
The Christ Bearer

Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Vol. 16, No. 1

January 2010

From the Rector:

January 2010! I remember all of the dire predictions ten years ago concerning Y2K...Your bank account would disappear! Planes would fall from the sky! There were even some who said that the Millennium 2000 would bring the end of the World! I also remember that all of the IT gurus in agencies across state government were required to be at their work stations as the clock passed midnight from 1999 to 2000 just in case.... What they were actually to do in case of whatever was never clear and they were unhappy campers that New Year's Eve! And then the purists among us argued that Year 2000 was really the end of the 20th Century and that the new millennium didn't actually begin until January 1st, 2001! True. So, in keeping with that reckoning, in this new year we are about to complete the first decade of the 21st Century and next year we will begin the second. Doesn't time fly when you're having fun!

January, of course, sees the completion of the Twelve Days of Christmas culminating on January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany. This major festival in the Christian Year marks the arrival of the Magi, the "Three Kings from the East" who followed the star from Persia all the way to the small village of Bethlehem a few miles outside Jerusalem. There they acknowledged the new-born Jesus as a king and presented him with precious gifts. For this reason January 6th is the traditional day for gift-giving rather than on the festival of the Nativity in much of the Christian world. El Dia de los Reyes is celebrated throughout the Spanish-speaking world, both in Europe and the Americas. The Feast of the Epiphany has also been a favorite celebration for Jenny and me for as long as we have been married, some forty years now. Beginning in graduate school up in Toronto we invited friends to come share the Twelfth Night Cake baked from scratch from an old family recipe to see who would find the almond in their piece of cake which would signify especially good fortune for that person in the coming year. One year in Santa Fe a Navajo friend of ours cut the cake into dozens of wafer-thin slices looking for the almond to take advantage of this exotic Anglo custom. And she got it! And this year again you, our St. Christopher's Family, are invited to come to our home on Tuesday evening, January 5th, to share this celebration with us there, and on Wednesday, January 6th, we will again be sharing our common meal in the Parish Hall after the 5:30 service.

Happy New Year and a blessed Epiphany!

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

2807 42nd Street
Lubbock, TX 79413
806)799-8208
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 November 30, 2009)

	Budgeted	Actual
Plate	\$ 9,240.00	\$ 23,705.98
Pledge	149,457.92	152,649.00
Other	<u>10,725.00</u>	<u>12,100.74</u>
Total Income	\$ 169,422.92	\$ 188,455.72
Expenses	\$ 169,422.95	\$ 152,970.72
Balance: Inc.-Exp.	\$ - .03	\$ 35,485.00

Vestry Highlights - November

- Treasurer Podi Stofel reported that we continue to run well ahead of budget.
- Jan Kireilis reported that we need to fill out paper work to be officially partnered with Wheelock Elementary School. Edie Rische is working on the newcomers' brochures.
- John Wolf reported that we have 83 pledges for a total of \$182,555. There were 40 pledges with no change in amount of pledge, 23 increased, 5 decreased. There were 15 new pledges and 4 were not returned due to moving, illness, etc. A final pledge report will be available on Dec. 1
- The new ECW officers are Missy Ratcliff - President, Susan Dyche - President-elect, Edie Rische - Secretary. A Treasurer is still being recruited to work with Podi Stofel.
- The ECW will host a fellowship reception in connection with the Hanging of the Greens on December 20.
- The vestry approved (1) changing previous policy to allow minimal risk instead of only no-risk investments; (2) allowing the interest income to remain with the principal rather than requiring the annual withdrawal of 90% of the interest. Interest may be withdrawn up to 90%, if necessary. (3) following the diocesan policy to make socially responsible investments when possible; (4) establishing an investment fund in addition to a trust fund.
- Donnie Evans reported on the on-going and soon to be started projects around St. Christopher's. The vestry authorized up to \$25 for the goals and projects.
- Fr. Way will lead a workshop on Dec. 28 on building an Advent wreath.
- On November 20 Lee Brodie Sinclair will be ordained as a transitional deacon. The vestry voted to give Lee a gift of \$250.



On December 6, Annie Cashell's mother, Isobel McCoy, died at her home in Rochester, NY. Our thoughts and prayers are with Annie and all of her family.

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



Food Pantry Requests for January

Our Food Pantry has not been to get much of a variety of vegetables from the South Plains Food Bank recently, so our supply of canned peas is running very low. While you are out shopping for your holiday meals, please pick up a few cans of peas or a box of saltines for our families that have so very little.

Thanks, Nancy & Susie



The Daughters of the King want to thank everyone who participated in the Christmas gifts for the kids at Wheelock. Once again, we are humbled by the generosity of the St. Christopher's community.

~~Debbie Maines~~

Project coordinator

Thank You!

Doug and I want to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and messages after my mother's death. We had a wonderful memorial service which was truly a celebration of her long life. We are blessed to have such a caring family here in Lubbock.

Annie Cashell



A 2-page supplement to the 2008 & 2009 Parish Directories has been prepared and is available on the credenza outside the church office. Typically, however, the supplement contains at least one incorrect address, so please make the following change:

Orlo and Beth Sundre



Deacon's Corner

The work of the eye is done, now go and do heartwork on all things imprisoned within you. Rilke

Some months after the long-time stone mason and artist who worked at the National Cathedral in Washington died; I took a class at the College of Preachers. We all found a leaflet in our rooms that was written in tribute to the stonemason and to his artistry. The brochure included a guide to the gargoyles around the cathedral and a brief biography of the stonemason. He was known to say that, we can make our lives a stepping stone or a stumbling block—a paraphrase of a poem by R. L. Sharpe. Indeed, he made his life's work a stepping stone to beauty. This summer as I traveled in Guatemala, I wondered if my camera was the stepping stone or the stumbling block.

The first day we arrived in La Loma I began to take photos of the people. A mother and daughter stood on the edge of the crowd, both dressed in their colorful huipiles, looking eagerly toward the festivities that were about to begin. What a great shot, but when I raised the camera, the mother turned her child's face away from me and wrapped her arms protectively around the girl. I did not take the photograph. The days that followed were often a battle between voyeurism and connection. With my zoom lens, I can take photos from quite a distance, sneak photos, as it were---which I did on occasion. More often than not, though, I waited for the connection, the nod, the dip of the head before I pressed the shutter. Sometimes my would-be subjects used my camera to their advantage, and I have bookmarks, refrigerator magnets, holders for my glasses—and photos, all paid for with Quetzales (local currency) or purchases. On the last day of our time in La Loma, I spotted the same mother and daughter waiting for the despedida to begin; the child's face was alight with anticipation. As the mother urged the little girl forward to join the celebration, I raised my camera, and looked at her; she nodded her head; this time I did press the shutter. The difference is relationship.

Every day the photos of the people of Guatemala scroll by on my screen saver at school; they remind me of another dimension of my life that I lived for twelve days. They also have become a meditation of remembrance for Rosaura, her sweetness and acumen; for Antonia, her handiwork and patience; for Toribio, his dedication and single-mindedness; for Oliver, his curiosity and his nose flute; for Leo, her cooking and dreams for her daughters; for Pablo, Juan, Vicente, Vanessa, Marta, Mateo, Ana Maria, Tomasito... Praying in color—that's not what I expected, but that's what the photographs have become.

I ask myself at the beginning of this new year what kind of changes I want to make in my life in 2010. Living in gratitude and thanksgiving is one--for long-time relationships and for those whose lives have touched mine only briefly. Also, I hope through prayerful consideration to discern the difference between stepping stones and stumbling blocks; as Rilke suggests, it is time for the heartwork to begin.

What kind of heartwork will you do this year?

Melissa



Sunday, January 24, 2010
following the 10:00 service

This meeting is very important to the life of our church. Your participation is needed and appreciated. A meal will be provided by the ECW prior to the meeting. Ask Missy Ratcliff how you can help with the meal.

Sundays & Wednesdays & Holy Days in January

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.



Friday, January 1 - The Holy Name (Eucharist 10:00 am)
Numbers 6:22-27 Psalm 8 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21

Sunday, January 3 Second Sunday after Christmas (Year C)
Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 84
Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a
Luke 2:41-52

Wednesday, January 6 - Feast of the Epiphany
Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12
Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper at 6:00 pm

Sunday, January 10 The Baptism of our Lord (Year C)
Isaiah 43:1-7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14-17
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Wednesday, January 13 - Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers
1 John 2:18-25 Psalm 37:3-6, 32-33 Luke 12:8-12
Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper at 6:00 pm

Sunday, January 17 Second Sunday after Epiphany (Year C)
Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalm 36:5-10
I Corinthians 12:1-11
John 2:1-11

Wednesday, January 20 - Fabian, Bishop and Martyr
2 Esdras 2:42-48 Psalm 110:1-4 Matthew 10:16-22
Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper at 6:00 pm

Sunday, January 24 Third Sunday after Epiphany (Year C)
Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5, 8-10
Psalm 19
I Corinthians 12:13-31a
Luke 4:14-21

Wednesday, January 27 - John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople
Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 49:1-8 Luke 21:12-15
Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper at 6:00 pm

Sunday, January 31 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany (Year C)
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
I Corinthians 13:1-13

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—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.

Drs. Hyung Sek Chae, Michael Stone, and Jane Ann Wilson for special music Nov. 22
Grace Rogers for her flute music
John Wolf for his solo of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" and for serving as cantor during Advent
Martha Robinson and Podi Stofel for organizing the Thanksgiving meal
All the wonderful cooks and kitchen help for the Thanksgiving meal
Our coffee hosts each week
The Children's Choir for their Advent music
Fr. Edson for his Advent wreath workshop
For Missy Ratcliff and Jane Ann Wilson for the Advent wreaths for the church
Jane Barnes for organizing the Prayer Shawl ministry
Jane Barnes, Kathleen Borsch, Bobbie Matches, Nancy McReynolds, Elizabeth Middleton, Billie Becknal, and Juanice Myers for the shawls they've completed
Our new youth group for the work they're doing for Advent Outreach
Charise and Ted Adams for their work with the youth for Advent Projects
Betty Hodgson, Mary Mix on, and Missy Ratcliff for organizing and mentoring the Mahjong group
Donnie and Paula Evans for all the work they do and have done on our renovations, especially the new audio-visual system
New ECW officers Missy Ratcliff and Susan Dyche
Debbie Maines for organizing the gift giving for the Wheelock children
ALL THE FOLKS WHO BOUGHT AND DONATED FUNDS TOWARD GIFTS FOR THE WHEELOCK CHILDREN

YOU

Carole



Pastoral Care Committee

Newcomers

The last group of the Pastoral Care Committee to be showcased is Newcomers. This committee is chaired by Wendell Aycock, and he is assisted by Edie Rische and Nancy McReynolds. The purpose of this group is to make sure that new members are welcomed into our church family and to encourage them to participate in activities such as Foyer Groups, Adult Forum, and the Wednesday evening services and Agape meal.

Edie is designing a welcome pamphlet for our visitors and newcomers, and Nancy maintains a supply of newcomer cards and pencils in the pews. Jane Barnes is available to answer questions about the Wednesday activities, and Paula Purkeypille will be thrilled to add new members to the Foyer groups. Adult Forum with Fr. Way and Fr. Bowyer is always an interesting activity.

Many of these events have been mentioned before, but Wendell and his group want to encourage everyone to branch out in the upcoming new year and try something different to become better acquainted with all of the St. Christopher's church family.



Environmental Stewardship

Get Help Weatherizing Your Home

Information provided by Xcel Energy - Energy Efficient Living

Taking steps to weatherize your home can sometimes be accomplished with a free Saturday afternoon, some caulk and a little bit of know-how.

Increase your ROI - Get an even greater payback on Weatherization improvements with energy-efficiency tax credits of up to \$1500, available through 2011.

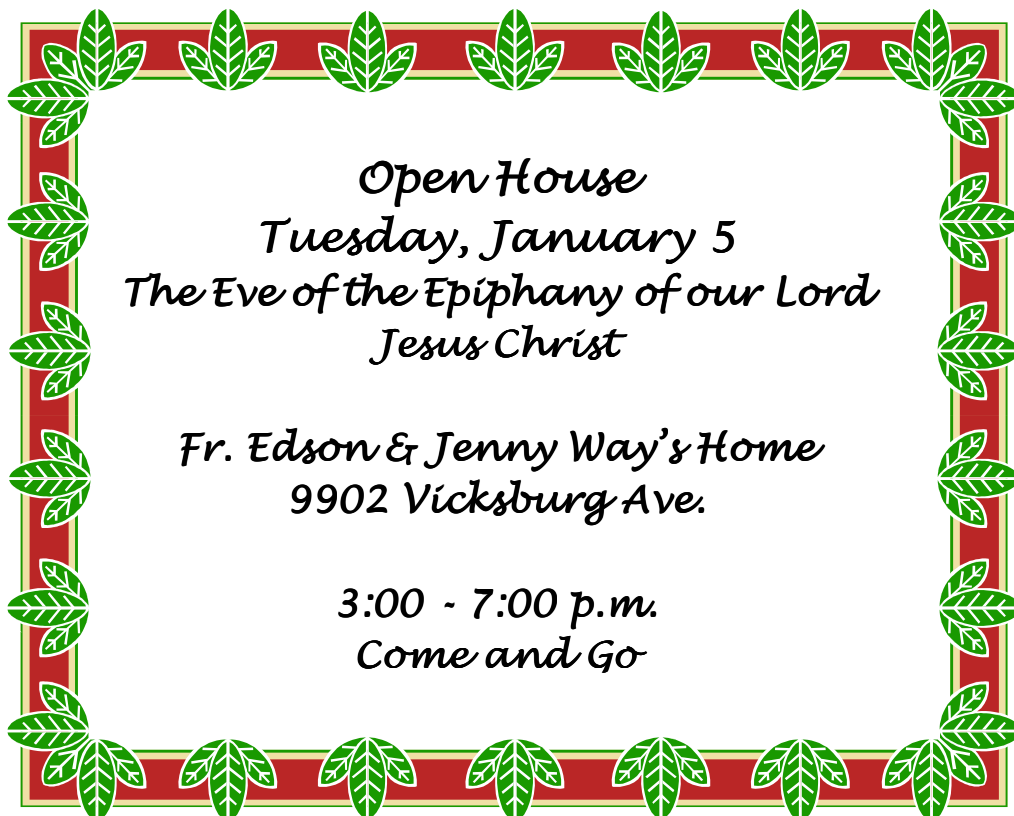
Baby It's Cold Outside!

Nothing beats relaxing at home on those long and cold winter days. To help you achieve the most comfort in your home this winter follow these tips:

- Install a programmable thermostat. You may forget to turn down the heat before leaving the house, or going to sleep, but a programmable thermostat won't! A programmable thermostat will work to provide complete comfort control at energy-saving levels.
- Pick up some plastic. For just a few dollars, pick up a window insulation kit at your local hardware or discount store. Adding a buffer against drafts and extra still air space can give a nice boost to your home's ability to hold heat.

Cook Smart! Bring on the Heat

Sipping hot chocolate or tea has long been an antidote for a chilly morning or afternoon during the winter months. enjoying spicy foods can have the same effect and may work even longer on beating a chill. Entrees like chili, cacciatore and jambalaya all hit the mark. They are also great slow cooker meals. A slow cooker uses a fraction of the energy as your stovetop or oven, so choosing these entrees will not only keep you warm but will lower your energy use.



This 'n That

- 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.
- The Prayer Shawl group will meet Monday, January 4 at 4:00 pm to bring completed shawls and to exchange ideas and suggestions. If you knit or crochet or would like to learn in order to make these shawls, join this group. Contact Jane Barnes for more information
- WEAR YOUR NAMETAG!!!!
- 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.
- The new Altar Flower calendar should be up in the Narthex soon. Please sign up to give flowers in memory or in honor of someone for one or more Sundays in the new year.

First Aid Supplies

There are two Red Cross-approved first aid kits located in both the upstairs and downstairs kitchens. These supplies are located in cabinets marked as such. There are also boxes of assorted Band-aids with the kits. Please use the Band-aids in the boxes before opening the kits.

Missy Ratcliff

Youth Activities

The new youth group at St. Christopher's adopted five outreach projects that they worked to accomplish before Christmas. . . symbolizing the candles on an Advent wreath. The wreath held images of the young people participating in the St. Christopher's Food Pantry, the Hope Community of Shalom Clothing Closet, the Adult Day Care Center, and the Heifer International Project. The group hopes to continue to participate in a project each month after Christmas to continue to help others.

The Youth of St. Christopher's will meet on Saturday nights at 6:00 pm for dinner and a



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Lisa Morgan	January 1
Suzanne Copeland	January 7
Madoc Thomas	January 7
Beth Sunde	January 8
Karen Hodges	January 9
Sonia Devaneson	January 10
Chris Morgan	January 11
Dolores Carpenter	January 16
John Henry Wilson	January 17
Valinda Jackson	January 21
Calder Thomas	January 23
Mallory Finley	January 24
Jane Ann Wilson	January 26
Bob Sherman	January 27
Jerry Matches	January 28
Sandy Sherman	January 28
John Punchard	January 30
Samantha DelHotal	January 31
Betty Hodgson	January 31

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Mandy Wiley	January 4
Larry & Gail McEachern	January 6
Gerald & Joyce Wilson	January 15
Wendell & Diane Aycok	January 28



St. Christopher's chapter of Daughters of the King will meet on Sunday, January 3, following the 10:00 service. At this meeting we will begin a study of the book *Triologue: Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Dialogue*, by Leonard Swidler, Reuven Firestone, and Kalid Duran. Any woman is welcome to visit this meeting and to join this study.

Remember, when you or someone you love has a prayer need, the Daughters of the King want to pray for you. Fill out one of the prayer cards in the pew and put the card in the little wooden box on the shelf at the back of the church.



NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE

January 15

send information to

jambarnes@suddenlink.net

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
2807 42nd Street (at Elgin)
Lubbock, Texas 79413
(806) 799-8208
e-mail: stcoff@nts-online.net
website: www.stchristophers.org

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

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

Wendell Aycock
Jan Kireilis

Doug Cashell
Nancy McReynolds

Carolyn Jones
Jack Purkeypile

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
2807 42nd Street
Lubbock, TX 79413

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #566
Lubbock, TX

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
