
The Christ Bearer

Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Vol. 15, No. 2

February 2009

From the Rector:

February is the shortest month in every year, but especially this year 2009 for me....I will be traveling in Australia and New Zealand with my wife Jenny to visit family and friends who live Down Under, and will be returning to Lubbock on February 12th, the month nearly half gone! Father Charles Bowyer will be leading our parish worship life while I am gone, and will be available for pastoral needs. Carole Wolf, our Senior Warden, and the rest of our Vestry will continue to look after our daily operations. I am excited to be fulfilling a long-held dream in this trip, meeting some family members for the first time, but I know that I will be delighted to get back to this parish family when the voyage is completed.

Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season falls on the 25th of the month this year, and there will be services for the Imposition of Ashes at 7:30 in the morning, at noon, and again at our regularly scheduled 5:30 evening service for those who wish to receive them. This custom of marking the foreheads of the faithful with a cross-shaped symbol, using the ashes created from burning the palm fronds from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebrations, the ashes mixed with a little oil, dates at least as far back as the early Middle Ages. It is a symbol of one's repentance for one's sins, of humility, and a reminder of our mortality..."ashes to ashes and dust to dust..." The custom has long been practiced by Roman Catholics, Anglicans and the Episcopal and Lutheran Churches in the United States. The United Methodist Church and some Presbyterians adopted the custom in the 1990s. Some church leaders argue that the ashes imposed in this way should be washed off before the recipient leaves the church grounds to avoid the sin of pride in the wearing of this symbol of humility. Others argue that it should be left on one's forehead through the day as a Christian witness to one's faith in a secular world.

I leave the decision whether to wipe off or leave on to individual conscience: if you want to wear it out in public to prove that you've been to church and are a good person, you are probably better off to wipe it off - that "pride-thing" I just mentioned.... If you can wear it with humility as your personal witness and as a self-reminder, then do so Additionally, many people give up some favorite indulgence (chocolate, coffee, TV) during Lent, while others take on a new discipline (reading, praying the hours, service work) as a personal participation in the sacrifices and service of our Lord. Regardless, may we all prepare ourselves in heart and mind and spirit to observe a properly penitential and holy Lent. In keeping with that theme we will be sharing simple suppers of soup and bread, and no desserts, after the Wednesday evening services through the Lenten Season, followed by a brief presentation or discussion of a related topic. I look forward to seeing you there.

Edson+

The Christ Bearer

a monthly publication of
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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

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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 December 31, 2008)

	Budgeted	Actual
Plate	\$ 9,600.00	18,944.17
Pledge	145,000.00	159,831.50
Other	<u>19,400.00</u>	<u>19,900.74</u>
Total Income	\$ 174,000.00	\$ 198,676.41
Expenses	\$ 174,000.00	\$ 163,966.35
Balance: Inc.-Exp.	\$.00	\$ 34,710.06

Vestry Highlights - December

- Fr. Way reported on the increase in numbers attending the various weekly services. He and Jenny will travel to New Zealand and Australia from January 26 - February 12. A memorial service for Charlie Price will be January 8, at 11 am.
- Senior Warden Carole Wolf reported that a bid is being sought to network our computer system. We also may try to obtain a permanent person to handle the financials in-house. We may need a new copier.
- Jr. Warden Donnie Evans reported on plumbing issues in the Sacristy. Bids are being accepted to make the bathrooms in the Narthex handicap accessible. There are other plans to help make the church more handicap accessible.
- Financially, we are \$46,785 ahead of the budget. The finance committee will prepare the 2009 budget.
- Susie Broome announced that Claire Randolph will now chair the Christian Education Committee.
- There was discussion of trying to collect more money from Mary Ellen Hayne.
- Fr. Way is concerned about proper licensing for the Lay Eucharistic Ministers.
- There will be a Twelfth Night Open House at the home of Fr. Edson and Jenny Way on January 5, and there will be an Epiphany service and supper on January 6.
- Nominees for the 2009 Vestry were submitted. The date of the Annual Parish Meeting will be January 25, following the 10:00 service.
- The Vestry will meet next on January 22, and there will be a Vestry Retreat at some



- Our first ECW meeting for the new year will be Sunday, February 8 immediately following the 10:00 am service. If the ladies will bring a salad, we will gather downstairs for a salad luncheon, fellowship and then our meeting. All women are invited. [The date of this meeting was originally announced as Feb. 1, but there was a conflict with another group that day.]
- We will have an ECW Board Meeting on Saturday morning, January 31 at 10:00 am. Please bring your calendars. We will be planning our ECW activities for 2009.

Thank You!

I want to give a huge THANKS to all my kitchen staff who made the Newcomer's Dinner a phenomenal success. The ladies who helped in the kitchen were Suzanne Aker, Edie Rische, Martha Burford, Frances Lohmann-Smith and Betty Hodgson. You all made my job so much easier.

Muchas gracias,
Annie Cashell

Bishop's Consecration

The Consecration of the Rev. Scott Mayer as Fifth Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northwest Texas will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 21, at First United Methodist Church in Lubbock.

Please contact Carolyn Hearn if you plan to attend the service, as numbers are important for planning purposes. Carolyn's email is diocese@nwtdiocese.org. She can be reached by telephone at 763-1370, ext. 1.

ERD Lenten Devotional Booklet

Copies of the Episcopal Relief and Development Lenten devotional booklet will be available before Ash Wednesday. This year's booklet is entitled *Peace & Compassion: To Heal A Hurting World*. The booklets will be available on the ushers' desk in the Narthex and



Deacon's Corner

The back yard is full of pecans again. During the Christmas holidays, Martha and her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren came to help us pick up pecans. Her son and daughter-in-law took a big bag home to Colorado to shell by the fire; her granddaughter and her children decided to wait until their pecans were shelled and baked into Martha's famous pecan squares. They'll be watching for the mailman to bring a package of goodies. Even after the flurry of pecan gathering in December, the back yard is full of pecans again. Recent winds shook the remaining, recalcitrant pecans from their hulls.

When we bought our house, the trees in the back yard were already full-grown; the first owners of our house planted the biggest pecan tree, and the smaller trees probably grew from the pecans from the first tree. One of the trees is from a pecan that fell over the fence. Our trees, except one, are native pecans; but the paper-shell came from our neighbor's tree. We didn't have much of a pecan harvest last winter, as a late freeze iced over the tassels just when we thought winter was over. What few pecans there were, we left for the squirrels and the birds. This year, though, the trees were heavy with fruit and the harvest continues.

How like grace is my pecan harvest! I enjoy pecans from a tree I didn't plant; I have pecans to share; and even when I think my supply is running low, David reminds me that there are still pecans in the freezer. Hmm...let's see, when we go to New Mexico this summer, I'll take several pounds of shelled pecans to Bill and Joy (my brother and sister-in-law); and she'll make my mother's recipe of pecan pie, or Big Mama's nut cake, or just toast and salt some pecans. Then, there are Martha's pecans. She'll make banana nut bread for coffee hour at church and her wonderful pecan cookies for church lunches—or just because she loves us. Of course, she'll send along some for the grandchildren—they are waiting for the package. When the mood strikes, I'll sugar some pecans for my colleagues in the English department and have some left over to sprinkle on salads. On his way out to his workshop, David will step on some pecans (on purpose) as a treat for the birds, and for Angus the Scottie who is partial to pecans. Last year we took pecans to friends who live in central Texas. Like coals to Newcastle, I discovered. They live in a pecan growing community, but really, can you have too many pecans?

Melissa

Annual Meeting Highlights

- Fr. Way reported an increase in attendance at Sunday services from 101 in January 2008 to 144 in December 2008.
- Pledges paid in 2008 once again exceeded 100%. The amount pledged for 2008 was \$145,000, and the actual amount contributed was \$159,831.50. According to Fr. Way, the average - nationwide - is around 85%, so St. Christopher's does exceedingly well.
- The pledge amount for 2009 is \$163,045. The total budget for 2009 is \$184,825.
- Thanks to the retiring vestry members - Annie Cashell, Podi Stofel, and Susie Broome. New vestry members elected were Doug Cashell, Jan Kireilis, and Nancy McReynolds.
- Elected as three-year delegates to diocesan convention were Paula Evans and Edie Rische.
- Frances Lohmann-Smith was elected to a three-year term on the Columbarium Committee.
- Fr. Way appointed Carole Wolf as Senior Warden. At a special meeting following the parish meeting, the vestry selected Donnie Evans as Junior Warden and Bill as



Sundays & Wednesdays & Holy Days in February

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, February 1st (4th Sunday after the Epiphany)

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalm 111

I Corinthians 8:1-13

Mark 1:21-28

Wednesday, February 4th - Presentation of our Lord in the Temple

Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm 84

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40

Service of Holy Eucharist and Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper at 6:00

Everyone is welcome.

Sunday, February 8th (5th Sunday after the Epiphany)

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-12, 21c

I Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

Wednesday, February 11th - Absalom Jones (transferred)

Isaiah 61:1-4

Psalm 137:1-6

John 15:12-15

Service of Holy Eucharist and Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper at 6:00

Everyone is welcome.

Sunday, February 15th (6th Sunday after the Epiphany)

2 Kings 5:1-14

Psalm 30

I Corinthians 9:24-27

Mark 1:40-45

Wednesday, February 18th - Martin Luther

Isaiah 55:6-11

Psalm 46

John 15:1-11

Service of Holy Eucharist and Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper at 6:00

Everyone is welcome.

Sunday, February 22nd (Last Sunday after the Epiphany)

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

Ash Wednesday, February 25th

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm 103

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Services at 7:30 am, Noon and 5:30 pm

Supper of soup and bread at 6:00 - Lenten program following supper

Notes from the Senior Warden

Eucharista

Let's remember what Eucharist is—thanksgiving, and let's celebrate the thanksgivings we have to offer each other. They are part of loving each other. Here are some for this month's—not all—but some. In the future, please offer the thanks you know about for the newsletter each month, and let's show each other that we notice and appreciate each other's gifts.

Thank you to:

The children for the Christmas pageant

The parents of the children in the pageant, especially Ed and Debbie Crites, Becky DelHotal, Carolyn Perry, Paula Purkepile, and Kathleen Finley

Janet Alcayaga for working with the children's choir throughout the season and for the beautiful solo

Jane Ann Wilson for engaging the string quartet and coordinating all the music for Christmas

Jane and Mel Barnes for Jesus' birthday party to honor Madeline Jane Barnes' baptism

Edie Rische for painting the furniture for the nursery

Mel Barnes for painting and hanging doors and bulletin boards for the Sunday school rooms

John Wolf for getting pledge statements out for the end of the year

Edson and Jenny Way for the wonderful Twelfth Night Open House

Karen Hodges for the new nametags for everyone

Annie Cashell for coordinating the Newcomers' dinner and to all the ladies who helped her

Donnie and Paula Evans for overseeing the remodeling of the restrooms

Carole

Province Women's Lenten Gathering II

The Episcopal Church Women of Province VII are delighted to host a second Lenten Gathering Retreat to be held this year in Dallas, March 27 - 29. Brother Michael Gallagher will lead the retreat on Benedictine Spirituality. He is a Roman Catholic Benedictine monk who co-founded the Holy Cross Monastery in Beaumont, TX and is on the staff of the Holy Family Retreat Center there. He is a wonderful leader - spiritual, funny and musical. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Music and from Villanova with a J.D. in Law. He entered Mount Saviour Monastery in New York in 1988 and moved to Texas in 1998. He has led many retreats and given talks on topics ranging from music to prayer to Benedictine Spirituality at the retreat center and in the greater community.

The retreat will be at the Embassy Suites at Love Field at a cost of \$125, plus the cost of the hotel. Rooms are \$109 per day plus tax. Up to four people can share a room. Registration deadline is March 12. For more information, see www.province7.org or contact Janet Farmer at janet.farmer@gmail.com.

New Contact Information for Lee Sinclair

Lee Brodie Sinclair, candidate for Holy Orders, has moved to Red Deer, Alberta, Canada. Her mailing address until May is 4241 44th Street, Red Deer, AB T4N 1He. Lee's new email address is lee01sinclair@hotmail.com. In May she and Gary will move into their new home.

On February 1, Lee will begin a six-month internship at St. Cyprian's Anglican Church in

Environmental Stewardship - Cans for Camp



About three years ago a couple of neighbors I didn't even know enthusiastically donated aluminum cans when I told them I was collecting cans to help church kids go to camp, and soon the "Cans for Camp" program was started at St. Christopher's. Initially the youth group canvassed the neighborhood around the church for donations of cans, resulting in a moderate response; however, most can donations today are from our own parish members. Cash from bringing these cans to a metals recycling center has resulted in scholarships that help our kids go to camp at Bishop Quarterman Conference Center in Amarillo.

Unlike many plastics and metals, aluminum cans are simple to recycle. Cans are melted down, and the aluminum is formed into large ingots, rolled into sheets, and then punched into new cans. This is much simpler, cheaper, and environmentally responsible than mining for aluminum ore.

This is also a way for friends, neighbors, and co-workers to know about our church. Several people I know have learned about our program and enthusiastically contribute to the cause.

The preferred way to donate your aluminum cans is to call Kathleen and Rebekah Borsch (765-6504) for pickup. Many people leave their bags of cans in the narthex and we try to watch for these; however, this can become unsightly and unmanageable. Any ideas about a better collection system are welcome!

Any type of aluminum beverage can is acceptable, whether crushed or not. They do not have to be washed but they should be drained well. Local recycling centers do NOT accept aluminum foil, pie pans, or pet food cans or other items lined in plastic.

Many thanks to all who contribute to this program. Through it, you are helping our children and the environment and letting people know about St. Christopher's!

Deacon Kathleen

AT DAY'S END



Is anybody happier because you passed his way?
Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?
The day is almost over, and its toiling time is through;
Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word of you?
Can you say tonight, in parting with the day that's slipping fast,
That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?

Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said?
Does the man whose hopes were fading, now with courage look ahead?
Did you waste the day, or lose it? Was it well or sorely spent?
Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?
As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God will say,
"You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today"?

--John Hall

In place of the usual Reader's Corner this month, Candia shares the following:

Grandma's Hands

Grandma, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. She didn't move, just sat with her head down staring at her hands. When I sat down beside her she didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat I wondered if she was OK. Finally, not really wanting to disturb her but wanting to check on her at the same time, I asked her if she was OK. She raised her head and looked at me and smiled. "Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking," she said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, Grandma, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were OK," I explained to her.

"Have you ever looked at your hands," she asked. "I mean really looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point she was making.

Grandma smiled and said, "Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life.

"They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child, my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They held my husband and wiped my tears when he went off to war.

"They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special. They wrote my letters to him and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse.

"They have held my children and grandchildren, consoled neighbors, and shook in fists of anger when I didn't understand.

"They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else of me works real well these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer.

"These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of life. But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when He leads me home. And with my hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of God."

I will never look at my hands the same again. But I remember God reached out and took my grandma's hands and led her home. When my hands are hurt or sore or when I stroke the face of my children and husband I think of grandma. I know she has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of God.

A Dog's Purpose - From a Six Year Old

from More or Less Church by K.L. Joanna Depue (DJ) from The Geranium Farm

A veterinarian named Melissa Everett had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife, Lisa and their little boy, Shane were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle.

Melissa examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer; she told the family she couldn't do anything for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As they made arrangements, Ron and Lisa said they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience. At the appointed time, Melissa felt the familiar catch in her throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, and Melissa wondered if he understood what was going on.

Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.

The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. They all sat quietly for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, the others turned to him. Melissa was stunned at Shane's response, having never heard a more comforting explanation. He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life -- like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM A DOG [not a bad Lenten Rule]

Live simply.

Love generously.

Care deeply.

Speak kindly.

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.

Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

Take naps.

Stretch before rising.

Run, romp, and play daily.

Thrive on attention, and let people touch you.

Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.

On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.

On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.

When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.

Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.

Be loyal.

Never pretend to be something you're not.

If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.

When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.



This 'n That

- There are still spaces on the 2009 Flower Chart on the bulletin board in the Narthex.
- Hosts or hostesses are always needed for the fellowship time following both the 8:00 and 10:00 Sunday services. Sign up on sheets provided in each kitchen.
- Karen Hodges has made nametags for EVERYONE! Big thanks to Karen. Now, it's up to EVERYONE to remember to wear it every week. Please don't stick it in your pocket or purse and take it away from the church. Return it each week to the place where you picked it up.

Project Linus

Project Linus (Lubbock County Chapter) is a 100% volunteer, non-profit organization. We are looking for "blanketeers" to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need by making and donating new, handmade, washable blankets, quilts or afghans to our local chapter. If you would like more information, please contact Juanice at 792-2441 or juanice.myers@gmail.com.

Several St. Christopher's people are actively involved in making blankets & quilts for Project Linus. Talk with Jane Barnes, Carole Wolf, Nancy O'Claire or Nancy McReynolds if you want to know more.

[A Suggested Lenten Discipline]
10 Rules For Happier Living
source unknown

- 1) Give something away (no strings attached).
- 2) Do a kindness (and forget it).
- 3) Spend a few minutes with the aged. (Their experience is priceless guidance.)
- 4) Look intently into the face of a baby (and marvel).
- 5) Laugh often. (It's life's lubricant.)
- 6) Give thanks (a thousand times a day is not enough).
- 7) Pray (or you will lose the way).
- 8) Work (with vim and vigor).
- 9) Plan as though you'll live forever (because you will).
- 10) Live as though you'll die tomorrow



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS*

Jan Kireillis	February 1
Wendell Aycock	February 8
Karen Hagee	February 11
Sequoyah Perry	February 12
Nicholas Perry	February 13
Karen Barrington	February 15
Betty Brown	February 16
Martha Walker	February 16
Herbert Leaverton	February 17
Jenny Way	February 19
Carolyn Perry	
February 21	
Mara Driscoll	February 24
Paula Evans	February 25
Ethan Morgan	February 26
Elizabeth Hughes	February 27

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Doug & Annie Cashell	February 4
Jack & Paula Purkepile	February 9
Wayne & Rachel Huffaker	February 15
Donnie & Paula Evans	February 17

*If your birthday or anniversary is missing, please let Jane Barnes know, as she is trying to be sure everyone is included



Daughters of the King will meet on Sunday, February 1, following the 10:00 service. Please be prepared to discuss Chapters 5 & 6 of *St. Benedict on the Freeway*. If you have some ideas for new books of study, please bring them along. Any woman is invited to join this group's meeting. For more information, contact Annie Cashell.

There will be a diocesan meeting of Daughters of the King on February 21. Additional details will be forthcoming. Also, there will be a meeting of the Province VII Daughters in San Antonio March 6 - 8. For more information on either of these meetings,

contact Amanda Watson at watsonama@sbcglobal.net

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE

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The Rt. Rev. C. Wallis Ohl, Jr., Bishop
The Rev. J. Edson Way, PhD., Rector
Kathleen Borsch, Deacon
Les Jackson, Deacon
Melissa Wafer-Cross, Deacon

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

The Vestry

Carole Wolf, Senior Warden
Donnie Evans, Junior Warden
Rebecca DelHotal, Clerk
Podi Stofel, Treasurer

Wendell Aycock
Jan Kireilis

Doug Cashell
Nancy McReynolds

Carolyn Jones
Jack Purkeypile

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