

THE BELL TOWER

August - 2012

FROM OUR RECTOR.....

As branches, before we bear fruit, we abide in the vine. How will we open ourselves to God's work of forming us as disciples?



Dear People of Grace,

Signs of the summer slowly coming to an end are all around us: school supplies are appearing in the stores and Seawall is swimming with tourists. Here at Grace, you are beginning to hear about coming opportunities to **ABIDE**. As branches, before we bear fruit, we abide in the vine. Abiding in the love of God is not passive; rather abiding is a continually active process wherein we allow ourselves to be open to the presence of God in our life. Each and every one of us have the opportunity to grow and learn and be formed into the people we are created to be. How will we open ourselves to God's work of forming us as disciples? Here are teasers of some what hopefully is to come after Rally Day:

Children's Formation (see page 4)

Community of Hope Training (see page 4)

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Formation on Sundays

Common Prayer & Worship: The Work of the People

Liturgy comes from a Greek word that means "the work of the people." There is no more important work for us to do for God than to give God our thanks and praise through worship. In the Episcopal tradition, we find the words of our worship in The Book of Common Prayer. During the fall in the season of Pentecost, we will have a lively discussion of our service through worship, particularly as we discover the secrets of the Book of Common Prayer. This class is for all, particularly those curious about our liturgy, those who lead us in worship (Lectors, Eucharistic Visitors, Eucharistic Ministers, Unction Ministers, and Acolytes), and those who feel called lead worship at Grace.

Book Group | Readings to be theological or spiritual in nature, selected from a broad spectrum of voices.

Forming Disciples Conference on Saturday, September 15th @ St. Martins

I invite you to join me in prayerfully choosing at least one opportunity to **ABIDE** this fall.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Meredith



From our Senior Warden

Submitted by Judy Webb

Wow! What a month.

We started the month with the Bishop's visit and Rev. Meredith's first day and finished with a storm named Ernesto coming across the Atlantic. Every day in between was packed with things happening and being done around Grace.

In just a few weeks Rev. Meredith will be installed as the 26th rector of Grace Church. My prayer is that you will be able to make the installation. It was just a year ago that this point seemed so far away and we would never get to here. God has blessed us with a rector who believes in our core values and visioning statements and has already started acting on making them a reality for Grace.



The Wardens and the Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church

Cordially invite you to celebrate the installation of

The Reverend Meredith L. Holt

As the Twenty-sixth Rector of Grace Episcopal Church

By

The Right Reverend C. Andrew Doyle

Bishop, the Diocese of Texas



Sunday, August 19, 2012

Five o'clock in the evening

Reception to follow in Jinkins Hall

✙ Clergy, Green Stoles

From our Junior Warden

Submitted by John McCulley

The three stained glass windows on the south side of the church have been re-glazed, painted and protected with clear Lexan ¼-inch sheet plastic. If you compare those windows to those on the north side of the church, I think you will see brighter colors in the repaired windows. -- the halos appear noticeably brighter, I think. We will continue these repairs on the north side of the church.

The windows in Jenkins Hall also need re-glazing and painting. In a storm, we run the risk of having glass blown out. That could cause significant water (rain) damage to the inside. Therefore, we are in the process of repairing all the windows. So far, the north side has been re-glazed. As a separate project, we are considering protection for those windows from storms and vandalism. A number of options are being considered, including shutters of different types and screens. The cost, of course, is a hurdle for most options.

We also are investigating landscaping around the Silk Purse angel. If you have suggestions or excess plants that could be used, please let me know.

Over 55 Group

Continuing maintenance is an ongoing job at Grace, and the "Over 55" Group meets each Tuesday morning to take care of minor repairs, yard work and other projects. The group's most recent projects have included reattaching several loose siding boards and repairing a lattice section at Jenkins Hall, weed control, trimming suckers from the yew tree and oleander bushes, and replacing a broken blind at Molhusen House.

Our work is not limited to the church property, however. We also were asked to repair a broken window and frame on a house a block away from the church. The window frame was easily repaired and a new glass pane was installed by Bob Murphy, who also is repairing our church windows. We hope that this is only the beginning our finding other ways to help our immediate church neighbors.

If you would like to join our group, just show up at the church any Tuesday morning, and we will find you a job!*

****We are taking the month of August off but will start up again Tuesday after Labor Day.***

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Submitted by Judy Ricketts



The Grace Church Daughters of the King group meets monthly on the first Sunday of the month after the church service. The Daughters of the King is a group of women who pray daily for those in our lives and our parish who may need our prayers. Please feel free to request prayers for those people you are concerned about. You can make prayer requests by completing the blue prayer form in the church pews or by calling the church office. The Daughters of the King welcomes new members. Please consider joining this active and dedicated group of ladies.



Christian Education

Submitted by Cathy Smith

Christian Education for our younger Christians:

Trinity Episcopal Church is hosting a Babylon Adventure, Aug. 6th through 9th, 9:00a.m. until Noon. Registration forms are in Jinkins Hall and classroom. Sounds like fun! Even for any adults who would like to participate. For additional information, call [409-765-6317](tel:409-765-6317).

Exciting plans for Grace youngsters beginning Rally Day. Here's a hint: FOLLOW THE WORD



From our Mission, Core Values & Vision:

At Grace Church we value:

† Service including outreach and pastoral care

Our vision for the future of Grace will include:

† Pastoral care team

† Development of Christian Education

† Outreach

Are you called to be a lay pastoral care provider in the parish and community?

You will find [Community of Hope International](#) lay chaplains serving in their church, in hospitals, in nursing homes, working with hospice teams, or even traveling for a cruise line.

A new COHI class will begin at Grace on [Thursday, September 13th and meet weekly through November 29th](#). This training will enable you to discern and develop your particular gifts for pastoral ministry, and learn how the wisdom and teachings of St. Benedict can enrich your daily life. It will provide you with the skills and support needed to serve God by serving those God loves who are suffering.

If you would like more information, co-facilitators Rev. Helen Appelberg (409.789.1070), Nancy Wilkes (409.737.2700), or Vickie Robertson (409.739.3997) can provide it. And if you'd like to ask active lay chaplains about their ministries, there are several at Grace, including Shu Shu Clowers, Judy and Dan Ricketts, Stephen Glaser, and Jim Rothgeb, among others.

Lay chaplains are those who've been called to walk alongside each other as they journey through difficult times. If you can imagine yourself serving friends and strangers in such a ministry, [come join us](#).



I am the vine; you are the branches. If you abide in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. *John 15:5*

Mark Your Calendars and Let's Celebrate

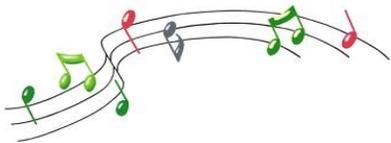
Sunday, August 19th 5pm

You are invited to the installation of
the Reverend Meredith Holt
as the 26th rector of Grace, Galveston

Reception will follow the service

Notes on Hymns....

Submitted by Laura Hyatt—Choir Director



If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee Hymn 635

*“For this is God, Our God forever and ever; He will be our guide
Even to Death”*

Psalm 48:14

Modern hymnals title this hymn “If You Will Only Let God Guide You” but whatever you call it this is a glorious hymn especially when you know the tender story behind it.

In 1641 a bright young German student, Georg Neumark, had scrimped and saved enough money to go to University. He packed his meager belongings and left his home to walk to Konigsberg, Germany. He joined with some other travelers for safety from robbers. Unfortunately they were waylaid and robbed on the highway and he lost everything except his prayer book and a few hidden coins. The hope of university was lost and he turned around and began the journey back to his town, looking for work as he traveled. Months passed and winter found him hungry, cold and homeless. Near despair a village pastor befriended him and tried to help him find employment but there were no possibilities. Just when it seemed hopeless a tutoring position became available. Georg was hired on the spot and that very day he composed “If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee”.

Again Georg saved and dreamed of going to university and was finally able to enroll in June, 1643. However, shortly afterward he again lost everything in a fire. But by now he had no doubt in God’s ability to guide and provide. In 1657 he published this hymn in his own book of songs set to a melody he himself had written. He titled this a hymn of consolation and in the minor key we can hear his belief that “God will care for his own in his own time”. In later years Neumark recorded the writing of this hymn saying that “good fortune, coming suddenly as if it had fallen from heaven, greatly rejoiced me, and on that very day I composed to the honor of my beloved Lord this well known hymn.”

From “Then Sings My Soul” by Robert J. Morgan

Please mark your calendars:

August 3 7-9 *Bill Watson, 3319 Lanyard*
September 7 7-9 *Stan & Pat Brown, 7501 Antilles*
October 5 7-9 *Val & Carol Ramirez, 4715 Woodrow*
November 2 7-9 *Jeff & Mary Kilgore, 164 Bora Bora*
December 7 7-9 *Peggy Baldwin-Clayton & Jean Baldwin, 5222 Denver*

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 your fellow church



Bell Tower via e-mail

As announced by Judy Webb in the May issue, the Bell Tower is now being distributed by way of e-mail. Hard-copy versions, delivered through the U.S. Postal Service, will be sent only to those requesting this special service through Cathy in the church office. We hope this new e-mail distribution method will help with getting vital information out to our church family on a more timely basis and also reduce the cost in man/woman-power and money of producing the Bell Tower.

2011/12 VESTRY

Judy Webb, SR WARDEN
John McCulley, JR., JR WARDEN
Vickie Robertson
Carol Ramirez
Dan Ricketts
William Jones
Treasurer-Derek Paget-Clarke
CHANCELLOR- Jeff Kilgore
Rector- The Rev. Meredith L. Holt

2011/12 FOUNDATION BOARD

CHAIRMAN: The Rev. Meredith L. Holt
Peggy Baldwin-Clayton, Secretary
Bill Watson, Treasurer
Kenny Wegner, President
Leslie Watts
Judy Webb, Ex Officio

You're Invited

Rev. Meredith cordially invites you all to her home for one of several small gatherings.

8302 Seawall Blvd Unit 4 (just past 83rd)
Galveston, TX 77554
look for the lime green umbrella
(979) 777-6019

As space at each gathering is limited to seven others, please sign up in the church or with the office to come to one of the following (if they fill, more will be hosted!):

Sunday, August 12th | Fajitas & Ritas from 6-8pm

Monday, August 13th | Italian Dinner from 6-8 pm

Thursday, August 16th | Luncheon from 11:30am-1:30pm

Friday, August 24th | Happy Hour & Tapas from 5-7 pm

Sunday, August 26th | Mediterranean Dinner from 6-8pm

Everyone is hot, but they don't have to be hungry, too!

As our Northern Hemisphere makes its way through the long, hot days of August, please remember to support the St. Vincent's Food Pantry through your financial or food item donations. For many Galvestonians, hunger is an ongoing problem, and they struggle daily with the challenge of providing themselves and perhaps their families as well with adequate nutrition. To help meet their needs, high-nutrition items such as canned or shelf-stable meats, beverages, vegetables and fruits can be placed in the St. Vincent's basket at the back of the church, and the specially marked Hunger Fund envelopes in the pew backs can be used for cash and checks to be dropped in the offering plate. What you may consider only a can of beans or a package of tuna fish could possibly be "dinner" for a fellow citizen.

Silk Purse offers much more than sow's ears



Recognized as one of Galveston's most highly regarded resale emporiums,, the Silk Purse is known for its exceptional bargains, one-of-a-kind collectibles and a friendly, boutique-style atmosphere. In addition to a generous selection of men's, women's and children's clothing, the Silk Purse offers jewelry, hats, ties, toys, hobby supplies, small appliances and furnishings, games, sports equipment, house and dinner ware, plus decorative items. Clothing sizes range from newborn to "plus," and styles include casual, sportswear, business and professional attire, and dressy and formal wear.

The shop is located at the corner of 37th Street and Avenue L, and is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Tuesday and Saturday. Donations are also "grace-fully" accepted during regular business hours.



Episcopops: share music and fun

Submitted by Bill Watson

If you enjoy music, please consider joining the Episcopops on 6 p.m. on Aug. 25 at Jinkins Hall for a fun-filled two hours of socializing and singing popular music – which is why the group is called the Episcopops. Please be reassured that you do not need to be a church choir member or even have any musical training to participate – this is just for fun.

The group meets monthly, and we each bring a beverage of choice and a snack to share – I like to think of it as a mini Graceful Gatherers with music. We usually eat and socialize for the first hour, and then get down to singing. Everyone is welcome to join us for any practice or one of our seasonal performances. I think you will enjoy the experience.



Community of Hope International Lay Chaplains

CIRCLE OF CARE MEETING

August 28, 2012

6:00 p.m.

Jinkin's Hall, Grace Episcopal Church

From Our Editor:

Please submit your information in writing to Leslie Watts at 3812 Bernardo de Galvez, Galveston Texas, 77550-6662 or by e-mail to lwatts7@flash.net. Please submit by the 15th of the month to make sure your article is included in the next month's Bell Tower.



Friday, August 3

Saturday, August 4

Sunday, August 5

Saturday, August 11

Sunday, August 12

Tuesday, August 14

Sunday, August 19

Tuesday, August 21

Saturday, August 25

Tuesday, August 28

Sunday, September 9

Friday, September 14

Saturday, September 15

October 18-20

November 9-11, 2012

Upcoming Events

Graceful Gatherers at the home of Bill Watson

Diocese of Texas ECW Board of Directors summer meeting will be at Grace

Daughters of the King Meeting

ECW Meeting

Stewardship Conference at St. Emmanuel's

Acolyte training with Rev. Meredith following the service

Finance Committee Meeting at Noon

Rev. Meredith's installation as 26th Rector of Grace Church

Vestry Meeting at 5:30pm

Artwalk @ St. Vincent's House

Episcopops in Jinkins Hall—6pm

Circle of Care @ 6pm in Jinkins Hall

Rally Day

Episcopal night at Astros

Forming Disciples Conference at St. Martin's

Annual ECW meeting at Camp Allen

Camp Allen Retreat

Happy Birthday!

8/1 Stan Brown
 8/2 Anne Jinkins
 David Rawls
 8/4 Chris Smith
 8/5 Jack Jinkins
 8/7 Jason Graham
 Juliana Green
 8/8 Denise Graham
 8/14 Michael Provenzano
 Dan Ricketts
 8/16 Jim Carr
 Nancy Mafrige
 8/17 Carlos Rodriguez
 George Slusarchyk
 8/19 Danette Gonzales
 Earline Warren
 8/22 Machelle Martinez
 8/24 Makya Carranza
 8/27 Nicole Martinez
 8/29 Jean Baldwin
 8/30 Anthony Caballero

Happy Anniversary

8/4 Chris & Anne Smith
 8/8 Don & Nancy Mafrige
 8/10 Mike & Nancy Conoly
 8/24 Ed & Juliet Russell
 8/30 George & Joan Slusarchyk

New email addresses for Grace Church

Rev. Meredith Holt

rector@gracechurchgalveston.org

Cathy Gould

office@gracechurchgalveston.org

Website

webmaster@gracechurchgalveston.org



THE BELL TOWER

DIOCESAN AND GRACE CHURCH MINISTERS

THE RIGHT REVEREND ANDY DOYLE - BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF TEXAS

THE REVEREND MEREDITH L. HOLT -RECTOR

THE REV. HELEN W. APPELBERG, ASSOCIATE PRIEST

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LAURA HYATT - CHOIR DIRECTOR

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JOHN MCCULLEY - JUNIOR WARDEN

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LAY MINISTRIES COORDINATOR—JAYNE DAVIS

SILK PURSE THRIFT SHOP - SHIRLEY BRIDGES

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING - JUDY RICKETTS

ALTAR GUILD - SHUSHU CLOWERS, DIRECTOR

ACOLYTE ABBA - GERALD RICHARD

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - CATHY SMITH

WEDDING CEREMONY COORDINATOR - PAT BEVIL

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) - ELLIE HANLEY

WEBMASTER - JUDY WEBB

BELL TOWER EDITOR - LESLIE WATTS

ST. VINCENT'S HOUSE - MICHAEL JACKSON

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