank all who have so generously donated grocery items and money for our clients. We are asking for any type of canned tomatoes for the month of March.



There will be an ECW Ladies Night Out at Orlando's on Indiana and Loop 289 on Monday, March 1, beginning at 5:30 pm. Sign-up sheets will be available Wednesday February 17 and Sunday February 21st.

Please make plans to attend the United Church Women Day of Prayer on Friday, March 5 at St. Christopher's, beginning at 11:30 am. We are the host church. Great food and an excellent program are planned. If you want to help contact Missy Ratcliff at 789-3921.

Photos Needed for Website

If you have taken photographs recently of activities or people around St. Christopher's, please let Elaine Howard in the church office know or send them to David Cross, webmaster, at ddcross@stchristophers.org, so they can be added to the St. Christopher's website for everyone to enjoy.



Congratulations to Claire Randolph on the birth of her newest grandson. Malachy James King was born on December 18 to Matthew and Rebecca King in Austin.



Deacon's Corner

COME TO THE QUIET

So how is your Lent proceeding? Is it a "holy Lent", or is it still a bit cumbersome? I suggest practicing silence. One of the reasons we give things up for Lent is to make room for the things that matter, to make room for God. If we give up some of the noise of our lives, we may be able to hear God's still, small voice. Some people practice contemplative prayer, which is primarily just being quiet before God. A quiet walk around the park or taking the boat out to a nearby lake does more than you know. Oh, and the obvious: We can turn off the TV and radio more often. Have you ever tried to talk to someone who kept their television turned up loud? Just think how God must feel when trying to get our attention!

Come to the quiet, a silent retreat.
Come to the quiet and sit at his feet.
Come to the quiet and be refreshed.
Come to the quiet and worship, worship Jesus...

Enter the silence where God's love abounds.
Enter the silence where true life is found.
Enter the silence and be at peace.
Enter the silence and listen, listen to his word. [Copyright 1999 Kirk & Judy Dearman]

O God of peace, *who hast* taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of *thy* Spirit lift us, we pray *thee*, to *thy* presence, where we may be still and know that *thou art* God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* [BCP, p. 832]

Kathleen

\$\$\$\$ Dollars and Sense \$\$\$\$

Everyone is aware that pledges to St. Christopher's are deposited into a budget line item by that name and that loose plate offerings are deposited into that particular line item. But, did you know that there are many other places that would welcome a donation, however large or small, at any time?

After the pledge is made, if there are extra dollars or change around begging to be spent, consider the many other line items in Designated Funds that would benefit from a contribution. Here is a fairly complete listing of those funds:

Food Pantry	UTO	Birthday/Anniversary
Memorial Fund	Discretionary Fund	Decorating Funds
Youth	Contingency Fund	Courtyard & Grounds
Parish Outreach	Columbarium	Godly Play
Lay Persons Scholarships	Flower Fund	Neighborhood Youth
Music Fund/Choir Robes		

Be sure that your check or envelope notes the fund to which the contribution should be credited. It is helpful to our staff if the menu line on all checks indicates where the money should go. If you have questions, feel free to ask the rector, any vestry member or a committee member for more information.

Particularly welcome at this time would be donations to the Decorating Fund. Some of the projects we would like to address are remodeling the basement restroom, replacing the old worn-out rectangular tables with round tables, and replacing the worn carpet in the parish hall.

Sundays & Wednesdays & Holy Days in March

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.

Wednesday, March 3 - John and Charles Wesley

Isaiah 49:5-6 Psalm 98:1-10 Luke 9:2-6

Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Soup & bread supper & Lenten program at 6:00 pm

Sunday, March 7 Third Sunday in Lent (Year C)

Exodus 3:1-15

Psalm 63:1-8

I Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

Wednesday, March 10 - Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa (transferred)

Wisdom 7:24-28 Psalm 19:7-14 John 5:19-24

Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Soup & bread supper & Lenten program at 6:00 pm

Sunday, March 14 Fourth Sunday in Lent (Year C)

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Wednesday, March 17 - St. Patrick's Day

I Thessalonians 2:2b-12 Psalm 97:1-2, 7-12 Matthew 28:16-20

Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Soup & bread supper & Lenten program at 6:00 pm

Sunday, March 21 Fifth Sunday in Lent (Year C)

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalm 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

Wednesday, March 24

Revelation 7:13-17 Psalm 31:15-24 John 12:23-32

Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Soup & bread supper & Lenten program at 6:00 pm

Sunday, March 28 Sunday of the Passion, PALM SUNDAY (Year C)

Liturgy of the Palms - Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Luke 19:28-40

Liturgy of the Word - Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm 31:9-16

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 22:14-23:56

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

There will be services at 12:00 noon each day of Holy Week, March 29 - 31, 2010.
On Wednesday we will have the usual 5:30 pm service in addition to 12:00 noon.

Notes from the Senior Warden

By the time you get *The Christ Bearer*, I hope we are well along with the church renovation. I want to apologize for the time it has taken and the inconvenience it may have caused. Hopefully, we can enjoy the improvements for years to come. I'm very excited about the next year. God has blessed us with a church family that is vibrant and anxious to serve each other as well as the world community. This was apparent to me when everyone reached down and helped the folks who have suffered so much in Haiti.

The youth at St Christopher's have grown considerably as well. I want to focus on them this year and provide them with the essentials they need. It is wonderful to hear the pitter patter of little feet running to ring the bells. Praise God for that!

Carole Wolf has always thanked everyone for the things they do around the church. I have been waiting for this forum to say to her, thank you for the last three years of complete dedication to our church. Carole has spent hours upon hours of her personal time to keep the engines running.

I had another thought after Kathleen's sermon on the Sunday of the annual meeting. She talked about the church being like connected body parts....forgive me if I am misquoting. Jane Barnes has become the central nervous system of communications. What did we do before this technology? Thanks Jane, for your many hours and years of work, not only through the emails, but publishing *The Christ Bearer*.

Donnie

Annual Meeting Highlights

- Fr. Way recognized Carole Wolf and Podi Stofel for their dedication and hard work for the past several years. He presented them with plaques made from tops of a couple of pews that were cut off several months ago.
 - John Wolf reported that the total pledged amount for 2010 is \$188,575.00. Podi Stofel presented the 2010 budget, which had been approved by the vestry.
 - Chair persons for various committees gave their reports.
 - Four new vestry members were elected. For three-year terms - David Bartl, Missy Ratcliff and John Edwards. Bob Sherman will serve a one-year term, to complete that of Jack Purkeypile.
 - Jane Barnes, John Rische and Carole Wolf were elected delegates to diocesan convention , with Podi Stofel to serve as alternate.
 - Betsy Brock-Easley will serve a three-year term on the Columbarium Committee.
 - Fr. Way appointed Donnie Evans as Senior Warden for 2010. The vestry elected the following to other offices: John Edwards, Junior Warden, Jan Kireilis, Treasurer, Nancy McReynolds, Clerk. Carolyn Jones will continue as chair of the Personnel Committee, and Doug Cashell will chair the Audit Committee.
 - The vestry retreat will be held February 19 - 20 at the church.
-

Do You Have a Name Tag? Do You Know Where It Is/

Karen Hodges has taken on the job of making name tags for everyone in the parish, but they don't do much good unless we wear them. There is a corkboard just inside the front door of the church, beside the elevator, where name tags are kept. Take yours down each week, wear it while you're here, and then replace it on the board. Please.



A Reader's Corner

Listening for the Heartbeat for God: a Celtic Spirituality, J. Philip Newell. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1997. (112p.)

John Philip Newell, in this introduction to Celtic spirituality suggests that in the early Christian centuries there developed two ways of listening for God – that of listening within all things for the life of God – the Celtic tradition which was inspired by St. John the Apostle (who leaned against Jesus at the Last Supper – John 13:23 and John 13:25) and the Roman tradition that was based on the authority of St. Peter (the rock on which to build Christ's church – Matthew 16:18), the rock (church) that “enshrines the light of truth within the church and its traditions and sacraments” (p.97).

The Celtic tradition began in Great Britain when Christianity arrived around the beginning of the 3rd C., probably with the Roman occupation. By the 4th C., a distinct British spirituality had emerged melding Christianity with the nature mysticism and the spiritual practices of pre-Christian Britain. Pelagius (354-418+), the first prominent Celtic Christian theologian believed in the basic goodness of all creation (a common Celtic theme) and wrote of “the presence of God's spirit in all living things” (p. 11). St. Patrick followed (c430) teaching “an awareness that all created things carry within them the grace and goodness of God” (p.24). From then until the Synod of Whitby, Celtic spirituality flourished in the British Isles, reaching out past Rome to other parts of the world. In 664, at the Synod of Whitby, the conflict between the Celtic mission and the Roman mission come to a head with two church leaders defending each faith. It was resolved by the decision that the Roman mission would become the British authorized faith. Even as Celtic missions receded to less central areas, other Celtic theologians rose to champion and enrich Celtic spirituality. Chapters follow on Eriugena (810—877, “Christ moves among us in two shoes...one shoe being that of creation, the other that of the Scriptures” – p.34); Carmina Gadelica (a mid-19th C, collection of oral Gaelic songs and poems, revealing how well the Celtic tradition persevered among the British people); George MacDonald (1824-1905, communicated his theology through short stories and novels, notably “The Princess and the Goblin”); and, George MacLeod (1895-1991– who wrote, for example, that in order for us to move more deeply into life, we must “find God at the heart of life...and liberate God's goodness within us and in our relationships, both individually and collectively”, p.79).

Like its crosses and illuminated manuscripts that interweave the designs symbolizing “the interlacing of God and humanity, heaven and earth, spirit and matter” (p.6), Newell interlaces Celtic history with its spirituality. A fine introduction to both.

J. Philip Newell has written several books on Celtic spirituality. He was formerly the Warden of Iona Abbey in the Hebrides of Scotland. He is currently teaching at the American Spiritual Center of Casa del Sol in New Mexico as well as offering two 2010 pilgrimages to the Isle of Iona: March 20-27 and September 4-11 (see: <http://www.jphilipnewell.com/iona.htm>).

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@ttuhsc.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

This 'n That

- Copies of the Episcopal Relief and Development Lenten devotional booklet are still available. This year's booklet is entitled *Healing Ourselves and A Hurting World*. The booklets are available on the usher's desk in the Narthex and on the credenza outside the church office.
- 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.
- Sign up to provide snacks for the Sunday fellowship hours.
- 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.
- There are still blank spaces on the Altar Flower calendar for 2010. Please sign up to give flowers in memory or in honor of someone for one or more Sundays in the new year.
- Ladies, remember the Saturday morning Lenten Bible Study on the parables of Jesus. The study is at the church, beginning at 10:00 am.

Youth Activities

We are so excited about the new ping pong table!!! To the person or persons who were so kind to donate it - thank you! We love it!

It's a good thing that we have so many activities going on because our group keeps growing with 3 new visitors from outside our Church!

Thank you to all of you who are bringing food for our Saturday movie nights. Along with the donations received from the Pancake Dinner, the help with food will help us save enough money to do a retreat or mission trip this summer.

We meet every Saturday night from 6:00 - 9:00 at the church for a movie and a meal. On Sunday, February 28 we plan to go bowling with the youth group from St. Stephen's. If you know someone who would like to join us, please contact Charise Adams at 747-0600 or



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Catherine Lanham	March 5
Blanche Todd	March 6
Larry McEachern	March 7
Nancy McReynolds	March 7
Janis Haney	March 8
Scott White	March 10
David Veal	March 10
MaeAlice White	March 12
Veronica Thew	March 14
Orlo Sundre	March 15
Marta Rosas	March 16
Terry Kireillis	March 19
Gail McEachern	March 19
Carole Wolf	March 20
Amber Jackson	March 21
Susan Dyche	March 24
Phyllis Eckleberry	March 25
Carol Agnew	March 27
Matt Cross	March 27
Linda Goff	March 28
Sue Veal	March 28
Allison Whitney	March 28
Tom Wiley	March 29
Lorraine Roberts	March 30
Jeannine Notturmo	March 31

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Janis Haney	March 15
Dominick & Rebecca DelHotal	March 16
Kelly & Claire Randolph	March 16
Del & Susan Dyche	March 28
Madoc & Calder Thomas	March 29



St. Christopher's chapter of Daughters of the King will meet on Sunday, March 7, following the 10:00 service. At this meeting we will continue a study of the book *Triologue: Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Dialogue*, by Leonard Swidler, Reuven Firestone, and Kalid Duran. Please try to read the second section - about the Jewish faith - before this meeting. Any woman is welcome to visit this meeting and to join this study.

Adult Forum

The travelogue series begun in February will continue through March at 9:00 each

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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
Bob Sherman

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