

THE BELL TOWER

October - 2011



Dear Friends,

One of the things I did not bargain for when I responded to the call to the ordained ministry was modeling what it means to tithe. Prior to seminary, as a wealthy FBI Agent, I gave a small percentage of my income to the church. In seminary we gave very little for my wife, Cheryl, was our sole financial support making \$8,000 a year as a teacher in a "Tennessee Holler."

Then God called us to a church in League City, Texas. The Rector that I served under assumed we would tithe 10% of our total salary to the church. From that first paycheck at St. Christopher in League City until this very day we have lived on 90% of our income. The first check I write each month is to the church.

Yes, from the moment we arrived in Texas in 1981 with our kids, who were 8, 10 and 12, we have tithed 10% of our salary to the church. It is a true miracle! Even though our kids tell us today that they were embarrassed at times for not having "designer things" they made it through high school and college with no debt in the Tucker Family.

Cheryl and I are miracles...I suspect you may find a miracle or two in your family history if you really stop and think where you have come from.

Ain't God awesome!

Love in Christ,
Doug+

A PRAYER FOR OUR STEWARDSHIP

O gracious God, who has given to each of us the many gifts of your love; a life to live, this good earth in which to live it and the greatest gift of all in your Son, Jesus Christ, help us to be bold in the sharing of our blessings. Bless our Stewardship at Grace Episcopal Church, help us to be faithful stewards of your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HELPING SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF AUNT MOLLY'S GIFTS

September 28, 2011
Submitted by Jeff Kilgore

I believe Grace Church shares the unique privilege of having the same or similar altar and/or reredos as the home church in Hagerstown, Maryland, of Molly McGill (Rosenberg). Most have seen the beautiful photo of the Hagerstown church furnishings at the back of Grace Church. At first I thought this was a new photo of our Grace Church altar and reredos.

Our altar and reredos were commissioned and donated by Molly McGill Rosenberg of Hagerstown, surviving widow of Henry Rosenberg. The cornerstone for the current Grace Church sanctuary was set in 1894, and the church was dedicated and the doors opened in 1895. Grace was actually started as a mission in 1874 and became a parish in the first wooden church building in 1876.

The artist who created our altar and reredos is a small mystery. A church historian believes the wood carver to be Swedish, working in the Black Forest region of Germany. The panels of the altar and the reredos are called maps, and the wood carvers followed a map design to tell the story present in the altar and reredos.

The history of Saint John's Parish Hagerstown began when a priest from All Saints, Fredericktowne, Maryland, rode over the mountains in 1744 to conduct services of worship and bring the sacraments to those living in what is now Hagerstown.

The parish's first home, built in 1747, was known as "Chapel of the Woods." The construction of a new church on Mulberry Street was begun in 1785, and the original cemetery is still maintained on that site. In 1786, Saint John's divided from its parent parish and elected its first vestry in April of 1787. The building was consecrated ten years later by the first Bishop of Maryland, John Thomas Claggett.

As the congregation continued to grow, the fourth rector of Saint John's Parish challenged the membership to build another church building. Land was purchased, and a handsome building of stone and brick was constructed on the northeast corner of Jonathan Street (now Summit Avenue) and Antietam Street. It was finished in 1832 and consecrated two years later by the second Bishop of Maryland.

A fire in the town's business district destroyed the building in December of 1871. The following year, under the leadership of the thirteenth rector, the cornerstone was laid for the present beautiful American Gothic church building. In 1891, the property adjoining the church became available and was purchased for a new rectory.

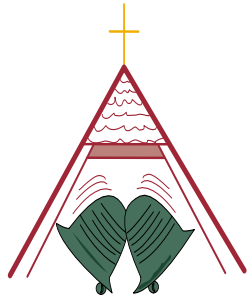
The most striking interior appointment of Saint John's is the magnificent carved oak reredos with a central bronze panel. This, along with a communion table, a bishop's chair, credence table, and resurrection window in the sanctuary were gifts, in 1898, of Mrs. Henry Rosenberg, the former Mollie MacGill, as memorials to members of her family. The reredos and communion table produced by Swiss wood carvers in the Black Forest of Germany had been brought to this country for display at the 1893 Columbian Exposition.

The Cathedral in Nashville Tennessee, Christ's Church also has a very same or similar reredos however they do not have the altar that is present here at Grace and at St John's. In June 1829, a congregation in Nashville elected the first Vestry of Christ Church, and a little over a year later laid the cornerstone of the first Episcopal church structure in Tennessee.

By 1837, Christ Church Parish had grown to 72 members. Despite dissension over the issue of rented pews in 1858, when part of the parish left to form the Church of the Advent, membership continued to grow steadily. Christ Church was fortunate to escape occupation by Federal troops during the Civil War, and by 1867 had 145 communicants on its rolls. Construction began in 1889 on the current structure at 9th Ave. and Broadway, a building now listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It opened its doors for services in December 1894 just months before Grace's new sanctuary was opened for our first service. Christ Church has been the Diocesan Cathedral for the last 11 years.



Pealings



Work Day on Tuesdays
Do your hands ever long
to “dig into” some
meaningful work? Join
the “Over 55” team on
Tuesday mornings as
they take care of minor

repairs, ad hoc maintenance, and other “odd jobs” around Grace Church and the Silk Purse. Ladies are welcome as well. For more information, contact the church office.

Food, glorious food for St. Vincent’s
Autumn is traditionally a time of harvest,
and, according to Jesus, sharing our bounty
with others is part of Christian duty. Please
remember the most needy of our community
with a financial gift or donation of a non-
perishable food item to help fill the pantry at
St. Vincent’s House. Food donations may be
placed in one of the specially marked St.
Vincent’s boxes located at the church;
financial donations can be placed in the
offering plate during regular services or
mailed to the church – just mark your
envelope or check for the Hunger Fund.
Suggested food donations include high-
nutrition, shelf-stable items such as canned or
packaged meats, whole-grain snacks, fruits,
vegetables and juice.



Time for Baptisms Sunday, November 6, 2011

It is recommended that, as far as possible, Baptisms be reserved for:

The Easter Vigil

On the Day of Pentecost

On All Saints’ Day or Sunday after All Saints’ Day

On the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (the First Sunday after the Epiphany)

All Saints’ Day is November 1, which is on a Tuesday this year so we will baptize at Grace on Sunday, November 6. If you are an adult and interested in being baptized or if you have a child you would like baptized, please call the church office (762-9676) for information.



SILK PURSE

The Silk Purse

Whether loading, unloading or “just looking,” don’t forget to stop by the Silk Purse on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Featuring an abundance of gently-used clothing in all sizes, housewares, books, records, tapes, and hobby, decorative and other items, the shop is known for its quality merchandise and pleasant atmosphere. Donations and volunteers are also welcomed.



Welcome to our newcomers: Leone, Jim, and Lynae Carr, who have come to us from Pittsburg, Texas (Jim and Leone) and Lynae lives in Houston. Jim is a retired police officer and Leone is one of our Tuesday volunteers at the Silk Purse; also welcome to Matt and Amy Lakich, 2010 Neumann Drive, Galveston came to us from Frisco, Texas. Matt has an undergrad degree from A&M and a masters in public health from the University of North Texas. Amy is also an Aggie graduate and teaches at Austin Middle School. Matt grew up in the Episcopal Church and was baptized and confirmed in Eagle Lake, Texas. Amy grew up a Baptist in Orange, Texas.




Rally Day was Sunday, September 25th and was a great success. Attendees had the opportunity to sign up for over 20 ministries at Grace including some of our new ministries. We had several of our parishioners not only sign up for ministries they are currently involved in but sign up for new ministries as well, we had parishioners sign up for the first time and we had newcomers to Grace committing to several of our ministries. The signup sheets were once again put out on Sunday, October 2nd because not everyone could make it to Rally Day. If you missed both these opportunities to sign up it's not too late to commit your time and talent to the ministries of Grace – call the church office at 409-762-9676 or email gecg@att.net and add your name to one of the following ministries; Senior Lunch (4th Thursday of the month), Thanksgiving Feast (Sunday, November 20th), ADA Dinner (Thursday, December 15th), BBQ (Saturday, May 5th), Chili Cook-off (February), Hospitality, Docents, Altar Guild, Lectors, Acolytes (now accepting adults), Lay Eucharistic Minister, Greeters, Oblationers, Ushers, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, Pastoral Care, Choir, Sunday School, ECW, DOK, Graceful Gatherers, Silk Purse, Over 55, Boy Scouts and the Bell Tower newsletter.



Grace Church Core Values Statement

We believe in the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

At Grace Church we value:

- ‡ A traditional and dynamic style of worship
 - ‡ An open and inclusive church
 - ‡ Our historic presence in our community
 - ‡ Service including outreach and pastoral care
 - ‡ Hospitality and fellowship
 - ‡ The courage to grow and change
 - ‡ Our steadfast commitment to our community
 - ‡ Stewardship of our resources including time, talent and treasure
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Live a God-Pleasing Life!

As Christians, we are stewards or managers of all the gifts God has given us. This is quite a task, a task, frankly, that we, on our own, are incapable of carrying out. Yet we don't have a choice; all Christians are called to be stewards. We are not left on our own, though. The God who calls us equips us as well.

"May the God of peace . . . equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to who be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13:20-21)

Faith is the foundation of our stewardship. It is only through faith that we can please God, and it is only by faith in Christ's mighty power within us that we are able to do the works God has prepared for us to do.

If we are to be stewards **living a God-pleasing life**, we must follow the **path of discipleship** that Jesus lays out before us. We are called to serve, even as Jesus himself *"did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"* (Matthew 20:28).

God-pleasing stewards give generously, even as their Master, Jesus, gave all he had, his very life. **Generosity was the hallmark** of the early Christians who *"shared everything they had . . . There were no needy persons among them"* (Acts 4:32, 34). Out of thankfulness to our giving God, who gives so generously, we, along with our spiritual forefathers, respond to the needs of others, giving to them as unto the Lord (Matthew 25:40).

During the month of November we will spend the first three Sundays learning and growing and becoming stewards **living a God-pleasing life**. It is my hope and prayer that you will attend both the worship services and the Bible studies for this very important, educational, and enriching program.

Judy Webb, Senior Warden

Transitional Update
The Pre-search Process

The first step in the process of calling a new rector is a Parish meeting to establish our “Core Values”. We did not have to revisit our mission statement because everyone likes the mission statement we have. That gathering was held on September 17th. The next step will be another Parish Life meeting to look into our “Vision Statement”. This meeting is scheduled for October 22nd at 9:00am. In the meantime there is work being done to update our “Parish Profile” by our brochure committee. After the Parish meetings are completed, you will be given a chance to have a voice in expressing what you want to see in a rector by completing a Parish survey. The results will be collated and the resulting profile will be given to the search committee to guide them. Let’s address the search committee. A committee will be formed by the Vestry to select candidates to serve. The candidates selected will be interviewed to assure the committee that they will represent the desires of the parishioners, as outlined in the Rector profile and do all the work necessary to make a recommendation. You will be given the opportunity to send in names of Rector(s) you would like to recommend. It will be the Bishop’s decision as to whether the person you recommend is on the final list of candidates. As you can see, much work still lies ahead for all of us who love Grace Church.

Thank you all for your time and the super effort you are putting forth. I feel blessed to be part of such a devoted congregation.

Peace to all,

Judy Webb, Senior Warden

Save the Date!

**Saturday, October 22nd
9 AM to 1 PM**

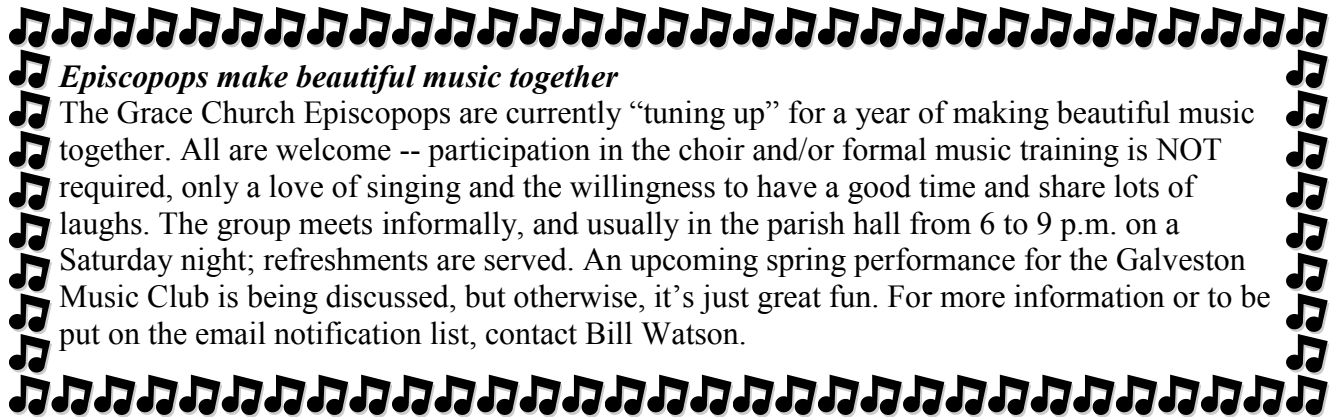
Church Visioning Meeting in Jenkins Hall

**Sign up in church or RSVP to the church office if you
are coming.**

Graceful Gatherers for the Summer

<i>Please mark you calendars:</i>	Oct. 7	7-9 p.m	Nancy and Don Mafrige, 1805 Bayou Shore
	Nov. 4	7-9 p.m.	Bill Watson, 3319 Lanyard Place
	Dec. 2	7-9 pm	Peggy Baldwin-Clayton, 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 you fellow church members. Please feel free to join us whenever possible.



Episcopops make beautiful music together

The Grace Church Episcopops are currently “tuning up” for a year of making beautiful music together. All are welcome -- participation in the choir and/or formal music training is NOT required, only a love of singing and the willingness to have a good time and share lots of laughs. The group meets informally, and usually in the parish hall from 6 to 9 p.m. on a Saturday night; refreshments are served. An upcoming spring performance for the Galveston Music Club is being discussed, but otherwise, it’s just great fun. For more information or to be put on the email notification list, contact Bill Watson.

Episcopal Church Women Take Action!

Busy hands and busy hearts work through ECW. Find **your** call in our activities.

Are you available for Lunch with Seniors? Working with Moody Methodist and St. Patrick’s, Grace is hosting lunch for Seniors on the 4th Thursday of each month. For more information call Nancy Wilkes at 409-737-2700. This is a new ministry at Grace, we need your help. The first luncheon was September 22.

Want to express your creativity? We lost our treasured collection of Christmons in the storm. We have the patterns and materials available for your creative touch. Contact Nancy Wilkes or Laura Hyatt for your starter kit.

Imagine our Future! Visioning Meeting October 22 in Jinkins Hall ECW provides refreshments. Good eats mean our imaginations will soar.

We give Thanks! United Thank Offering November 6, and annual Thanksgiving Feast November 20. Sign up sheets will be in the back of Church for the Feast.

On the Horizon! Day of Reflection in January and Shrove Pancake Supper in February. Stay tuned.

Wondering who we are? We are YOU! Please plan to join ECW on October 1 at 9:00 am in Jinkins Hall for our quarterly meeting. Our organization welcomes new members.





Troop # 177 Visits “Big Tex”

Our Grace Church Boy Scouts made a trip to the State Fair in Dallas. They were accompanied by Pete Rhymes, John McCulley, and Beau Bossert and were guests of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Garland. They traveled to and from the fair on the Dart (Dallas’ rapid transit system) and had a marvelous time enjoying the ride along with rides at the fair and sampling the fried foods such as fried Oreos, fried bacon, fried peanut butter sandwiches, and fried ice cream. A good time was had by all.

The troop has once again made a commitment to serve at the ADA dinner in December.

2011 FOUNDATION BOARD

Bill Watson
Peggy Baldwin-Clayton
Kenny Wegner
Leslie Watts
EX-OFFICIO: Sr. Warden: Judy Webb

2011 VESTRY

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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- 939-6924

Galveston ECW Convocation a great success
Submitted by Barbara Zimmerman

The Galveston Convocation of local Episcopal Church Women groups was held in the Grace Church parlor on Sept. 17. The day’s activities included a talk about the upcoming ECW Retreat at Camp Allen on Oct. 14-15. All ECW members are encouraged to attend this retreat, either alone or with friends, and enjoy a peaceful and relaxing time. In addition to workshops, the retreat will include a presentation by keynote speaker Susan Baker, author and wife of former Secretary of State James Baker.

Who is a member of the ECW? Every woman at every Episcopal Church is automatically a member of the ECW, and as, such, is welcome to attend any ECW retreat or meeting. Our local outreach activities include participating in “Trees for Galveston” by putting several nice oaks at Gus Allen Park, and we have also contributed to the tornado victims in Joplin, Missouri. If you have any questions about the ECW, please contact Barbara Zimmerman, chair of the Galveston Convocation, or Nancy Wilkes, president of the Grace Church ECW.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 1st - ECW Meeting 9AM in Jinkin's Hall
 Friday, October 7th, 7-9 pm - Graceful Gathers: at the home of Nancy and Don Mafrige
 Saturday, October 8th beginning at 9:30 AM- ECW/DOK Quiet Day led by Helen Appelberg.
 Tuesday, October 11th— noon - Finance Committee Meeting
 October 14-15, 2011 - 110th ECW Annual Retreat at Camp Allen
 Sunday, October 16th—9:AM Acolyte Training
 Tuesday October 18th - 6:00 PM- Vestry Meeting
 Saturday, October 22nd - 9:00AM - 1 PM - Visioning Meeting in Jinkin's Hall
 Thursday, October 27- 10:30 AM- Seaside Seniors in Jinkins Hall
 Saturday, October 29- 6:00 PM- Episcopops
 Sunday, November 6th - UTO Ingathering

Happy Birthday!

10/1 Heather Shafer
 10/4 Ambur Betts
 Carol Ramirez
 Leslie Watts
 10/7 Kacey Martinez
 10/8 Corlie Jackson
 10/9` Valerian Chyle
 Michael Martinez
 10/11 James Fulbright
 10/12 Britney Niccolai
 10/14 Matt Arbaugh
 10/18 Shirley Bridges
 10/21 Barbara McGuffey
 10/22 Alan Higgins
 10/23 Genie Croley
 10/26 Alan Phillips

Happy Anniversary!

10/2 Stan & ShuShu Clowers
 10/6 Matt & Michelle Arbaugh
 10/20 Michael & Kacey Martinez

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

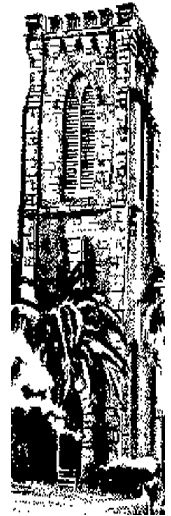
BELL TOWERS NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE!

Follow the link on our website: gracechurchgalveston.org to go paperless.
 Please contact the church office if you prefer to discontinue receiving the Bell Tower by mail.

THE BELL TOWER

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

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THE REVEREND DOUGLAS J. TUCKER - INTERIUM RECTOR

THE REV. HELEN W. APPEKLBERG, ASSOCIATE PRIEST

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