

THE BELL TOWER

April- 2010



Then Jesus opened the disciples' minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. (Luke 24:45-48)

Dear People of Grace,

Happy Easter season! The Lord is risen; the Lord is risen, indeed!

The above verse from Luke provides us with words of instruction from our resurrected Lord. Jesus tells his disciples and tells us that we are to proclaim the Good News that we celebrated on Easter Sunday to all people. We are to be witnesses of God's love and forgiveness in the world, as evidenced by the life, death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

There are many ways that we serve as witnesses of the resurrection. One very important way that we demonstrate God's love is by inviting and welcoming others into our church community. Accordingly, a team of Grace parishioners is planning to host "**Discovery Weekend**" at Grace on Friday night, April 23 and Saturday, April 24. Discovery Weekend will explore and examine the basics of the Christian faith, the history of the Church, our Episcopal form and style of worship, etc. This class also serves as preparation for all who desire to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church

Discovery Weekend is designed to be a fun and creative opportunity to learn and grow in your faith. Whether you are a cradle Episcopalian, or a seeker who is looking for a church home, the weekend promises to be interesting and enlightening. Please watch for the fliers to sign up to participate in the weekend – I am sure that you will be glad that you did.

Yours in the love of Christ,

Paul+

Editor's note: During the coming months, we plan to feature those members of our congregation who have accepted leadership responsibilities along with an explanation of their roles:

ALTAR GUILD ACTIVITIES

By Shu Shu Clowers

The mission of the Altar Guild is to prepare the church for services throughout the church liturgical calendar year as well as for specialized services such as weddings and funerals. Altar Angels are responsible for preparing and maintaining a variety of materials and vessels for the services. These responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

- Prepare the hangings
- Prepare and maintain the linens
- Replacing and trimming of the candles
- Care of the brass and silver
- Preparation of the Oblation Table
- Preparation of the Altar and Credence Table
- Placement of flowers
- Hymn boards, bulletins, readings
- Washing linens and caring for Rector's robes and stoles
- Stocking the sacristy

Serving with the Altar Guild is as rewarding as it is challenging. Our numbers are fewer than in the past and new members, as well as returning former members, will be most welcome. The work of the Altar Guild is fundamental to the function and beauty of the services at Grace from which we all draw inspiration and spiritual comfort.

ALTAR GUILD DIRECTOR

I interpret being Altar Guild Director as the glue that holds the teams together. Filling in when some members are on vacation, out of town, or unwell, and being available at any time to be a sounding board. I accepted the position because I feel fulfilled doing God's work, and at peace performing this work.

From March 7-10, I attended an Altar Guild Directors Retreat at Camp Allen. It was a great experience meeting with other Episcopal ladies, who tend "his table", from across the Texas Diocese. I both learned and shared tips concerning the care and preparation of the Altar for all services. The workshops were both fun and instructional. Walking the Labyrinth was another part of the retreat that was spiritual and calming journey.

On the last night old linens from many churches were deconsecrated and incinerated and the next day we filled containers to take the ashes back to our respective churches. The ashes are a mixture from all of the churches represented by the directors in attendance to the retreat.

New friends were made and I intend to join them for as many years as the Lord gives me.

Blessings from Saint Martha By Doris Niccolai

Many of you have expressed kind words and gratitude to me for the Sunday fellowship meals. Your comments are appreciated but when it comes down to it we should be grateful to Saint Martha. Saint Martha is the patron saint of cooks according to the Saints Alive website. I know she must be ever present in our kitchen to allow me to often cook for you recipes I have never made before in my life! Not to mention quadrupling them in my head as I go!

Saint Martha is the sister of Mary and Lazarus of Bethany. She has also blessed me in the kitchen by providing a wonderful group of helpers who work alongside me diligently each Sunday to prepare a bountiful table. Judy, Francesca, Kathleen, Johnny and last but not at all least Shirley provide invaluable assistance, advice and good company for which I am genuinely grateful .

Please pray for our continued culinary success and know that I welcome any new interested cooks to join us in St. Martha's kitchen

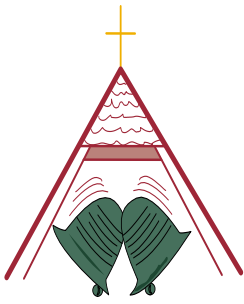


Time to sign-up for summer Camp

Camp Allen continues to provide the best in camping experience and nurturing for all kids that come to summer camp. Please call the church office if you need application information for your camper. Both Grace Church and Camp Allen have partial scholarships available, so finances should not be a problem. The deadline for registration and scholarship support is May 1, 2010.

Fr. Paul and Sherry are Session Directors for Camp Session I, which is June 20—26 for teens in 7th-9th grades. Laura Hyatt, Judy Webb, and others will be assisting Fr. Paul again this year.

We are very thankful for the Spencer Hosford Camp Allen Scholarship Fund in the Grace Church Foundation. It was established in Spencer's memory by Bill and Georgette Hosford many years ago and they (and others) continue to support it.



PEALINGS

The Chancel Choir meets every Wednesday at 6 PM in the Rectory. Come and join us!

Graceful Gatherers:

Here are the dates and hosts for the next few months:

(Graceful Gatherers will be the second Friday in April because the first Friday is Good Friday. So mark your calendars)

Friday, April 9 - 7:00-9:00 PM @ Marilyn Cooper's

Friday, May 7 - 7:00-9:00 PM @ Stan & Pat Brown's

Friday, June 4 - 7:00-9:00 PM @ Stan & ShuShu Clowers'

Many thanks to Bob Scott for planning the fun gathering to make palm crosses for Palm Sunday.

The March 27th **Cleaning Day** was a big success thanks to the dedicated Grace members who were able to come and serve. Hats off to Betty Harris, Patsy and Jerry Mount, Margaret Cutrer, Carol Ramirez, Vickie Robertson, Julie Green, Camille St. John, John Buck, Stephen Glaser, Gerald Richard, Bill Watson, Marilyn Cooper, and Kenny Wegner.

We really appreciate each and every one of you. ShuShu Clowers

Thank You from Volunteers:

Dear Pastor Paul and Helpers,
Thanks so much for the great feast you provided for us weary and hungry workers at William Temple Episcopal Center on March 18th. We found the people of Texas, Galveston in particular, very friendly and

gracious. After a long day of working at the houses, your meal was awesome.

Pastor Zach Vandenberg
Dordt College, Iowa

For Joy in God's Creation

"O heavenly Father, who hast filled the world with beauty; Open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen" (BCP p. 814)

The beauty and depth of God's creation were certainly present as we experienced Lent and Good Friday and then the glory of the resurrection. On Sunday, our hearts were full as we savored the beautiful flowers that filled our worship space and adorned the cross with such brilliant color and cheer. In our same joy, we are grateful for the ministry of our rector, Fr. Paul, and for the contributions of our lay leadership, who have all worked so hard to restore our church buildings so magnificently. Happy Easter one and all!

New Hymnals Needed

Along with the wonderful blessing of a nearly full church on Easter Sunday, came the realization that we did not have enough hymnals for everyone to sing join in the singing. Therefore, we have the opportunity to invite our parishioners and friends to donate hymnals in recognition or celebration of a loved one or event. Cost is \$25, including the dedication on the inside cover. Look for the order form in this edition of the BT.

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 9 @7:00—9:00 PM— Graceful Gatherers at the home of **Marilyn Cooper.**

Friday and Saturday, April 23-24 —7th Annual Discovery Weekend at Grace.

Friday, May 7 @7:00—9:00 PM— Graceful Gatherers at the home of **Pat & Stan Brown.**

Pentecost Sunday, May 23—A Sunday of celebrating the “birthday” of the church with baptisms and our annual Pentecost picnic on the Garth.

Sunday, June 6—The Rt. Rev. Dena Harrison will be at Grace Church to confirm and receive those wishing to join the Episcopal Church.

THE SILK PURSE

By Carol Ramirez, Vestry liaison to the Silk Purse



The over 55 Tuesday group is aggressively overseeing (and adding their sweat and labor) toward the goal of getting the shop ready to reopen, hopefully by early June. Shirley Bridges and the other volunteers at the Silk Purse are looking forward to a Grand Opening and are asking you to start gathering household items, clothing, books, etc. now . But, don't bring them, yet! There will be an update in the May Bell Tower (or sooner in the Sunday church bulletin) when an exact date can be planned. We can't wait to bring this ministry back into action!!

We do need some furnishings prior to opening. Please call the office if you have any of the following items, new or used: one desk with drawers, one work table, four or five upright chairs, 2 self standing file cabinets, display shelving, electric cash register, 2 desktop adding machines.

Discovery Weekend

If you've wondered why we do things the way we do; what is the history of our beautiful church building or the history of the Anglican communion; what is contemplative prayer and how do we “do” it; then Discovery Week-end is for you. Whether you are a long time member or a newcomer, your questions will be answered at Discovery Weekend—a Friday night and Saturday full of great fun, wonderful food and fellowship, and lots of answers.

Discovery Weekend is facilitated by Fr. Paul and a team of lay members, each with a genuine interest to share of some aspect of being an Episcopalian. Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you'll find much to challenge and nourish you by participating.

See Fr. Paul to sign up.

Dates are April 23 and 24, 2010.

Discovery Weekend also serves as preparation for being confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church.

FROM SR. WARDEN ELLA ANDERSON:

Father Paul's March 21 sermon talked about characteristics of a fruitful congregation, based on Robert Schnase's book, "Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation." One of those practices is "radical hospitality." A note I received from a parishioner expressed the thought that "the definition of radical hospitality is welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us. This parishioner observed that that is a very high bar, and wondered if we as a church welcome others as Christ has welcomed us? This person admitted that "as an individual I don't live up to the standard of radical hospitality."

An excerpt from an internet discussion about the book explains that

"Christian hospitality refers to the active desire to invite, welcome, receive, and care for those who are strangers so that they find a spiritual home and discover for themselves the unending richness of life in Christ. It describes a genuine love for others who are not yet a part of the faith community; an outward focus, a reaching out to those not yet known, a love that motivates church members to openness and adaptability, willingness to change behaviors in order to accommodate the needs and receive the talents of newcomers. Beyond intention, hospitality practices the gracious love of Christ, respects the dignity of others, and expresses God's invitation to others, not our own. (p.11) Radical means "drastically different from the ordinary practice, outside the normal," and so it provokes practices that exceed expectations, that go the second mile, that take welcoming the stranger to the max. It means people offering the absolute utmost of themselves, their creativity, their abilities, and their energy to offer the gracious invitation and reception of Christ to others. (p.21)"

(All page numbers refer to Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations, by Robert Schnase, Abingdon Press, 2007)

I believe that we, as a congregation, certainly have the "active desire to invite, welcome, receive, and care for those who are strangers so that they find a spiritual home and discover for themselves the unending richness of life in Christ." Do we actively practice "radical" hospitality, i.e., "drastically different from the ordinary practice?" Obviously, that means more than "Hi, how are you...welcome to Grace church" on Sunday morning.

Without a doubt, some of us do that... "exceed expectations, go the second (or third or thirtieth) mile, take welcoming the stranger to the max, offering the absolute utmost of themselves..." A number of our parishioners do that, within the context of "drawing" people into our church family, and, subsequently, towards a relationship with Christ.....AND.....in just the context of drawing people towards a relationship with Christ in general. Your Senior Warden, for one, absolutely does not practice radical hospitality nearly as much as I should. What a great "inspiration" from this parishioner...to be more aware.....and to be more "radical" in my hospitality!!

We pray to God for those we love, but see no longer;
Grant them your peace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

In loving memory of Larry Simms, Fr. Bill Russell, Fr. David Tarbet,
Dr. AJ Jenkins, Jr.

Donation Form for Hymnals

We are ordering 40 new hymnals for the church. If you would like to donate one or more hymnals, please provide the information requested below. Cost of the hymnals is \$25 each, including the dedication label.

I would like to donate _____ hymnals to the Glory of God and in

Thanksgiving _____

Memory of _____

Celebration of _____

Given by (name & phone) _____

2010 FOUNDATION BOARD

CHAIRMAN: Rev. Paul Wehner, Rector

PRESIDENT: Camellia St. John

TREASURER: John Buck

SECRETARY: Peggy Baldwin-Clayton

Kenny Wegner

EX-OFFICIO: Ella Anderson, Sr. Warden

Happy Anniversary!

4/30 Jayne & Lee Davis

2010 VESTRY

SR. WARDEN: Ella Anderson

JR. WARDEN: David Wilkes

SECRETARY: Vickie Robertson

John McCulley

Dan Ricketts

Carol Ramirez

Derek Paget-Clarke

TREASURER- Marilyn Cooper

CHANCELLOR- Jeff Kilgore

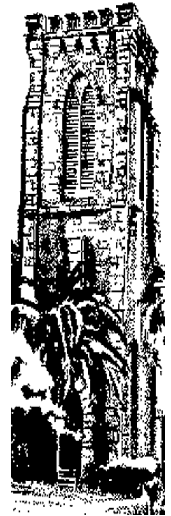
RECTOR- Fr. Paul Wehner

Happy Birthday!

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

THE BELL TOWER

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DIOCESAN AND GRACE CHURCH MINISTERS

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

THE REVEREND PAUL B. WEHNER - RECTOR

AARON HERVEY - ORGANIST

LAURA HYATT - CHOIR DIRECTOR

CATHY GOULD - PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

MARTINA AYALA - SEXTON

ELLA ANDERSON - SENIOR WARDEN

DAVID WILKES - JUNIOR WARDEN

MARILYN COOPER - TREASURER

LAY MINISTRIES COORDINATOR—JAYNE DAVIS

SILK PURSE THRIFT SHOP - SHIRLEY BRIDGES

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING - CATHY SMITH

ALTAR GUILD - SHUSHU CLOWERS, DIRECTOR

ACOLYTE ABBA - GERALD RICHARD

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - CATHY SMITH

WEDDING COORDINATOR - PAT BEVIL

WEBMASTER - RHONDA CUMMINS

BELL TOWER EDITOR - JAN DORSETT

ST. VINCENT'S HOUSE - MICHAEL JACKSON

WM. TEMPLE EPISCOPAL CENTER - THE REV. KYLE STILLINGS

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