

# THE BELL TOWER

## April - 2011

*Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. . . . Do you not realize that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?" (Romans 2:1,4b)*

I want to share a reflection from a recent *Forward Day by Day* on the above reading. The author is responding to the notion that I often hear from folks who do not go to church. And that is, they consider themselves *spiritual* (or even Christian) yet do not see a need to be part of a faith community. They usually express themselves as believing in a loving and forgiving God and trying to live a good life. "If occasionally I slip and do the wrong thing, God understands. God doesn't expect me to be perfect." To that, the author says the following:

When I hear people say that, I tell them that it is true to a point. God is indeed loving and forgiving, and God does sympathize with our weakness (see Hebrews 4:14-16). But that doesn't mean we can go blithely about our business as if all were well. All is not well, and God *does* expect us to be perfect. God's kindness is meant to lead not to a self-satisfied complacency, but to repentance and a life of holiness.

God knows we cannot live a life of holiness alone or unaided. Jesus Christ is the strength we need to do what we otherwise could not do, to be what we otherwise could not be. We live in Christ. Day by day, we become more like Christ and his holiness becomes our holiness. A careless acceptance of what we are now is not part of it.<sup>1</sup>

Our season of Lent is a perfect time to be less *careless* about our expectations of ourselves and to recognize that it is only through Christ that we even begin to approach a state of holiness. While it may seem to be an impossible goal to attain, holiness is still the place that we should seek to be. To strive for anything less would be to sell God short and to diminish what he can accomplish in our lives.

I pray for a holy and introspective Lent as we prepare together for the Joy of the Resurrection.

May God bless us and keep us always,  
*Paul+*



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<sup>1</sup> *Forward Day By Day*, published by Forward Movement, Cincinnati, Ohio, reflection for March 23, 2011, p. 56.

***From Our Senior Warden:***

During this Lenten season my daily reading has been from a little book titled *Get Over Yourself: God is Here! A Forty-Day Journey of Repentance* by Kate Morehead. This book title jumped out at me in the exhibition hall at Diocesan Council and I picked it up impulsively.

Each day starts with a quote from scripture that sets the theme for the day. Each day the theme is very different and the author reflects pastorally on the nature of sin and repentance in a contemporary context. As I follow the daily readings I realized that repentance is not about focusing more and more attention upon ourselves and our faults and failures but rather, it is a process whereby we shift our attention away from ourselves to God. The author leads the reader to face head-on the pains, frailties and imperfections of daily life. The daily readings are short, to the point and definitely make me think, reflect and meditate about how I deal with what is happening and has happened in my life. This book bought so impulsively, pushes me in different directions and out of my comfort zone.

Reading this book in combination with our Lenten program has challenged me to face and reflect on Ike and how much I had buried so deep down. This Lenten Season has truly been one of repentance, reflection and challenges for me.

*Judy Webb*



**Daughters of the King will meet April 23<sup>rd</sup>.**



**Christian Ed:**

Hope to see everybody at the annual egg hunt between the services on Easter Sunday.

For those who wish to assist, please bring filled plastic eggs to the classroom before church on Easter Sunday

The eggs are hidden early Sunday morning.

My thanks to Betty Harris, Kathleen Lucas and Mary Kilgore for doing such a splendid job in the classroom and nursery in my absence.

*Cathy Smith, Christian Ed. Director*

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# Community of Hope



Thanks to the efforts of the Rev. Helen Appelberg, co-facilitator Nancy Wilkes, and the facilitation team of Judy Ricketts, Shirley Bridges and Bob Hearn, Grace Church's first Community of Hope lay chaplain training class is underway. There are fifteen trainees in the class, and Rev. Helen has scheduled many wonderful speakers to make presentations over the next 14 weeks. We are very excited to have this training in our midst, and pray that the participants will discern how God desires for them to be part of this ministry of pastoral care. Thanks be to God for all who give their time to support those in need.



## *Signs of Love and Salvation*

*Handmade crosses resurrected from lost pieces of wood*

By Layne Simmons

**Will be here in Jinkins Hall, Sundays, April 10, and April 17**

**His items are unique handmade crosses made from Galveston wood salvaged after Hurricane Ike.**

**The idea originated in 2007 when Layne's 15 year old daughter asked him to make a cross for a special friend. From that one gift of love and friendship, the inspiration and dream has flourished. During creation, each cross takes on a characteristic of its own and uniquely. special, varying in size, shape and style. All crosses are made from natural wood (stumps, logs, and limbs) that have been discarded, left behind, burned or lost.**

### **Cross Blessing Palm Sunday**

Have your newly purchased cross or a cross from home blessed during our Palm Sunday Service.

## Easter Traditions:

Candles are burned during many Easter celebrations. Many churches extinguish candles on Good Friday to show that Jesus' light has gone out. In some churches, the special paschal candle is lit on Easter Sunday, representing Jesus' return to life.

Egg Hunts- In many countries, children hunt for Easter eggs hidden in the home or yard. Children in the United Kingdom, Germany, and other countries play a game in which eggs are rolled against one another or down a hill. The egg that stays un-cracked the longest wins. Since 1878, children in Washington, D.C. have rolled eggs on the White House lawn.

Easter bonnets- Wearing new hats and clothes for Easter is a common custom.

**Grace Foundation Awards \$500 Scholarship to Julia Fulbright**

Grace's Julia Fulbright has been accepted as a foreign-exchange student to study and live in France for ten months. We are pleased to provide some financial support and look forward to having her come tell us all about her upcoming adventure!

Our prayers and best wishes go with Julia.

**Lenten Prayer Services at St. Vincent's House**

Please join us for Morning Prayer in the Chapel at St. Vincent's House, 2817 Alfreda Houston Pl (Postoffice St.), every Monday - Friday beginning at 8 AM, March 14. Prayer leaders will be:

- Monday- The Rev. Paul Wehner, Grace Episcopal Church
- Tuesday- Pastor Derrell Smith, Galilee UMC
- Wednesday- Michael Jackson, St. Vincent's
- Thursday- The Rev. David Green, 1st Presbyterian Church
- Friday- The Rev. John Riley UTMB Chaplain

There will also be a Quiet Time Out (QTO) on Saturday's from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM. QTO is a time of silent meditation and prayer. The Rite of Reconciliation will be offered as well. For more details or to volunteer to lead Morning Prayer please contact Michael Jackson at 409 763-8521. Wishing you a blessed Lent, *Michael*



The ECW of Grace Church has been reorganized. On Saturday, March 26th, fourteen women met to discuss how best to make the organization a viable entity of Grace Church. Our goal in the forthcoming year is doing various projects for our Church and our community.

We do not collect dues - membership is FREE. All women of Grace are members of The Episcopal Church Women (ECW). At the next meeting set for June 4, 2011, we will discuss the ways we can help our Church and community. One of the projects desired by many is a "quiet day", led by a trained leader, where the members can work on their own spirituality. Also planned is the replacement of our Chrismons lost in Ike. Diocesan projects that we are considering are Nets for Life, Re-leaf Galveston and pillowcase dresses for Malawi.

This is an opportunity for the women of Grace to gather with each other to find ways to do good works for Grace and for the Galveston community and beyond. We anticipate quarterly meetings of ECW with an emphasis on spiritual fellowship that directs the projects we choose. Want to know more? Contact Nancy Wilkes, Ellie Hanley, Vickie Robertson or Julie Green for information. Please come and be a part of an active group. *It is fun and surprising to see what we can do working together.*

**2011 LENTEN SERIES**  
**GRACE CHURCH AND ST. AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH**  
**WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 16 – APRIL 13**

GRACE CHURCH – hosting Wednesdays', March 16, March 30, April 13  
 ST. AUGUSTINE'S hosting: Wednesdays' March 23, April 6

**EVENING SCHEDULE:**

6:00 PM– STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND HOLY COMMUNION (IN THE CHURCH)

6:45 - 7:30 PM– FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP (IN PARISH HALL),

7:30 - 8:30– TEACHING AND DISCUSSION

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter. It is a time for self examination and spiritual growth and as such can be a powerful agent for change in our lives. Many of us want to change, but we struggle to let go of our thoughts and feelings of anger and hurt and despair.

Although it has been more than two years since Hurricane Ike devastated our island home, some of us still have lingering side effects of that trauma. Lack of concentration, memory problems, feeling emotionally numb, weight gain, lack of energy, sleeplessness and irritability are all symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder. This Lent we are going to utilize our recovery from Hurricane Ike as the background for developing spiritually healthy responses to grief and trauma. Even if you feel that you are past the "Ike trauma," it should be very helpful to reflect on your emotional path since September of 2008, and to learn more about how our faith in God and our participation in a faith community can be such important factors in recovery from tragedy.

Come join together to support each other as we enter the desert journey Lent. We have a gifted group of speakers scheduled to share their knowledge and experiences with us.

Wednesday, March 16 – **Reality: What Happened?**

Presenter: Rev. Clay Thomas, Sr. Pastor, Galveston Bible Church. Clay is also a Captain in the Army Reserves and Brigade Chaplain.

Wednesday, March 23 – **Response: What Did You Do?**

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Helen Appelberg, UTMB Fellow and Associate Priest at Grace Church.

Wednesday, March 30 – **Relationship: Finding God and Community**

Presenter: Rev. Gena Davis, Associate Rector of Holy Trinity in Baytown. Gena is also a Spiritual Director and a Benedictine Oblate with the World Community for Christian Meditation.

Wednesday, April 6 – **Renewal: A Rule of Life for Spiritual, Physical and Mental Health**

Presenters: Fr. Peter Funk and Br. Michael Gallagher of the Holy Cross (Benedictine) Monastery in Beaumont, TX.

Wednesday, April 13 – **Redemption: The Peace that Passes All Understanding**

Presenters: The Covenant Players, a group of young people who use live drama to convey the gospel message.

**From Michael Jackson...**On behalf of St. Vincent's House I would like to thank Grace for helping feed our sisters and brothers who need our Loaves and Fishes pantry to provide something to eat for their families. Your food donations make that possible. The pantry is supported by food donations and food drives from individuals, civic groups and churches, thank you for sharing your blessings. A special thanks to Sherry Sasser who delivered food a couple of weeks ago. Not only did she deliver the food herself, but took advantage of a matching program at TXU. She wrote them for a match of her donation and her story and action prompted them to more than match her donation. TXU will make a \$500.00 donation to St. Vincent's House. Thank you Sherry and thank you Grace, thanks be to God...



*Congratulations to Janice Rhymes for coming in 1st in the Red Chili Division at the International Chili Society Louisiana State Chili Cook Off Championship March 27*

### **Time to order flowers for the altar on Easter Sunday, April 24**

We will be doing the flowers as we did last year...Along with the lilies there will be a variety of other plants (azaleas and caladiums). The cost will be the same \$15 per plant, and we will only have the exact number ordered. You may take your plant home the week after Easter. The variety will be chosen based on the number of plants ordered. You will only be able to order a plant and not designate the variety, so that we can have an even distribution for the altar. **The deadline to order is Sunday, April 17.** It is important that you get your order in by this date so we can get the count to Galveston Wreath. Thank you. Below is the order form. You may drop this form with payment in the alms basin on Sundays or mail/deliver to the church office.

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ plants to the Glory of God and in

Thanksgiving \_\_\_\_\_

Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Celebration of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

## A reprint from the Galveston News – by Sherry Sasser

I listened to Father Paul’s sermon Sunday about “the salt of the earth,” and how if you never use the salt and leave it on the shelf, it will lose its flavor and be of no use to anyone. Just as you need to use salt before it loses its flavor, you also need to use what you learn Sunday or by Saturday you will be completely devoid of flavor. You have to go into your own community, spread yourself and help wherever or however you can.

After church, I tried my best to figure out what a person like me could possibly do. I’m a widow living on disability, so I can’t do much physically, and money is tight, but I figured the food bank at St. Vincent’s House always needs help. I could get a few groceries for the food bank – that was about all I could afford. As I was waiting to be checked out at Walmart, debit card in hand, “Someone” reminded me of the TXU Rewards Visa card I received about threes ago. There was no physical touch or sound, but I heard. I was fully prepared to pay for the groceries, but this was so much better. I had totally forgotten I even had the rewards card. Last year, I forgot it and let it expire. I asked the cashier if they took the card, and she said yes. I almost jumped for joy. How perfect!

I was able to purchase three large tote-bag-sized bags of groceries. If I could do that with what little I have, just imagine. If all rewards customers purchased just one or two bags of groceries, we could fill all the Galveston’s food banks. People could use the cards to help the new animal shelter with pet food. The could help The Salvation Army, Good will or Silk Purse on 37<sup>th</sup> Street (check your closets, too), or whatever their favorite island charity might be. It would benefit us all and keep the money here on the island where it belongs.

My parents taught me always to give back because there always was somebody else in worse shape than myself. I believe I was raised correctly, and I think most of us were taught the same – to help where and when we could. If we could fill every food pantry in Galveston, that’s something all of us could be proud of.

# Happy Birthday!

4/3	Jenny Lippold Nancy Tuite
4/4	Sheri Willey
4/13	Stephen Glaser Barbara Zimmerman
4/15	Amanda Betts
4/16	Jan Dorsett
4/17	Drew Percy
4/21	Erma Garrison
4/22	Marilyn Cooper
4/27	Imani Jackson
4/28	Kaisen Rogers
4/29	Zane Carman Richard Cutrer Paul Lett-Brown
4/30	Jennifer Graham

### ***Happy Anniversary!***

4/16	Derek & Dolores Paget-Clarke
4/30	Lee and Jayne Davis

## Graceful Gatherers for April & May

*So please mark you calendars:*

**7:00—9:00 PM**      **May 6th at Lee & Jayne Davis', 7517 Antilles, 789-6280**

*Graceful Gatherers is hosted monthly, usually on the first Friday of the month. All adults are welcome to join us for a pot luck dinner and enjoyable company. This is a great way to get to know you fellow church members. Please feel free to join us whenever possible.*



### **SASS**

**SAINT AUGUSTINE SPIRITUAL SUPPORT**  
A GROUP FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS ISSUES  
**MEETING**  
AT 1410-41ST ST  
GALVESTON ISLAND, TEXAS

### **FOOD**

**POTLUCK DINNER BEGINNING @ 6 PM**  
JUST BRING A DISH TO SHARE  
**SUPPORT GROUP**  
FOLLOWING DINNER AT 7 PM  
**EVERY THURSDAY FROM 6 TO 8:30 PM**  
**BEGINNING MARCH 31ST 2011**  
**CALL 409 653-4254**  
**THERE IS NO CHARGE TO ATTEND**



Fr. Paul and Sherry announce the birth of their grandson, Conner James Prater on Monday, March 21 weighing 9 pounds 6 oz to John and Annie Prater .

### SERMON LIBRARY

If you miss a sermon or want to share one with a friend who is seeking a church family, please help yourself to the sermon CD's in the back of the church. You can also find many of Fr. Paul and Rev. Helen's sermons on our Grace Church website: [www.gracechurchgalveston.org](http://www.gracechurchgalveston.org)

## **Upcoming Events**

**Saturday, April 9 @ 9:00 AM– Spring Church Cleaning Day!**

**Wednesday, April 13 @ 6PM – Lenten Program at Grace**

**Thursday, April 14 @ 5:30 PM in Jinkins Hall– Making Palm Crosses with Bob and Jim.**

**Sunday, April 17— Palm Sunday; Holy Week begins. Bring your crosses to be blessed at the altar during Holy Communion on Palm Sunday**

**Thursday, April 21 @ 6:00 PM– Maundy Thursday service**, followed by all-night prayer vigil in the Chapel.

**Friday, April 22 @ noon– Good Friday** service at 12:00 noon with Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, April 23 – Daughters of the King**

**Sunday, April 24– Easter Sunday! Services at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM.**

**Friday, May 6 from 7:00–9:00 PM – Graceful Gatherers** at Lee & Jayne Davis' house, 7517 Antilles.

### 2011 FOUNDATION BOARD

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**John Buck**

**Peggy Baldwin-Clayton**

**Kenny Wegner**

**Leslie Watts**

**EX-OFFICIO: Sr. Warden: Judy Webb**

### 2011 VESTRY

**Judy Webb, Sr. Warden- 762-5421**

**Vickie Robertson, Clerk– 986-1195**

**John McCulley, Jr. Warden– 632-0125**

**Dan Ricketts- 795-0460**

**Carol Ramirez- 740-2029**

**Derek Paget-Clarke- 737-2091**

**William Jones- 935-1148**

**TREASURER– Derek Paget-Clarke- 737-2091**

**CHANCELLOR– Jeff Kilgore– 935-5564**

**RECTOR- Fr. Paul Wehner- 766-0088**

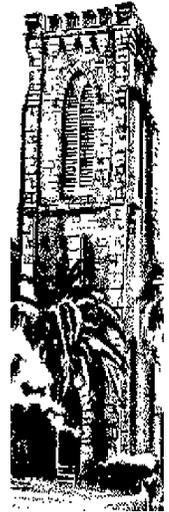
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# THE BELL TOWER

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
1115 36TH STREET  
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550  
409 762-9676



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THE REVEREND PAUL B. WEHNER - RECTOR

THE REV. HELEN W. APPEKLBERG, ASSOCIATE PRIEST

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