

# THE BELL TOWER

## September - 2011

*"The earth is the LORD'S and all that is in it, the world and all who dwell therein."* Psalms 24:1

Our journey to guide Grace Episcopal Church into the future has begun. Our Rector has moved on after almost 8 years of leading our parish. Father Paul led us through some challenging and trying times while he was here and I know that we all are dealing with his leaving in our own way. We are blessed to have been able to call our Interim Rector, Rev. Douglas Tucker and to retain our Associate Rector, Helen Appelberg during this time of transition. This transition process lays the foundation upon which we build healthy mission and ministry.

*Now the real work begins.* At the beginning of the transition process there are steps we need to take in preparing for the search that must be completed. Under the guidance and watchful eye of the Diocese it won't be long until we start the search process. The Vestry met with the Canon to the Ordinary, Ann Normand, on August 9th. At this meeting Canon Normand outlined the process of calling a new Priest for Grace and answered questions we had in regards to the procedures we need to follow. Then the Vestry met with Mary MacGregor, Director of Leadership Development for the Dioceses of Texas, on August 16th. This meeting was more the nuts and bolts of what we need to do. She will be training and guiding the Vestry on how to do things that must be accomplished before the search begins. She will be giving very specific information and a step by step path that we will follow to reach our goal of calling a new Rector to Grace. We have a lot of hard work ahead of us, but we are in good hands.

If you look at only the big picture, this looks like an extremely daunting task. There is an analogy that is used in business that is appropriate here. How do you eat an elephant? The answer is quite simple - one bite at a time. That's how we are going to get through this apparently daunting task, by slowly chipping away at what seems to be overwhelming - one bite at a time.

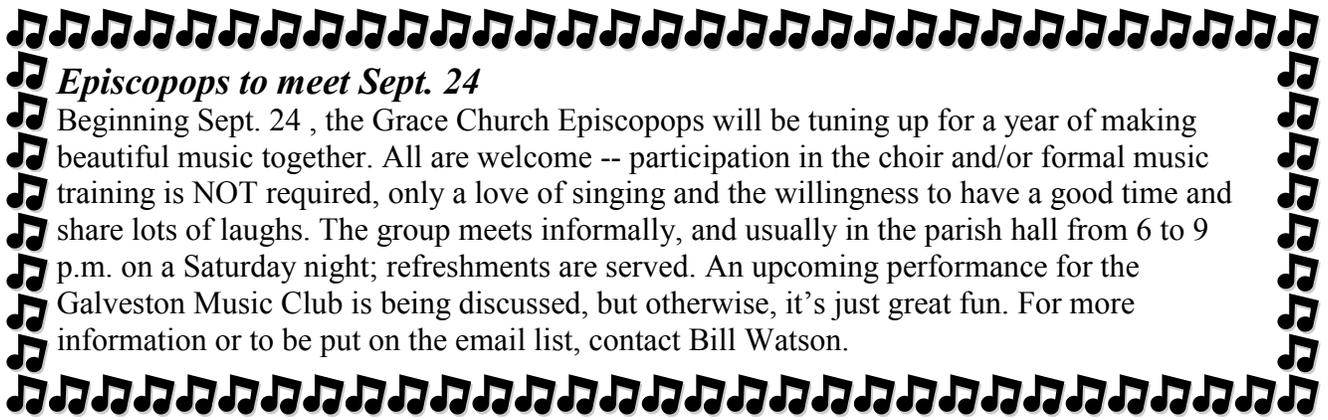
The first step will be a Parish meeting to develop our Core Values on **Saturday, September 17th at 9AM**. Everyone is invited and it will be conducted by a trained coach from the diocese who specializes in development. Another Parish meeting on **Saturday, October 22nd at 9AM**, lead by the same coach, will be held to review and establish our "Vision" statement. Also, we need to write a Parish Profile, have a congregational survey to address our rector profile, then summarize the surveys and at the end will be an invitation to the congregation to submit names of recommended priests who might be candidates or priests to consider. **WHEW!!**

All of the above will be accomplished, one bite at a time, before the search committee will surface. It is our hope that all of the above can be completed in no more than four months.

Each day I feel privileged to be Senior Warden during this time of change. We are blessed to have a very devoted Vestry and a congregation that is so supportive. The wonderful thing about our journey is that we will all have a voice in our future.

Peace to all,  
*Judy Webb, Senior Warden*





***Episcopops to meet Sept. 24***

Beginning Sept. 24 , the Grace Church Episcopops will be 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 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 list, contact Bill Watson.

***Transition Events***

***Core Values meeting set for 9AM, Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>***. Join us for the first congregational meeting in our Transition Process. This meeting will be led by one of the best coaches in the Diocese, Dave Bollinger. He is an outstanding coach and very experienced. He lives in Cypress and is a member of Good Shepherd, Tomball. The meeting should last between 2.5 to 3 hours and this is the meeting where we define our identity and determine why we do what we do. The Core Values unconsciously drive the way the congregation lives and shapes the culture of the congregation. At this meeting we are going identify our Core Values. So that we get an idea of how many will be attending, there will be a sign up sheet in the rear of the church or you can RSVP by email to [webGrace@comcast.net](mailto:webGrace@comcast.net).

***Visioning Event set for 9AM, Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>***. This second of our congregational meetings in our Transition Process will also be led by Dave Bollinger. This meeting should last approximately 4 hours and during the meeting we will determine our Vision Statement. A vision statement is a desired condition that doesn't presently exist. It is written in the future tense and lays the blueprint for the future. The Vision Statement is written from the key results of the Visioning Event. It is essential that we have at least 25% of the congregational at this event. We will have a sign up sheet in the rear of the church or you can RSVP by email to [webGrace@comcast.net](mailto:webGrace@comcast.net).

**TUESDAY MEDITATION**

Grace Church hosts a contemplative prayer/Christian meditation group in the chapel on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. Led by Bill Noble, the gathering begins with a weekly reading from the World Community for Christian Meditation, followed by a 20-minute meditation, and concludes with a brief informal discussion. For additional information, please call Bill Noble at 409-939-8099.



### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

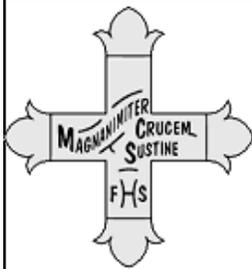
#### **Bible heroes :star” in Christian Ed’s summer program Submitted by Cathy Smith**

Super heroes in the Bible? Absolutely! As our summer program introduced traditional Old Testament stories, our young students realized we were learning about the “super heroes” of early times. Moses, Joseph, David, Samson, Queen Esther and Joshua all were God’s servants as they worked to help and save their people. We will study Jesus, the greatest hero of all, on the final Sunday of our summer program. The fall program will begin with the study of creation. Throughout all our programs, we recognize the differing levels of maturity among our children, and as they mature, we work to accommodate their interest and encourage participation in



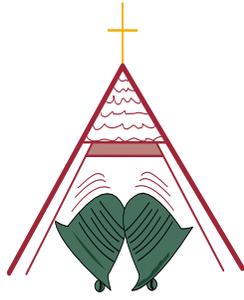
#### **Galveston-area ECW and DOK groups to hold Oct. 8 “Quiet Day” Submitted by Judy Ricketts**

Please join other Galveston-area ECW and DOK members for a “Quiet Day” on Oct. 8 at St. Augustine’s Episcopal Church, 1410 41<sup>st</sup> St. To be led by Rev. Helen Appelberg, the day of prayer, reflection and renewals will focus on a theme of “Abide With Me.” The day will begin at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts, and participants are encouraged to bring a journal or notebook and something with which to write. Activities will include a designated time and space to be truly SILENT, and each woman will be encouraged to use that SILENCE however she desires and also to record her thoughts. Following a light lunch at 11:30, the afternoon will continue with discussion, contemplative prayer and Eucharist. All women are encouraged to attend and enjoy this special day of peace and reflection, but please let us know if you plan to come so we can plan food and other supplies accordingly. You can reach the Grace Church office at 409-762-9676 or email [judyricketts100@gmail.com](mailto:judyricketts100@gmail.com)



#### **Daughters of the King concludes a busy summer Submitted by Judy Ricketts**

The Grace Church Daughters of the King chapter has met regularly throughout the summer and participated in several projects, including making prayer blankets for the sick and needy and providing cookies for Meals on Wheels participants on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The group will continue to meet on the first Sunday of each month following the 9:30 a.m. worship service. In addition to praying for those who have so requested, we also have been studying the book “An Altar in the World,” by Barbara Brown Taylor. On Aug. 27. we met for a “Quiet Day/ Work Day,” during which we took an up-close look at our own Grace Church altar and reredos, and also discussed the first half of this book. A light breakfast and lunch were served, and “welcome bags” were assembled for presentation to church visitors on Sunday mornings. Another Quiet Day, to be led by Rev. Helen Appelberg, will be held on Oct. 8. In the meanwhile, please let us know if you would like for us to pray for you or others that you know, or if we can be of assistance with special needs.



## Pealings

Seaside Seniors lunch and game day will start at Grace on Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Seniors ages 55 and older are invited to gather from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. for fellowship in Jinkin's Hall. Lunch is provided, with a \$3 donation welcome. Table games will be provided.

The kitchen at Grace is starting on the road to going green. The process has started by putting out regular coffee mugs to use instead of the Styrofoam cups and using metal cutlery instead of the plastic ware. There is also a tub in Quinn Hall for you to put your used cups in to make it more convenient for all of us to stop using Styrofoam and plastic each week.

Welcome to our new sextons Marie Armstrong and Lexer Soto. They are doing a wonderful job in keeping Grace Church clean. They ask that if you use a room or facility that you tidy up after yourself

because they may not be in to clean before the room is used again.

Tree Gators add to our trees. If you have noticed what looks like green plastic bags around the base of our new trees in front of the church you've noticed our Tree Gators. They are a watering system to help our trees make it through the drought. Our Junior Warden John McCauley researched what we could do so we wouldn't lose our trees during the water restrictions imposed this very dry summer and now we have Tree Gators that are designed to slowly release the water they hold to the tree roots.

Vestments sent for repair and replacement. Our white stole and chasuble which we use at Christmas got damaged during Ike. With the help of the Grace Church Foundation and a generous Altar Guild member they have been sent off to be cleaned, repaired and replaced. The company is going to remove all of the decoration and embroidery from the damaged articles and use them on the new ones.

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## SILK PURSE



The venerable Silk Purse is up and running at full speed – from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

Are you a shopper? You'll find treasures, bargains and just plain "must have" items. Silk Purse inventory turns over quickly, however, so drop in frequently to see new merchandise.

Are you a donor? The Silk Purse welcomes all types of clothing, and just asks that the items be clean and in good condition, neatly packed in a box or hung on hangers. Household items such as kitchen utensils, decorative objects books, games and other home goods are also always a hit, as are toys, miscellaneous items and jewelry.

Perhaps you would like to be a volunteer! Workers are always welcome to help organize, tag and price items as well as "keep shop." Let Shirley Bridges know when you are available, and she will do her best to accommodate your schedule.

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# Happy Birthday!

- 9/3 Amanda Ramirez
- 9/5 Decklen Coyne  
Sandy Schlagenhauf
- 9/10 Ariel Conoly
- 9/11 Aaron Hervey
- 9/12 Shawn Arthur  
Jeff Graham
- 9/18 Nerissa Rawls
- 9/20 Janice Rhymes  
Judy Ricketts
- 9/22 Betty Huddleston'  
Vickie Robertson
- 9/25 Bob Scott
- 9/27 Jerry Mount
- 9/29 Jared Jackson
- 9/30 Paige Carman

## ***Happy Anniversary!***

- 9/1 Jon & Connie Carman
- 9/4 Brannon & Kathleen Mensing
- 9/25 Reggie & Laura Desmormeaux  
Kenny & Edna Wegner

***Rally Day set for September 25<sup>th</sup>*** following the service. Join us for a progressive brunch with each of Grace Church's organizations and ministries offering something to add to your plate. Take this opportunity to sign up for new ministries or to renew your commitment to the ministries you are currently involved with.

## Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of Grace

### Upcoming Events

Galveston ECW Convocation on Sept. 17

Submitted by Barbara Zimmerman

The Galveston Convocation meeting for the ECW will be held in the parlor at Grace Church from 10 a.m. to noon on Sept. 17. Coffee and muffins will be served, followed by a talk about the upcoming ECW Retreat at Camp Allen in October. The October retreat will be for the entire Diocese of Texas Episcopal Church Women, and it is a terrific event. I attended my first one about 1989 in Temple. Jan Dorsett, Shirley Bridges and Mary Alice Barnes were on that trip, as long as several other members who are no longer with us. It was like a religious B-12 shot, and I've tried to make one every year since.

In addition to a presentation by Joy Daley, a local body therapist, who will help us learn better how to relax, the Sept. 17 meeting will offer our out-of-town guests the opportunity to visit St. Vincent's House and/or our very own Silk Purse. Other highlights will include updates on current and recent projects, including the past summer's "Dresses for Malawi" project, organized by Nancy Wilkes.

## **Upcoming Events**

Friday, September 2nd, 7-9 pm - Graceful Gathers: at the home of Bob Scott and Jim Rothgeb  
 Sunday, September 4th - Daughters of the King - meeting in the parlor following the 9:30 service  
 Sunday, September 4th - Special Transitional Vestry Meeting - - meeting in the parlor following the 9:30 service  
 Monday, September 5th - Boy Scout Troop #177 Meeting - in Molhusen House  
 September 9-11, 2011 - Grace Retreat at Camp Allen  
 Tuesday, September 13th - 12 Noon - Finance Committee  
 Saturday, September 17th - 9:00am - Noon - Core Value Meeting in Jinkin's Hall  
 Sunday, September 18th - 12 Noon - Foundation Meeting - Foundation Meeting  
 Tuesday, September 20th - 6:00 pm - Vestry Meeting  
 Thursday, September 22th - 11:30 AM - Senior Luncheon in Jinkin's Hall  
 Saturday, September 24th - 6:00 pm - Episcopops Get Together in the Parish Hall - Please come out for great fellowship, music, food, and of course beverages. Hope to see you there! Please contact Bill Watson for more information.  
 Sunday, September 25th— Rally Day in Jinkin's Hall following the service.  
 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  
 October 14-15, 2011 - 110th ECW Annual Retreat at Camp Allen Information and registration  
 Saturday, October 22nd - 9:00am - 1 PM - Visioning Meeting in Jinkin's Hall  
 Sunday, November 6th - UTO Ingathering

### **2011 FOUNDATION BOARD**

**Bill Watson**  
**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- 939-6924**

From Our Editor:

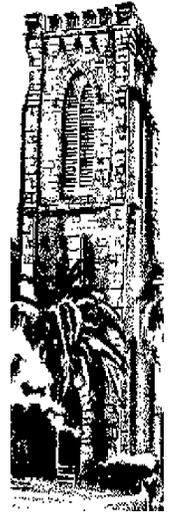
Please submit your information in writing to Leslie Watts at 3812 Bernardo de Galvez, Galveston Texas, 77550-6662 or by e-mail to [lwatts7@flash.net](mailto:lwatts7@flash.net)

### **BELL TOWERS NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE!**

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

# THE BELL TOWER

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