
The Christ Bearer

Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Vol. 15, No. 5

May 2009

From the Rector:

Two significant dates mark our May calendar this year: Mother's Day, which falls on the second Sunday of the month, May 10th; and the Feast of Pentecost which falls on May 31st, the Sunday after the seventh Sunday after Easter. Because Pentecost is determined by its relationship to Easter Sunday, it may occur in May or June, depending on the date of Easter in any given year. And while there is no readily apparent relationship between these two events, Mother's Day and Pentecost, there is another less well-known Feast that does relate to one of these which also always falls in May, the Feast of Monnica (sic), mother of St. Augustine of Hippo, May 4th, the Monday before Mother's Day this year.

We know of the life and death of Monnica from the writings of her son, Augustine, especially in his spiritual autobiography, *The Confessions of St. Augustine*. There we learn that she was born to a Berber family in North Africa about 331 and that she was a devout Christian married to a pagan husband, Patricius, and living in a pagan world that held many enticements for her sons. She dedicated herself to the task of bringing her husband and children to the Christian faith, a task in which she eventually succeeded. She died while traveling back to North Africa after accompanying her sons to Milan, Italy, where Augustine was baptized in 387 by Ambrose, Bishop of Milan. As she was dieing, so far from home, her younger son asked if she were not afraid of being buried in this alien place. Her response: "Nothing is far from God, and I need have no fear that He will not know where to find me, when He comes to raise me to life at the end of the world." The abiding faith revealed in that statement is the faith that saw to the conversion of her brilliant son Augustine and which set him on his path to becoming a bishop and the most influential theologian in Christendom for a thousand years! Thanks, Mom. And thanks to all mothers for the gift of life and for their sending each of us on to our own futures, whatever those may turn out to be.

And maybe after all there is a relationship between Mother's Day and Pentecost. I know that there were a couple of instances in my own childhood where my behavior reduced my mother to speaking in tongues! But the gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 1, the sending of the Holy Comforter to the bereaved Apostles, the promise of Jesus that "I will not leave you as orphans" models the loving-kindness of the Triune God that is a model for all parents to emulate. May we parents strive to do so...

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
- reaching out to our community and larger world in love and service.

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 February 28, 2009)

	Budgeted	Actual
Plate	\$ 2,520.00	8,112.84
Pledge	40,761.28	43,685.00
Other	<u>2,925.00</u>	<u>3,902.83</u>
Total Income	\$ 46,206.28	\$ 55,700.67
Expenses	\$ 46,206.55	\$ 42,329.21
Balance: Inc.-Exp.	\$ - .27	\$ 13,371.46

Vestry Highlights - March

- There was discussion of the plans for the Presiding Bishop's visit on March 22. Following the service there will be a reception downstairs with a short Q and A session with the Presiding Bishop.
- Fr. Way outlined plans for Holy Week services. Bishop Scott Mayer will be the officiant at the Maundy Thursday service.
- Fr. Way requested putting a votive candle stand on the wall behind the organ.
- Fr. Way will be attending an ecumenical meeting from April 26 - May 2. He will arrange for a supply priest for Wednesday.
- John Wolf has resigned from the audit committee. Doug Cashell and Jan Kireilis will take his place. Carole Wolf will ask Mel Barnes if he wishes to continue on the committee.
- Jane Barnes is working on updating the parish directory.
- Carole Wolf, with the help of Paula Evans, has submitted a \$1,000 grant request to Sam's Club.
- The three deacons will attend vestry meetings, one a month, to renew their covenants with St. Christopher's.
- Paula Evans arranged to have the cushions shortened on the two pews that were cut back, and she will have the tiles in the same area cleaned. Donnie Evans reported that the water heater downstairs has been replaced along with a drip pan to protect from leaks. Donnie emphasized that we need to be sure people are locking the doors behind them while in the building and when they leave.
- Carolyn Jones reported that the Personnel committee has decided to offer a part-time position to a woman to take over Jamie's duties. She should begin work April



* Condolences to Herb Martin on the death of his wife, Mary, on March 30. Herb and Mary have been members of St. Christopher's for many years but have been inactive recently due to Mary's health issues.

* Bob Mayer died on April 17, and his memorial service was held at St. Christopher's on April 25. Our sincere sympathy to Sawyer Swords and to Bob's and her family.

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



Our Food Pantry is requesting the following items through mid May:

toothpaste, granola bars,
and canned sweet potatoes

Please pick up a few items in these categories when you shop and place them in the basket at the church entrance.



St. Christopher's chapter of Daughters of the King will meet on Sunday, May 3, following the 10:00 service. The ladies will begin their discussion of *Take This Bread*, by Sara Miles. Any woman is welcome to visit this meeting. Contact Annie Cashell for more information.

Vestry Highlights, continued

- Doug Cashell will gather names of members who miss services to call to let them know they were missed.
- There was discussion of putting Safe-guarding God's Children guidelines on the agenda for the next meeting.
- The vestry will meet next on April 16.



May 15

send information to



Deacon's Corner

"We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with others; and along those fibers, as sympathetic threads, our actions run as causes, and they come back to us as effects." Herman Melville

A few weeks before his consecration as bishop, Scott Mayer came to the Friday night session of the deacon formation class. During the course of the discussion, he asked about our understanding of the commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself." My first thought was that we are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, but that's not correct. We are to love our neighbors because they are ourselves; we are not separate. When we look into the face of our neighbor, we see our own face.

The people of St. Christopher's Church understand a great deal about being good neighbors. Our congregation responds to the needs of the poor and the hungry by giving to the food pantry and to Hope Shalom; to the children of Happy Camp and Promise Camp with teddy bears; to the homeless through St. Benedict's with Friday lunch; to the elderly by supplying space for the Adult Day Activity Center; to those who are ill by visiting and calling; the list goes on...

On the morning of Good Friday, I delivered sandwiches and tea to the mission of St. Benedict downtown. After I carried in the food, I was talking to Pat, Father Barry's wife, and several men came in for coffee. The morning was cold; Pat greeted the men and teased one about leaving his coat. The men stepped through the door confident that they would be welcomed and that the coffee was ready—just as if they were entering a neighbor's home. I thought of the crew of volunteers at Hope Shalom on Sunday nights; the people who come through the doors for food or clothes or prayers or counseling are met with the same kind of welcome. The St. Chris food pantry volunteers know our clients by name. It changes everything when you actually look into the face of your neighbor. I learn that my neighbors continue to need my donations of food, clothing, teddy bears, pennies, but equally as important, my neighbors need me. *Love your neighbor as yourself* – find time to look into the face of your neighbor; you'll see yourself there.

Melissa



Bishop Quarterman Conference Center Summer 2009 Camp Dates

June 9 - 13	Counselor Training
June 14-20	High School Camp (completed grades 9 - 12)
June 21-27	Primary Camp (completed grades 2 - 4)
June 29 - July 3	Promise Camp
July 6-10	Happy Camp
July 12-18	Middle School Camp (completed grades 5-8)

For more information or application forms, contact Claire Randolph

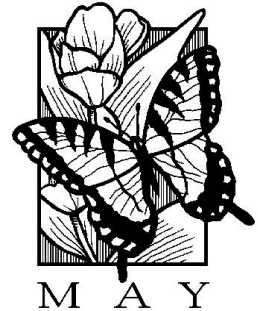
Parents' Meeting - Summer Program



There will be a meeting of the parents of our Sunday School children after the 10:00 service on Sunday, May 17. The purpose of the meeting will be to get feedback regarding a summer program. Please make time to meet with Claire Randolph at

Sundays & Wednesdays & Holy Days 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.



Fourth Sunday of Easter - May 3 (Good Shepherd Sunday)

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

I John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

Wednesday, May 6, Feast of Monnica, Mother of Augustine

I Samuel 1:10-11, 20

Psalm 115:12-18

Luke 7:11-17

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 10 (Mother's Day)

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:24-30

I John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Wednesday, May 13

There will be a service this evening, but there is no saint on the calendar.

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 17 (Rogation Day)

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

I John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

Wednesday, May 20, Feast of Alcuin, Abbot of Tours

Ecclesiasticus 39:1-9

Psalm 37:3-6, 32-33

Matthew 13:47-52

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

Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 24

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

I John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

Wednesday, May 27, Feast of Augustine of Canterbury

2 Corinthians 5:17-20a

Psalm 66:1-8

Luke 5:1-11

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

The Day of Pentecost, May 31

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:25-35, 37

Romans 8:22-27



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.

Thank you to:

Larry McEachern for the pre-Holy Week Lecture Series—great job

Allison, Michaela, and Emily Crites and Lilly Brock for our Palm Sunday music

Janet Alcayaga for directing the children's choir

Jane Seaver for becoming the coordinator of the coffee hour hosts

Paula Purkeypile for preparing the new Foyer Family lists

All the acolytes, clergy, and readers who served to make Holy Week and Easter special

Bishop Scott Mayer for celebrating Maundy Thursday service with us

Charles Bowyer, Doug Cashell, Steve Finley, Shirley Webb, John Wolf, and the choir for music on Good Friday

Debbie Maines and ECW members for preparing and serving the Easter brunch

Everyone who brought Easter eggs for the children

Our special teens and Christian Ed parents for setting up the Easter egg hunt

Jane Ann and the string quartet (Brian Gum, Lynn Ledbetter, Sharon Mirl and Michael Newton) for Easter music

Doug Cashell, Jane Barnes, and Claire Randolph for more Easter music

Linda Goff for serving as thurifer for our Easter service

The donors of the votive candle stand

The donor of the red burse and veil

Jane Barnes for preparing the new directory

Melissa Wafer-Cross - thanks all who have donated socks, underwear, and clothing for Hope Shalom and teddy bears for Happy Camp and Promise Camp

Let's give thanks for our whole church family.

Celebrate

Carole

St. Stephen's Spring Fling

DATE: Saturday, May 2

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Ben & Shirley Edwards' "Casa Alegra" - in the barn & outside (located on south Slide - call St. Stephen's for directions)

TICKETS: \$20.00

ACTIVITIES: Food (fajitas), beverages, live music, live & silent auctions, horseshoe & washer contests, golf putting contests

CONTACTS: Charlotte Burt, 794-6313
St. Stephen's office, 799-3439



Environmental Stewardship

The following is taken from "Energy Efficient Living from Xcel Energy"

Top Ways to Save on Water Heating

Water heating costs can range from 15% to 19% of the average home's annual energy bill. That can add up to \$200 or more annually. Perhaps the following suggestions can help you reduce the amount of energy you use for water heating:

- Install low-flow showerheads - save between \$22 - \$36 per year.
- Lower the temperature of your water heater - save between \$9 - \$15 per year.
- Install heat traps on your water heater - save between \$7 - \$11 per year.

Save Energy and Get Organized

Phantom or "standby power" refers to electric power consumed by electronic appliances while switched off or in a standby mode. While this wasted power in a single appliance is very small, the sum of all the electric devices in your home can quickly add up. So taking action to reduce this waste can make a difference on your electric bill.

Get started reducing your phantom load by using a power strip to create a charging station. Designate a common area of the house to be used for all cell phone, MP3, video game, etc. recharging and plug in the power strip. When charging is complete, simply flip the power strip off to eliminate any standby power usage. We bet you'll also save on time by having all your personal devices in one spot.

Let's Make A Check On Our Attitude

You know, it's good for us to take a mental inventory about our attitude every so often. If we're not careful, it can get out of kilter. Someone passed along the following, and your editor thought it was worth sharing.

- Am I so **CRITICAL** that I see a person's weak points and overlook and ignore his good qualities?
- Am I so **CHILDISH** that everyone has to handle me with caution to keep me from getting mad?
- Am I so **SENSITIVE** that I make myself miserable by taking in a personal way everything that is said by others?
- Am I always **THINKING** that everyone else is out of step but me, and that I could be happy if everyone would just do right (by my rules)?
- Do I **HURT** people with my sharp and caustic remarks?
- Do I have **BOTTLED UP** inside me feelings of hostility toward anyone?
- Do I **REPEAT** that which should be kept secret and then explain myself by saying, "But it's the truth"?
- When the good reputation of another is being undermined, do I **PARTICIPATE**, or do I attempt to quench the effort?
- Do I **FOLLOW** after the things which make for peace, or do I say and do those things which promote strife?

It is well for us to remember the Indian prayer: "Lord, help me to refrain from criticizing



A Reader's Corner

"THE SEVENTH SEAL" Directed by Ingmar Bergman. 1957 (96 minutes) In Swedish, with English subtitles.

Revelations 8:1 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. 2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets... (King James Bible)

For those of you who are movie buffs or someone who is game, now and then, to view one of those great movie classics, Ingmar Berman's "Seventh Seal" is one I'd recommend. It is a movie (now available in DVD format) that has been described as "profound and enigmatic". It can be viewed simply or, as I've found by watching it several times during my lifetime, it can measure and enhance one's spiritual journey when viewed over time.

The story is of a disillusioned knight, accompanied by his squire, returning from the Crusades to a Europe in the midst of the Black Plague. On their journey, while questioning the existence of God, they meet a number of interesting characters: a troupe of actors (including a sweet couple and their babe who represent love and innocence), a blacksmith and his faithless wife (who provide a lighter or more comic, irreverent element), a mute girl who is saved by the squire, a young, dying witch, and an ex-priest who has succumbed to evil. The most daunting of these characters is Death whom the knight challenges to a game of chess in the hope that he might postpone his death and redeem himself by doing something worthy before Death claims him. Filmed in black and white, the landscape emphasizes a stark, almost surreal world where church and populace struggle with the best or the worst of good versus evil.

Ernst Ingmar Bergman (July 1918 – July 2007) was a Swedish director, writer and producer for film, stage and television. Of the 62 films he directed, he is best known for "The Virgin Spring", "Wild Strawberries" and "Winter Light", and, of course, "The Seventh Seal". He is recognized as one of the most influential filmmakers of modern cinema.

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 recommended by (your name).



**The Episcopal
Church Women**

serving

OUTREACH LUNCHEON - Everyone plan to stay for lunch after church on May 31. The Episcopal Church Women will be

serving a delicious meal, and the proceeds will go to help support Happy Camp and Promise Camp, special camps for children who would not otherwise be able to afford to go to camp. There is no set fee for the lunch, just give whatever you feel moved to give.

The annual May Luncheon for the women of St. Christopher's will be held Saturday, June 6, at the home of Karen Barrington at noon. This is when we usually honor girls and



NetsforLife: One Million and Going Strong

One million nets in just three years -- that's the landmark goal Episcopal Relief & Development's NetsforLife program celebrated on December 10, 2008 in Kisumu, Kenya. As a result, 2.4 million children are now being protected against malaria, a deadly disease that takes the lives of one million children in sub-Saharan Africa every year.

Elize is one of the millions of NetsforLife program beneficiaries. A resident of the Democratic Republic of Congo, for years she felt like she lived at the mercy of the tiny mosquitoes that spread malaria. They repeatedly bit Elize's eight children, making them gravely ill. Unlike many neighbors in her small village, none of her children died, but saving them required Elize and her husband to spend much of their limited income on medical care.

Thanks to NetsforLife, Elize is back in control of her family's well-being. Ever since she received a long-lasting insecticide-treated net her family has been malaria-free.

Equally important, Elize was trained in how to identify malaria symptoms and prevent its spread by cleaning standing pools of water and other mosquito breeding grounds. This empowered her not only to protect her children, but her entire village, as she is now organizing her neighbors in coordinated community action to prevent malaria. And the less Elize and her husband have to cope with this deadly disease, the more they can focus on creating a better life for their family.

This is exactly the kind of life-transforming impact NetsforLife was designed to have. The nets, which cost only a few dollars each, are typically used to cover three children, which is why at least 2.4 million children are now protected from malaria. Moreover, when nets are used by three-quarters of the people in a community, up to 90% of the mosquito population is killed and the incidence of malaria plummets.

In addition, the distribution of the nets and training provided by local churches instills a "net culture" in malaria-ravaged communities. People change their behavior and sleep under nets, they work together to destroy mosquito breeding grounds, and they know what to do if a child becomes ill.

To date, this program has been implemented in 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. With the expansion of phase 2, the NetsforLife program is moving full speed ahead toward its goal of distributing five million nets over the next five years. For millions of mothers like Elize who just want their children to survive and thrive, this cannot happen soon enough. To learn more about this life-changing effort, or to make a contribution, please visit www.netsforlifeafrica.org.



Cursillo -- The Fourth Day First

Cursillo is not just a three-day weekend. Cursillo is about your Fourth Day, the day that represents the rest of your life. We cannot proclaim what we do not live. Meeting in small groups called Reunion Groups and in gatherings of the Reunion Groups called Ultreyas are intended primarily as opportunities to get together and share experiences "out there" in the real world. These group meetings are the foundation of the Cursillo movement. They help us to remember and put into action the Cursillo slogan: "Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ." There are two Reunion Groups now meeting on a regular basis at St. Christopher's - on Mondays at 5:30 pm and on Tuesdays at 7:00 am. Please feel free to sit in on either of these groups at any time, to learn more about how Cursillo might impact your life.

This 'n That

- There are many empty spaces on the Altar Flower list in the Narthex. Please sign up for one or more weeks to help provide the lovely flowers for our altar. Then, just add a donation to your monthly pledge check to pay for them.
- There is always a need for Coffee time hosts. Sign up on the lists in either kitchen.
- Save your aluminum cans to help send our young people to the summer youth camps at Quarterman Conference Center. Leave sacks of cans in the Narthex or give them to Kathleen or Rebekah Borsch.
- WEAR YOUR NAMETAG!!!!
- Your editor has received ONE soup recipe from all the wonderful ones that were prepared during Lent. I'm still willing to publish a soup recipe book, but I need your recipes.
- Our new bishop has a blog, a new way of sharing and communicating with the diocese. It may be found on the diocesan website at nwt.org. Bishop Mayer's first installment is entitled, "So, Here We Go."
- The General Convention of the Episcopal Church will be the topic of a live webcast on Wednesday, May 18 at 10:00 a.m. Central Time. To access the webcast, go to the Episcopal Church website: www.episcopalchurch.org. Participants will be the Presiding Bishop, President of the House of Deputies Bonnie Anderson, Executive Officer and Secretary of the General Convention the Rev. Gregory Straub, and Bishop J. Jon Bruno of the Diocese of Los Angeles, the host diocese. Questions will be accepted via email and from invited guests in the audience.
- 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.
- There's still plenty of room on the boards in the parish hall for more crosses. If your family would like to have a cross hung on the wall, give it to Claire Randolph or leave it on the little round table by the door. It would be nice to have your name on the back.
- The new parish directories are ready. If you haven't picked yours up yet, there are



MAY BIRTHDAYS*

Jonathan Walker	May 4
Mary Mixon	May 6
Shirley Webb	May 9
B.L. Jones	May 10
Michael Otto	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
Ivy Knudson	May 29
Donnie Evans	May 30

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Roger Schaefer & Dannie Botros	May 16
Les & Valinda Jackson	May 22
Don & Nancy McReynolds	May 24

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

Volunteer Opportunity

Lubbock Odyssey Hospice

Grandma needs help in Lubbock. Volunteers are needed to visit or phone hospice patients in Lubbock. Caring people who would be willing to visit in person, phone the patient, or help with a music program, etc., please contact Katherine McLamore, Manager of Volunteer Services, Lubbock Odyssey Hospice. Telephone - 741-0707, email -



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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, Treasurer

Wendell Aycock
Jan Kireilis

Doug Cashell
Nancy McReynolds

Carolyn Jones
Jack Purkeypile

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