

# THE BELL TOWER

## Summer - 2010

*Jesus looked at his disciples said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." (Mark 10:27)*

Our Grace Church family was blessed by, and enjoyed, a visit from Bishop Dena Harrison on Sunday, June 6, 2010. A GREAT highlight of Bishop Harrison's visit was her confirmation and reception of new members of Grace, all of whom had participated in our annual Discovery Weekend, April 23-24. Accompanied by the laying on of hands by the Bishop, as well as by members of the Discovery Committee and friends and family, those confirmed were Gabriel Glover, Bob Green, David Barrymore Rawls, and Bryce Steven Willey. Ellen Hanley was received. Prior to celebrating the Eucharist and the Confirmations and Reception, Bishop Harrison met with, and received reports from, members of the Vestry and other Grace Church committees and Boards, including:

- Grace Church Finances- Derek Paget-Clarke
- Grace Church Foundation – Camellia St. John
- State of the Congregation – Ella Anderson
- Local Outreach—Ella Anderson, Carol Ramirez, Nancy Wilkes
- Mission Trip – John McCulley
- Hospitality/Social – Carol Ramirez
- Camp Allen Retreat – Vickie Robertson
- Discipleship/Pastoral Care – Vickie Robertson
- Rebuilding Update – John McCulley & David Wilkes

Bishop Harrison expressed delight and, I will have to say, more than a little amazement at the amount of progress and growth we have experienced here in the last year.....and not just in the rebuilding and restoration of our physical campus.....but, more importantly, as a congregation.....as a Body of Christ. She was so pleased, as I am sure all of us are, that we have expanded our "family," that we have grown as a "community," and that our outreach into our larger community has continued and has grown. At the same time, she expressed the hope and belief, as I know we all agree, that we not "rest on our laurels," but continue to use the incredible gifts God has blessed us with through this difficult time to continue to reach out to others, sharing those gifts, to further His Kingdom.

One of the ways she enthusiastically suggested we do that is to continue with one Sunday Worship Service, at least for the time being. She observed that the increased sense of community from having the entire Grace family together at one service....expressed to her by many of our members....not only enhances our individual and corporate connection to each other, but also is a major attraction to those who visit with us and are looking for a church home. Fr Paul and the Vestry will continue to address that recommendation.

Following the Eucharist, Bishop Harrison joined us for a lovely lunch in the Parish Hall.

Your servant in Christ,  
Ella Anderson, Sr. Warden

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**A PATRIOTIC SUNDAY**  
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It was a grand feeling when Lee Davis carried the American flag down the aisle behind the cross. It set the stage for a Eucharist that highlighted that special day, the 4th of July, in song and story. Perhaps the flag had a special significance since we had been made more aware than ever of our fighting men and women at home and abroad. We were also aware of the fighting men and women in our own church family who are listed for prayers in the bulletin each Sunday. Along with Father Paul's sermon, the event was made especially meaningful through the music we sang. *God of Our Fathers, O Beautiful for Spacious Skies* and *My Country 'tis of Thee* were significant for us all.

Following the service we enjoyed brisket and barbequed chicken, plus watermelon and all the accompaniments, in the Parish Hall. The barbeque was tasty and tender thanks to the skill of our own Bob Green. All in all, a glorious 4th indeed!

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**COLLECT FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
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Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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NEEDED: Curio cabinet or shadow-box-top display table, etc. needed to hold Grace Church's historic artifacts and memorabilia. The table currently being used as part of the display in Quinn Hall is on-loan only, and its owner needs it back to store her own artifacts and memorabilia. We do not need a fancy piece of furniture, although that would be nice; but just something in which to attractively display our precious mementoes while offering them some degree of protection. A larger item than the one currently in use would also be nice as we could then display additional items. Please call the church office if you can help us out with this, and thank you in advance. *Leslie Watts*

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**Fr. Bill Russell Memorial Garden**  
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Bill Russell passed away February 15, 2010. A memorial fund was established at the time of his memorial service. The fund, through the generosity of family, friends and Grace Church members, allowed a memorial/meditation garden to be installed in his memory. The new area, with plants, a statue of St. Francis of Assisi and benches was blessed by Fr. Paul on June 5, 2010 at 2 pm. We hope that many will utilize this space as a place to be still before God (and to remember the faithful ministry of Fr. Bill.)

Fr Bill's ashes were interred at Grace Church after a short ceremony and placed, with permission of Fr. Paul and the Vestry, inside the altar.

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## Episcopal Church Women (ECW) News

Dear Women of Grace

As announced in the Bell Tower, our meeting/luncheon was Saturday, May 28th, at 11:30 a.m. We gathered for about an hour and a half, and listened to Michael Jackson's short presentation on St. Vincent's House, followed by discussion. We had discussion about dues and officers and while we did not accomplish a lot, it was still good to gather together and share with one another. Barbara Zimmerman made delicious cold carrot soup that was paired with thinly sliced turkey sandwiches on multi-grain bread. Sounds yummy? It was!!

We hope to meet in September and progress in finding officers and in planning programs. Please plan to come and to bring your friends.

*Love in Christ, Janice Rhymes*

### *Episcopal Church Women's Prayer*

*Almighty God, we pray that You will bless our work in mission and ministry in the world.*

*Help us to pray fervently, labor diligently and give liberally to make known the power of your love given through your son Jesus Christ. Let us not forget the lessons from the past nor fear the challenges of the future.*

*Anoint us with your grace and shine in our hearts as we reflect your light throughout the world. Amen*

### **Grace's ECW**

*Many thanks to you Barbara for her years of ongoing nurturing and assistance to Grace's ECW, and also thanks to Janice for now being our leader. It was great to be part of yesterday's meeting and to hear about what Galveston has, is and will continue do for its less advantaged citizens, we do need to be part of that body. God Bless and have a very Blessed Memorial Day. I am having a very blessed day as my youngest son Paul is on the plane returning from Afghanistan as we speak and will be arriving in Colorado Springs tomorrow afternoon, Anne (Anne-Lett Brown)*

Well it was a small but wonderful turnout! Michael Jackson talked to us about St. Vincent's House and I think we all felt a gush of warmth while hearing about some of the wonderful things other people in Galveston have done to support St. Vincent's. Thanks so much to Janice, our ECW President, for putting this together and for her opening prayers and her gentle calmness. We had a soup and sandwich lunch and Janice brought Durkees Dressing, an old time favorite for many of you, to go with the sandwiches!

I look forward to the next one and to seeing the wonderful ladies of Grace Church and their guests next time. And I hope we can have St Augustine's and Trinity ladies feel free to join our meetings when they get a chance.

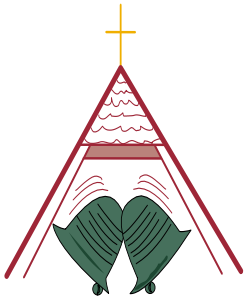
*By Barbara Zimmerman, Galveston ECW Convocation Coordinator*

### **GRACE CHURCH RETREAT**

We have Camp Allen cabins reserved for the nights of November 12th and 13th (Friday and Saturday nights) for our annual church get away. I am inquiring about the availability of these cabins for an extra night in case anyone wants to spend an extra night (either Thursday or Sunday) at Camp Allen. Please let me know if you want to be part of this year's church get away and whether you want to spend an extra night (and if so which night). The cost should be the same as in the past, \$67/night per bedroom, not including food. We will need to collect the money for the rooms by late July.

I am looking forward to a relaxing get away and hope you can join us'

Bill Watson (409-770-3322)



## PEALINGS

### PENTECOST ENDS THE EASTER SEASON.

The dove waved beautifully above the crowd; the hangings were red as were the vestments of the choir.

Many in the congregation wore red in honor of the Day. Thus ended the Easter season, as we celebrated Pentecost Sunday with baptisms and a parish picnic complete with hot dogs and outdoor celebrations for the kids, including water happy times.

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### Contemplative Prayer

Grace Church hosts a contemplative prayer/Christian meditation group in the chapel on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm led by Bill Noble. We start with a weekly reading from the World Community Meditation, then meditate for twenty minutes, then have a brief period of questions and discussion. All baptized Christians have the capacity for contemplative prayer/meditation through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Please come to the chapel on Tuesdays for a quiet hour of prayer and meditation. If you have questions, call Bill Noble at 409-939-8099.

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### **Tomatoes, potatoes, fresh basil, Oh, my!**

Here is a little update on William Temple Garden for you. Our sprinkler system is now in working order and the herbs and vegetables are thriving. Cherry tomatoes are being picked and enjoyed along with fresh basil and Kyle is planning to pick and cook the Japanese eggplant for the med students' Wednesday night supper. Our pole beans are developing blossoms and the squash and sweet potatoes are expanding rapidly along with the parsley. This summer the herb garden will be lovingly cared for and we plan to make crushed gravel paths in the labyrinth garden. Thank you Saint Fiacre for watching over our efforts. Any Grace green thumbs are welcome to help tend the gardens. Please contact Doris after church on Sundays or @ (409) 771-9188.

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Christian Ed:

We are enjoying the summer program (thank you for the window blinds!). The kiddos have learned so far that God creates and our jobs are to take care of his creations. We are also learning that God takes care of us. Since most of our children are very young, Betty is teaching the beginning of the 23rd psalm "the Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want". This is a very powerful statement that we hope will stay with them throughout their lifetime. Kathleen and Betty are wonderful with the children. The rainforest theme that we are using for the summer is such a fun program. I am sure we will have lots to share as we proceed through the summer.

*Kathleen, Betty and Cathy*




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### **Daughters of the King**

We are meeting and praying regularly. Our newbies are almost through their training, which should be completed by August. Please let us know if we need to provide food, prayer blankets or prayers *(by Cathy Smith)*

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### **St. Vincent's Food Pantry-**

Don't forget your donation for St. Vincent's Food Pantry! Just as each of us likes to eat a little something every day, so the less fortunate of our community enjoy receiving nourishment on a regular basis. Grace Church's commitment to helping the pantry is an ongoing mission, and needs your support on an ongoing basis. Your donation can be in the form of a non-perishable food item or money, with which the pantry can purchase in bulk specific items that are in short donations supply. There are baskets in both the sanctuary and parish house for food items. Financial aid can be mailed to the church or placed in the offering plate -- just indicate on your check or donation envelope that your gift is for St. Vincent's Food Pantry.

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**We are calling this issue "Summer BT" and next issue will be Sept. 2010, with a deadline for submissions of Aug 15. We will alert you when time comes.**



## OUR WALK ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL IN SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

*(by Stephen Glaser)*

When Bill Watson first presented his idea of walking the Appalachian Trail, I thought he was crazy and not serious. He first wanted to spend 5 to 6 weeks on the trail, though as time went on from September of last year, the time decreased to 2 weeks. I was planning on longer. Throughout the following months we had to buy the right equipment for the task, mostly lighter stuff and things we did not have. As the moment of departure was almost here my pack was up to 47 pounds, and Bill's was a little heavier. We basically packed too much clothing, food and water.

We arrived at Rockfish Gap, the Southern entry point in the Shenandoah National Park on Tuesday morning May 18<sup>th</sup> and started our hike northward in the park on the AT (Appalachian Trail). It was cold and wet. The walk through the up-sloping mountains proved to be a challenge with our heavy packs. We would take 20 steps forward and then rest for 2 minutes. 'This would either be the longest hike I've ever done or the shortest', I thought. The dense fog and light drizzle made visibility difficult and the rocks very slippery. Another hiker passing by told us that someone had broken his ankle on the trail. We slipped and fell a few times trying not to. Trekking poles helped keep us on our feet. After 7.3 very long miles we arrived at the first shelter, Calf's Mountain Hut. It had a spring nearby, a privy and 6 or 7 very tired hikers (they had started their hike at Springer Mountain in Georgia and had hiked through Tennessee, North Carolina and Virginia. They were headed to Baxter State Park in Maine for a total of 2175 miles on the trail. Our first day was a success!

I was warm in my sleeping bag with temperatures down in the 40's. Next day we refilled our water and headed off, next hut 13.2 miles away. We already knew that we would be camping on the side of the trail well before our destination. The weather was just the same, cold and wet. We found a nice place to camp about 5 miles down the trail at Turk Gap. This was our first night in our new backpacking tents. They worked out beautifully even with the rain at night. We had to bear bag our food in a tree for safety - to keep bears out of our tents and our food.

With no springs along the way to the next shelter we ran low on water, even with carrying extra water. Most of the hikers we met were hiking 15 to 25 miles a day and carrying 1 to 2 liters of water. I started out with 5 liters. We just were not up to their fitness level. With the next shelter, Blackrock Hut, being over 8 miles away, that was a long day. After 7+ miles we encountered 2 black bears near the trail. The first one left the scene when he or she saw us and the second one held his or her ground and snorted at us. We backed off slowly and then waited. After creeping up a couple of times the bear was still there and looking at us. We then bushwhacked around the trail and got back on the trail. We made it safely to the next hut and spring.

Day four, the weather was sunny and warm. After 9 or so miles we walked into Loft Mountain Campground where we showered and washed our clothes, charged our cell phones and re-supplied our food. Cell phone coverage was spotty. We camped there for the night. The next night we made it to Pinefield Hut. At midnight, 2 trail angels (people who help out hikers) came, woke us up and gave us cold Yuengling Beer. The next day they cooked us eggs with green peppers, onions and cheese. They had hiked the whole AT last year and had been helped by trail angels on their hike.

At each hut we met new hikers. Most were North bounders. Some were South bounders. At these huts you have about 6 to 8 snoring, stinking gents and ladies. (Bill wanted me to get this in because he had to listen to us.) Also there are mice running around at night, so you had to keep your packs open so they could inspect them for food - otherwise they would chew their way in. Hightop Hut was the next hut. This was where we met our first sourpuss on the trail; everyone up to then was upbeat. He eventually moved out of the hut into his own tent.

Since the next hut was about 12+ miles away, we decided to hike to Swift Run Gap and hitchhike into Elkton for a motel and supplies. After trying to hitch a ride for 20 minutes I turned on my cell phone and called the Country View Motel, down the road. We hadn't had a signal for 2 or 3 days now. The owner of the motel came and picked us up. Later he took us into town to wash our clothes and have dinner. He picked us up, and the next day took us back to the trail. This guy was incredible and deserves the great reputation he has among hikers.

Back on the trail, my pack was finally adjusted right and the walk felt great. My cardio was improving and we were not resting as much. Bill liked to take the point and I would follow way behind and catch up. We were like the hare and the tortoise. But at the end of the day we were both fully exhausted. Bearfence Hut was next. We made it there late in the day. Along the way we felt we were lucky not to have come in contact with a bear. Also by this time we were carrying less water and food. I was down to 2.5 to 3 liters of water. Water was plentiful by now. My mind was now adjusting better to what the body could do. It seemed like the pudding between my ears

**WALK ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL**, continued . . .

had now turned to Jell-O. This would become my biggest accomplishment.

The hike was becoming easier and more fun. What began as sheer work and drudgery had become doable. Next stop was the wayside at Big Meadows Campground. Hikers were always talking about hiking 25 miles to the wayside for a blackberry shake. We did the same without the high mileage. Here at our campsite, deer would come out of the woods. I got within 15 feet of a 4-point buck. A tiny fawn and its mother were also nearby.

The following day we made it to Skyland Resort where we booked a room, had a beer and dinner. The ranger there told us that the bears have never attacked anyone in the park and that relieved any lingering doubts about our safety. We saw 3 fawns that day.

We left there late the next morning and saw another bear, which was too busy doing something to notice us. We met an interesting hiker who had hiked 15,000 miles over his lifetime and had brown bear encounters. We got caught in a thunderstorm on way to the next shelter. We were the first to get there and then it filled up. Some of the people had to set up their tents. Our food supply was very low and there was not a spring at this hut – Byrds Nest Hut.

We had 3+ miles to accomplish before being picked up at Thornton Gap. We got there on Saturday 2 hours before our scheduled pickup. We had walked over 80 miles on the AT plus a few on side trails over the 12 days. The scenery was lush vegetation with a few open viewing places along the trail. There are 600 bears in the park or about 1 for every square mile. Although other people saw black timber rattlers we did not see any. We were surprised that we lasted this long, it would have been easy to give up in the beginning. Ticks were a problem I even brought one home. And there was plenty of poison ivy – just ask Bill. “It’s all in the mind you know” Ringo Starr said in ‘Yellow Submarine’- that was my biggest challenge. SG

**2010 VESTRY**

**SR. WARDEN: Ella Anderson**  
**JR. WARDEN: David Wilkes**  
**SECRETARY: Vickie Robertson**  
**John McCulley**  
**Dan Ricketts**  
**Carol Ramirez**  
**Derek Paget-Clarke**

**TREASURER– Derek Paget-Clarke**  
**CHANCELLOR– Jeff Kilgore**  
**RECTOR- Fr. Paul Wehner**

***Happy Anniversary!***

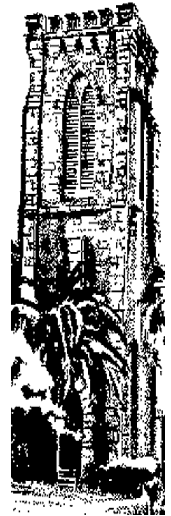
6/6 Bob & Laura Eanes  
 6/7 John & Linda McCulley  
 6/16 Mary & Ray Jones  
 6/16 Charles & Kari Roe  
 6/18 Tony & Elouise Albonetti  
 6/29 Valerian Chyle & Mary Walker-Chyle  
 7/4 Bob & Julie Green  
 7/7 Val & Carol Ramirez  
 7/22 Brandt & Meg Raeburn

**Happy Birthday!**

6/6 Colin McCulley  
 6/6 Corey McCulley  
 6/7 John McCulley  
 6/11 Leila Boullion  
 6/11 Marjorie Kupsa  
 6/15 Bryce Willey  
 6/16 Derek Paget-Clarke  
 6/19 Rick Boullion  
 6/19 Patrick McGuffey  
 6/24 John Provenzano  
 6/24 Robert Wehner  
 6/25 Mamie Aoughsten  
 6/27 Doris Ann Niccolai  
 6/27 Gene Smith  
 6/29 Brandt Raeburn  
 7/3 Nancy Conoly  
 7/5 Mathias Gonzales  
 7/5 Laura Hyatt  
 7/5 Kathleen Mensing  
 7/6 Amber Prater  
 7/8 Kathleen Lucas  
 7/12 Dylan Fulbright  
 7/14 Kendall Harr  
 7/16 Brody Shafer  
 7/17 Connie Carman  
 7/19 Mike McNeely  
 7/21 Dolores Paget-Clarke  
 7/22 Joan Slusarchyk  
 7/25 Judy Webb  
 7/26 Sam Glass  
 7/26 Jim Rothgeb  
 7/29 Linda McCulley  
 7/30 Lois West

# THE BELL TOWER

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## DIOCESAN AND GRACE CHURCH MINISTERS

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AARON HERVEY - ORGANIST

LAURA HYATT - CHOIR DIRECTOR

CATHY GOULD – PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

MARTINA AYALA - SEXTON

ELLA ANDERSON - SENIOR WARDEN

DAVID WILKES - JUNIOR WARDEN

DEREK PAGET-CLARKE - TREASURER

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