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# The Christ Bearer

## Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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Vol. 15, No. 1

January 2009

### *From the Rector:*

One of my favorite hymns in the Hymnal 1982 is Hymn 112 which begins with the perhaps unpromising words, "In the deep mid-winter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;." Yet, the interplay between word and melody in this hymn creates such beauty that the mere thought of it can move me to tears. While this hymn is categorized as a Christmas Hymn, I cite it now to remind us that Christmas continues well into January each year. In a commercial culture that begins setting up Christmas decorations even before Halloween now (I used to think it was bad when they did so at Thanksgiving time) and begins taking them all down on the 26th of December, in the deep mid-winter, "Christmas" in fact lasts from the Vigil of Christ-Mass on the 24th through the Feast of the Epiphany beginning at nightfall on January 5th and lasting through the next day, the 6th of January. This closes the Christmas Season and comprises the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Epiphany (from the Greek "to show" or "to manifest") commemorates the arrival of the Magi, Persian priests who followed the star to Bethlehem to find the new King of the Jews, and thus, the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles. By extension, it may also commemorate God's Grace in saving the child from Herod's slaughter of the Innocents when the Magi returned home by another way. There are different traditions in the East and in the West, and between Roman and Protestant practices about when the Season of the Epiphany actually ends. Commonly the octave day (eighth day) from the Epiphany, January 13th, closes the season in Roman practice. In the Church of England it ends at Evening Prayer on the Feast of the Presentation, February 2nd, or the Sunday between January 28th and February 3rd. In the Revised Common Lectionary used in the Episcopal Church today it ends on the day before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. The last Sunday of Epiphany is Transfiguration Sunday, the 22nd of February this year. Between them, Christmas and Epiphany celebrate the birth and the revelation of Jesus as the Son of God, the Messiah, and Savior of the World.

Something else you should know: during the Season of Epiphany this year my wife Jenny and I will realize a dream of almost forty years duration and fly to Australia and New Zealand to visit friends we have not seen in a very long time and relatives on my mother's side whom I have never met. That part of my family spent the Second World War in various Japanese concentration camps in China. After their liberation they scattered throughout the English-speaking world: some to England, Canada, beautiful Rhodesia (now the desolated Zimbabwe) Australia, and New Zealand.

So, we are going to go visit them in late January and Early February. I'll be gone two Sundays and three Wednesdays and then come home to Lubbock. Jenny will stay on another two weeks with friends there.

The Christ Bearer

**Happy Epiphany, indeed!** *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

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a monthly publication of  
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

2807 42nd Street  
Lubbock, TX 79413

**Weekly Services**  
Sunday - 8:00, 10:00 Holy Eucharist

Rector - The Rev. J. Edson Way  
Deacon - Melissa Wafer-Cross

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**Income & Expenses**  
(through November 30, 2008)

	Budgeted	Actual
Plate	\$ 8,800.00	16,736.78
Pledge	132,916.63	150,971.50
Other	<u>17,783.33</u>	<u>20,662.98</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 159,499.96</b>	<b>\$ 188,371.26</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 159,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 141,585.93</b>
<b>Balance: Inc.-Exp.</b>	<b>\$ (0.04)</b>	<b>\$ 46,785.33</b>

### Vestry Highlights - November

- John Wolf reported we have received 68 pledges for \$155,500.
- Fr. Way stated that our attendance has been steadily growing in the past few months. Advent begins on Nov. 30. There will be a guest preacher from "Food for the Poor" on December 7. Fr. Way has been selected to be on the diocesan Executive Committee. He will be out of town from January 26 - February 9, and he has already arranged for supply clergy.
- Sr. Warden Carole Wolf reported on the need for a new computer monitor. She also said the Shelby software system continues to cause problems. The vestry agreed to look into other church software systems.
- Carole is organizing a way to honor Jerry & Bobbie Matches for their many years of service to the Food Pantry. Money will be collected on December 7 and given to the Matches on December 14.
- The Budget Committee will meet the first Sunday in January. The Nominating Committee for vestry and convention delegates will be Podi Stofel, Annie Cashell and Susie Broome.
- Jr. Warden Donnie Evans reported that the carpets have been cleaned. Other cleaning will be taking place soon. Becky DelHotal will call a meeting of the Decorating Committee to decide what to do with the crosses that have been donated for the wall in the basement.
- Susie Broome stated that due to the influx of new families, Christian Ed. will start to have three groups for Sunday School.
- Thanks to David Cross for a great job working on the "domain name" problem and



Charlie Price lost his battle with Alzheimer's Disease on December 12. Memorial services will be held after the holidays. We weep with Sylvia and his family, but we celebrate the joy that Charlie brought to us all during his time with us.

*Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him*

#### *Vestry news - continued*

- Fr. Way plans an Open House for the Parish on Twelfth Night instead of Christmas
- On December 18 the vestry will meet for a Christmas party at the home of Jack & Paula Purkeypille.
- There will be a Pot Luck Dinner at the church on New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31.



The following people have transferred their membership to St. Christopher's in the past couple of months:

#### *From St. Stephen's, Lubbock:*

Ted & Charise Adams, and daughters,  
 Mariah & Ivy Knudson  
 Carol Agnew  
 David & Judy Bartl  
 John & Josephine Edwards  
 Linda Goff  
 Karen Hodges  
 Catherine Matthews  
 Mary Frances Mixon  
 Sequoya & Carolyn Perry, and sons  
 Sequoya & Nicholas  
 Missy Ratcliff  
 Jane Seaver  
 Robert & Sandy Sherman

#### *From St. Paul's-on-the-Plains, Lubbock:*

Sue Veal

We extend a sincere welcome to each of these people as they truly become part of the family that is St. Christopher's.



There WILL BE Sunday School classes for all children on Dec. 28 and January 4 - on these



**Deacon's Corner**

*When we are really honest with ourselves we must  
our lives are all that really belong to us. So it is how  
use our lives that determine the kind of men we are.*

*Cesar Chavez*

The holiday season is over and most of us are looking forward to the coming New Year. You may have even made some of those New Year's resolutions. You know what I'm talking about. My personal pledge to myself on January 1<sup>st</sup> of almost every year for the last 20 years is to get healthy, lose weight, and save money. By January 2<sup>nd</sup> I have broken most of these resolutions. Perhaps the better focus needs to be on how we use our lives to improve the lives and well being of others that God has brought into our lives. We are reminded that our primary goal in this life is to love God, love ourselves and love our neighbors as ourselves. In doing these things our lives and the lives of other people are transformed and made to be more like God. As we begin the New Year it is my prayer that we will all look at new ways in which we can use our lives in 2009 to make an impact on all the people in our lives.

Happy New Year!

*Les*



\* Welcome to David Faulkner who was baptised at St. Christopher's on  
on November 2. David was sponsored by his fiancé, Allison Boye.

\* At the 6:00 service on Christmas Eve Madeline Jane Barnes was welcomed in Holy Baptism. Madeline is the daughter of Melissa Barnes and the granddaughter of Mel & Jane Barnes.



\*Congratulations to Ted Adams and Charise Knudsen who were married  
November 22 at The Legacy (formerly 1st Presbyterian) by Fr. Way.  
and Charise's children served as attendants for their parents.

\*Rebekah Carter and Joey Enger were married on Christmas Eve at the Historic St. Paul's Church, with a service of blessing at St. Christopher's following. Congratulations and best wishes Rebekah and Joey.

*Open House*

*Monday, January 5*

*The Eve of the Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

*Fr. Edson & Jenny Way's Home*

*9902 Vicksburg Ave.*

*3:00 - 7:00 p.m.*

*Come and Go*



## 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.



### ***Thursday, New Year's Day - Feast of the Holy Name - 10:00 am***

Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm 8

Luke 2:15-21

### **Sunday, January 4 (Christmas 1)**

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 84:1-8

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Luke 2:41-52

### ***TUESDAY, January 6th - Feast of the Epiphany***

***Please note - This service will replace the usual Wednesday service***

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12

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

### **Sunday, January 11 (1st Sunday after Epiphany)**

Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm 29

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11

### ***Wednesday, January 14 - Hilary, Bishop of Poitiers***

*I* John 2:18-25

Psalm 37:3-6, 32-33

Luke 12: 8-12

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

### **Sunday, January 18 (2nd Sunday after Epiphany)**

I Samuel 3: 1-20

Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17

I Corinthians 6:12-20

John 1:43-51

### ***Wednesday, January 21 - Confession of St. Peter (trans.)***

Acts 4:8-13

Psalm 23

*I* Peter 5:1-4

Matthew 16:13-19

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

### **Sunday, January 25 (3rd Sunday after Epiphany)**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:6-14

I Corinthians 7:29-31

Mark 1:14-20

### ***Wednesday, January 28 - Conversion of St. Paul***

Acts 26:9-21

Psalm 67

Galatians 1:11-24

Matthew 10:16-22

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

## 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:

ECW for their generous gifts: \$500 to the Food Pantry and \$300 to the Nursery Project;

Edie Rische and Jenny Way for the work to refurbish the Nursery;

Jerry and Bobbie Matches for their long and faithful dedication to the Food Pantry: more than 575 Tuesdays to more than 6900 clients in almost 12 years;

Generous Parishioners for supporting the Food Pantry with more than \$1200;

Debbie Maines and Daughters of the King as well as all the families who gave Christmas gifts for children in need;

Missy Ratcliff, Mary Mixon, and Jane Seavers for clean up and re-organization of the upstairs kitchen and to Missy for taking on the purchasing of kitchen supplies;

Donnie and Paula Evans for cleaning up the sacristy after the plumbing repairs;

Susan and Del Dyche for donating furniture to St. Christopher's and to a needy family.

Mel Barnes for his work on the bookcases in the Sunday School room

*Carole*

### **Environmental Stewardship**

The source for this month's information is Jane Ann Wilson.



For information about how eating some vegetable based meals will help the environment and some links to very interesting looking vegetarian recipes, try The PBJ Campaign website: <http://www.pbjcampaign.org/resources>

For a wallet-sized sustainable seafood guide from the Monterey Bay Aquarium visit this website:

[http://www.mbayaq.org/cr/cr\\_seafoodwatch/content/media/MBA\\_SeafoodWatch\\_SoutheastGuide.pdf](http://www.mbayaq.org/cr/cr_seafoodwatch/content/media/MBA_SeafoodWatch_SoutheastGuide.pdf)

To reduce the amount of junk mail you receive, including catalogs and credit card offers, go to this website: <https://secure.proquo.com/beta/junkmail/>

Another place to rid yourself of unwanted catalogs is Catalog Choice. It has more catalogs than the previous one, but ProQuo has other junk mail in addition to catalogs.

And, in case you have wondered about the problem of mercury in compact fluorescent light bulbs, here's what I have learned:

1. More mercury would be released into the atmosphere by the production of the electricity that you're saving by using the CF than is in the bulb.
2. You can recycle your used bulbs at Home Depot.



**Sunday, January 25, 2009**  
following the 10:00 service

This meeting is extremely 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. Let



## A Reader's Corner

This column is usually devoted to the synopsis/review of a book with some spiritual or theological significance. I have asked to offer a different sort of review, but I believe the significance, at least for me, was certainly moving and spiritual.

Jim Haney (the elder) and I sometimes recommend books we have read to each other, and, at times, recommend motion pictures. Recently, he suggested to me that I see the movie *The Great Debaters* since he knew I grew up in East Texas. The movie is set in Marshall, Texas in the Depression years 1935-1936. The movie revolves around the Debate Team at Wiley College, a small black Methodist college located in Marshall. The climate is not merely the hard times of depression but also the "Jim Crow" south at its worst. The movie was based on an article written about the Wiley College debate team by Tony Scherman for the 1997 Spring issue of *American Legacy*.

The movie has two very noted black stars. Two-time Academy Award winner Denzel Washington (who also directed the movie) is the Wiley College faculty member who serves as the Debate coach and is also a social radical and union organizer, and Forest Whitaker, also an Academy Award winner, portrays Dr. James Farmer, Sr., faculty member at Wiley College, holder of an earned Ph.D. degree from an eastern university, and father of James Farmer, Jr., who at 14 years of age was a freshman student at Wiley College and one of the members of the debate team.

The screenplay, based on real events, follows four young black students, possessed of extraordinary gifts of intellect and oratory, as they compete for the Wiley College Debate Team during 1935-36. Ultimately they are invited to debate the defending national champion Harvard University Debate Team. Superimposed on the story of the debaters is the social and political activism of the Debate Coach, who quickly runs afoul of the white legal and political establishment of the town and the times. One member of the team leaves the team because his family will not support him if he continues on the team with a so-called "Communist" leader. The three team members who complete the year, along with their coach, triumph over the social, economic, and historical currents pushing against them.

The characters are honest, imperfect, and obviously human, with human strengths and human weaknesses. In fact, one message of the film is that blacks of those times had much the same makeup as whites. Another message, the triumph of the human spirit over prejudice and oppression, is equally uplifting, but what makes the film so special for me is that in a sense I lived the story with them. Wiley College still exists in Marshall, Texas, just as it did in 1954 when I moved to Marshall at age 10 and as it did when I graduated from Marshall High School in 1961 and left to enter Stephen F. Austin State College.

Later, as I reflected on my response to this film, I recalled this passage from Matthew 25.31-25.46. (Coincidentally, as I was completing this paper, this scripture was the Gospel reading for November 23.) Everyone should read it in its entirety, so I will reproduce only two verses; "Then they will also answer, Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you? Then Jesus will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me. . . .'"

Marshall, Texas is smack in the middle of what is euphemistically known as the "East Texas Bible Belt," and it does not take an exceptional biblical scholar to exegete these passages in light of the messages in the film or the South of the twentieth century. After seeing "The Great Debaters", I realize . . . "I should have done more---We should all have done more." And, perhaps, readers will want to explore this film from their own perspective.

### An open invitation from Candia:

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 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).

## This 'n That

- There are still spaces available on the new Altar Flower chart on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please put your name on one or more Sunday blanks to honor or remember the special days and people in your life. At the time your flowers are on the altar, please add a donation of \$35 - \$50 to your pledge to cover the cost. There are two spaces provided for each Sunday.
- Please remember to use the DOK Prayer Request cards in the pews whenever you or someone you know has a prayer need. Members of Daughters of the King will pray for this person for up to two months, as you request. Place the completed cards in the small wooden box on the shelf at the back of the church.
- At any time you can email a prayer request to [jambarnes@suddenlink.net](mailto:jambarnes@suddenlink.net), and that request will be sent out to the Daughters of the King or to the entire parish as you wish.
- To those of you who enjoy the "goodies" at Sunday School and following the 10:00 service - these things don't just appear. Please sign up to help bring snacks and to set up and clean up. See the lists downstairs and in the upstairs kitchen, or see Jan Kireillis.
- If you are the chairman of a committee or group at St. Christopher's, please turn in your typed annual report to the church office no later than January 16, so they can be included in the packet for the Annual Parish Meeting that will be held January 25.

## New Bishop Elected

On November 22 the lay delegates and clergy delegates of Northwest Texas met at St. Paul's-on-the-Plains in Lubbock and elected The Rev. J. Scott Mayer to be the 4th Bishop of this diocese. Fr. Mayer is currently rector of the Church of the Heavenly Rest, Abilene. He was elected on the second ballot, narrowly missing election on the first ballot by a mere 6 lay votes. The ceremony of Consecration will take place on March 21 in Lubbock under the hand of the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Katharine Jefferts Schori. Many thanks to all who helped receive the candidates here at St. Christopher's and to all who helped logistically during the election



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS\*

Richard Jensen	January 1
Lisa Morgan	January 1
Suzanne Copeland	January 7
Madoc Thomas	January 7
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
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

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Tom & Mandy Wiley	January 4
Wendell & Diane Aycock	January 28

\*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, January 4, following the 10:00 service. Please be prepared to discuss Chapter 4 of *St. Benedict on the Freeway*, "Anchors." If you have some ideas for new books of study, please bring them along.

**Big  
Thank  
You!**

The Daughters of the King want to thank everyone who took names of children from Wheelock Elem. and bought gifts for them. We were able to provide for more than twice the number of children whom we served last year. You were all most generous, and we and the children and their families really appreciate you.



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website: [www.stchristophers.org](http://www.stchristophers.org)

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 - Wendell Aycock, Associate Sr. Warden  
Donnie Evans, Junior Warden - Jack Purkeypile, Assistant Jr. Warden  
Ann Cashell, Clerk  
Podi Stofel, Treasurer

Susie Broome

Rebecca DelHotal

Carolyn Jones

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