
The Christ Bearer

Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Vol. 17, No. 12

December 2011

From the Rector:

Our bishop, The Rt. Rev. Scott Mayer, treated us to some teaching during the annual diocesan convention in Midland. In his remarks he commented that while the entire narrative of the life of Jesus of Nazareth is important to all Christians, the three great liturgical traditions in Christendom, Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Anglican, emphasize different aspects of that narrative in their theologies, placing greater attention on one aspect over others. The Orthodox tradition in the East emphasizes Easter and the Risen Lord of the Resurrection. The Roman tradition focuses on the Passion Narrative of Christ on the Cross. The Anglican tradition coming out of the Reformation in England emphasizes The Incarnation; the Word made flesh, Emmanuel.

This concentration on an Incarnational Theology within the Anglican Tradition causes us to focus on the life and works of the man, Jesus; His actions, His attitudes, His example of a life lived in accordance with Divine Will. Our Incarnational Theology causes us to concentrate on improving the lives of those around us, initially by translating the Bible into English to make the Gospel more directly accessible to the masses. It led Anglican clergy to emphasize education, to care for widows and orphans, to raise up the human condition following the example of Jesus who fed, healed, and defended the least of those He encountered in His wandering ministry. Following this example, we at St. Christopher's also feed, clothe, and encourage those around us who may have less. This Incarnational Theology leads us to the conclusion that if we are created in God's image, and if God became incarnate, became a particular man in a particular time and place, to live and die as one of us, then we and all of God's Creation are indeed good, just as proclaimed in the Book of Genesis.

During this Season of Advent we prepare to celebrate the act of incarnation in the Nativity of Jesus in Bethlehem. The birth of a baby is a common event, although never mundane. Each one is a small miracle. But the birth of THAT baby was a miracle which changed the course of the entire world. Emmanuel!. God with us! Ecce homo! Merry Christmas!

Edson+

The Christ Bearer

A monthly publication of
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

As members of St. Christopher's, we seek to act as a part of the body of Christ in response to God's love and grace by:

- praising God together in Christ-centered worship
- providing opportunities for education and spiritual growth for all
- loving and supporting each other in our life together, and
- reaching out to our community and larger world in love and service.

Weekly Services

2807 42nd Street
Lubbock, TX 79413
(806) 799-8208
www.stchristophers.org

Sunday – 8:00, 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
Wednesday – 5:30 pm – Holy Eucharist
w/ Holy Unction

The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer, Bishop
Rector – The Rev. J. Edson Way
Deacon – Melissa Wafer-Cross
Deacon – Kathleen Borsch



**Income & Expenses
Through October 31, 2011,**

	Budgeted	Actual
Plate	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,687.66
Pledge	172,500.00	163,257.00
Other	6,000.00	6,000.00
Total Income	\$ 191,000.00	\$ 181,944.66
Expenses	191,000.00	169,957.91
Balance: Inc-Exp.	0.00	\$ 11,986.75

Vestry Highlights – October

- Fr. Way reported that furniture has been moved in the sanctuary, and he discussed the plans for the Foster Memorial service and Bishop’s visit.
- Sr. Warden, Steve Maines reviewed the duties involved each Sunday for the vestry-in charge persons – locking doors, etc.
- Jr. Warden, John Edwards reported a baby changing station has been installed in the front restroom; the roof fund has increased to \$20,284.00; repairs to the air conditioner have been completed; and he presented a bid of \$626.00 for the painting of beams and pillars. The vestry approved this expenditure. The carpet in the basement will be cleaned. John will be working with Becky DelHotal to determine our equipment needs for cleaning.
- Financial and audit reports were approved.
- Steve and Fr. Way reported on their meeting with the Stewardship Committee. Cards and letters are printed. Plans have been made for the month of November with the breakfast on Nov. 20th. Vestry pledges will be collected at the Nov. 17th vestry meeting.
- John Edwards suggested we participate welcoming the troops returning from Iraq in December. There was discussion of the troops coming home and the possibility of a reception or homecoming gifts.

**Roof Replacement Fund
\$25,484.00**



Our deepest condolences go out to Missy Ratcliff and her family on the death of her daughter-in-law, Su Ratcliff on November 3 in Temple. Su lived in Lubbock but was hospitalized at Scott & White when she died.

*Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord; and let
Light perpetual shine upon her.*



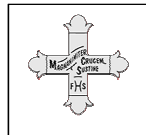
**Food Pantry Requests
For December**

stuffing mixes & sweet potatoes

The Food Pantry crew expresses their thanks to everyone for their donations and support.

Prayer Shawls

The Prayer Shawl group will meet on Monday, December 5th at Jane Barnes’ home, 3816 56th Street from 4:00 to 5:15. Please bring any completed shawls and plan to sit and visit for a while. We’ve given away several shawls in the last couple of months, so we need to keep working to replenish our supply. If you have a supply of left over yarn, you can make scarves or hats for gifts to our Food Pantry clients.



Daughters of the King

St. Christopher’s chapter of Daughters of the King will meet Sunday, December 4th, following the 10:00 service. Daughters – your input is still needed as to the direction our chapter needs to be taking in the coming year. Please plan to be in attendance at this meeting.

On October 30th, Fr. Way baptized Lydia Elise Zilverberg, infant daughter of Cody Zilverberg and Wesley Fletcher. We all welcome Lydia into the household of God and into the community that is St. Christopher’s.

On November 20th, Fr. Way baptized Ellyana Charlsa Garcia, infant daughter of Casey & Christian Garcia. What a joy to have another new member in Christ’s Church!

Also on October 30, Bishop Scott Mayer confirmed Peggy Love . Welcome, Peggy, into the Episcopal Church and into the family of St. Christopher’s.



Deacon's Corner

Most likely by the time this article is printed, you will have received lots of mail asking for your donation to worthy causes, bell ringers will be out in front of the stores, and the television and radio will announce volunteer opportunities. In the winter holiday season, we want to be generous and do something charitable, but how do we decide between them all?

Consider the 3-H approach to making your decision: head, heart, and hands.

1. **Head** – Do some research on the organization. Learn about its history and reputation, and how donations are used, including how much goes to the people it serves. Does it seem like a sound investment?
2. **Heart** – As you find out about the mission and success stories of the organization, evaluate how you feel. Are you moved emotionally? Is this a work you are passionate about? Would you feel good about giving?
3. **Hands** – Consider volunteering in a hands-on way such as serving/preparing food at St. Benedict's or helping distribute clothing at Hope Community of Shalom. If the organization is too far away, would your contribution help someone else do that hands-on work? AND let's not forget some folding of our hands in prayer for guidance!

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27) What better time than during the season of giving!

Shalom/Pax/Peace

Kathleen



Caregiver Support

The holiday season can be particularly trying for those who are caring for someone who is ill. There are so many expectations and so many things each of us would like to do, but our time is so limited and unpredictable, that much of what we'd “normally” do is impossible. I found a few suggestions in an article from *Caregiver.Com* that would seem to speak to some of these issues:

- **Accept the help others offer.** Suggest specific things they can do for you and your loved one. This is rule #1 for a reason. No one is a Super Hero. Don't feel like you're the only one who can take dad to the doctor or your wife to her physical therapist. REACH OUT and ask another family member – or close family friend – to assist you occasionally so you have time to yourself. Often they do not know how to reach out and help unless you can communicate your needs.
- **Ask for and accept favors** such as: a friend staying with your loved one while you are able to get out of the house for a while, a dinner being cooked for you and your loved one once a week, an offer to go to the supermarket or drugstore in your place. Respite can be achieved on a daily basis with the smallest of kindnesses.
- **Know your limits!** If you wear yourself out caring for your loved one, who will step in to care for the both of you? Remember, caring for yourself is not selfish, it's the greatest gift you can give your loved one.

God's blessings, Jane

Sundays & Wednesdays in December

You will get more out of our worship together if you take a little time beforehand to look at the Scripture lessons and think about our special prayer intentions.



Sunday, December 4th Second Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

Wednesday, December 7th – Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, 397

Ecclesiasticus 2:7-11, 16-18 Psalm 27:5-11 Luke 12:35-37, 42-44
Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper following service – All are welcome

Sunday, December 11th Third Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Canticle 15
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Wednesday, December 14th – readings of preceding Sunday

Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper following service – All are welcome

Sunday, December 18th Fourth Sunday in Advent

Advent Service of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 21st – Saint Thomas

Habakkuk 2:1-41 Psalm 126 Hebrews 10:35-11:1 John 20:24-29
Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm – Thanksgiving Feast following service – All are welcome

Saturday, December 24th – Christmas Eve – Celebration of the Nativity

6:00 PM - Children's Service

10:30 PM – Christmas Carols

11:00 PM – The Christ Mass

Sunday, December 25th – Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:1-20

Wednesday, December 28th – Holy Innocents

Jeremiah 31:15-17 Psalm 124 Revelation 21:13-18 Matthew 2:13-18
Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm – Agape supper following service – All are welcome





ECW Happenings

As I write this Thanksgiving Day is yet to come, but St. Christopher's ECW is thankful all year. We are thankful for the opportunity to do God's work, and for the support of our parish. Since this is the December newsletter, I find myself reflecting on the past year and what we have accomplished.

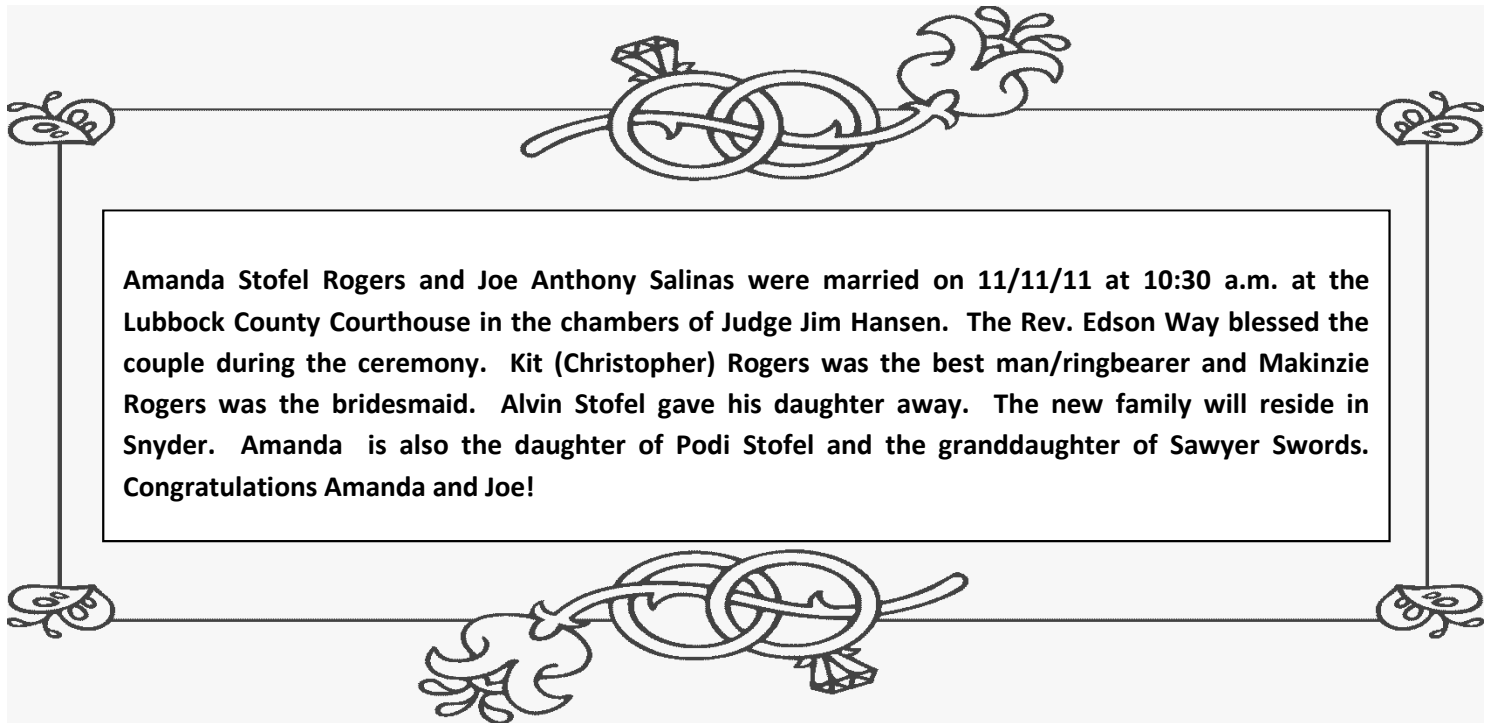
Most recently, we have served our parish and community with the Bluegrass Bash/Chili cook-off. It was a wonderful evening of food, fun, and awesome music!!! The highlight of the evening was a fantastic performance by Fr. Edson with his ukulele!!! Thank you, Doug Cashell for bringing us a great time! Thanks to everyone who worked so hard setting up, bringing food, serving, and cleaning up. A VERY SPECIAL thank you to everyone who donated a total of about \$850.00 for ECW outreach.

This past year we have provided Sunday dinners for Episcopal Youth at Canterbury, support and treats for teachers at Wheelock Elementary, bereavement receptions, a lovely luncheon and program for Church Women United, and many, many outreach programs for our parish, our community, and the world-wide community.

An ending is but a new beginning, and, as we end this year, let us look forward to new beginnings--new opportunities to Love and serve the Lord.

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas and Joyous New Year--we are St. Christopher's ECW, serving our parish, our community, and the world-wide community through God's Grace and Love

Missy



Amanda Stofel Rogers and Joe Anthony Salinas were married on 11/11/11 at 10:30 a.m. at the Lubbock County Courthouse in the chambers of Judge Jim Hansen. The Rev. Edson Way blessed the couple during the ceremony. Kit (Christopher) Rogers was the best man/ringbearer and Makinzie Rogers was the bridesmaid. Alvin Stofel gave his daughter away. The new family will reside in Snyder. Amanda is also the daughter of Podi Stofel and the granddaughter of Sawyer Swords. Congratulations Amanda and Joe!

Newsletter
DEADLINE

December 15

Send material to jambarnes@suddenlink.net

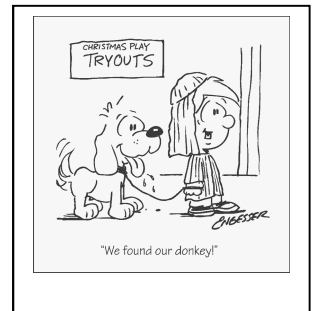


Christmas Gifts for Wheelock Children

Once again you will have the opportunity to make a special Christmas memory for a child who otherwise might have a sparse holiday. On Sunday, December 4th, you may select one or more than one child for whom you will purchase three gifts. You will receive information as to the gender of the child, sizes and interests. Please purchase the gifts, wrap them and put all of each child's gifts in a large bag, marked with the child's name. Then bring the gift bags to the church no later than December 18th.

Christmas Pageant

If you are the parent or grandparent of a child who will be at St. Christopher's on Christmas and who is interested in being in the Christmas Pageant that will be a part of the 6:00 pm service, contact Becky DelHotal - queeniebeck@yahoo.com or 777-0743 .



Winter Primary Retreat

There will be a winter retreat for primary-aged students on January 13 – 15 at Quarterman Ranch. The registration fee is \$60, if postmarked by January 1, 2012, and \$80, if postmarked after the deadline. This retreat is for young people in grades 3 – 5. The theme is "Growing Friendships." For registration forms and more information, contact Becky DelHotal – queeniebeck@yahoo.com or 777-0743.

"Saints" Race For the Cure, written by Nancy Igo

Each year a team of dedicated Episcopalian breast cancer advocates and their friends participate in the Susan G. Komen *Race for the Cure* in Lubbock. This year was no exception. The Race was held on October 1 at the Lubbock Civic Center, and the weather, although cool, was beautiful. As the sun rose the *Saints for the Cure* team gathered at the Civic Center decked out in their baseball caps and sunglasses, with their bright pink team t-shirts bearing a large Episcopal shield.

This year the team raised a total of \$845.00 for the event, as reported by team captain Kathy Ritter, of St. Paul's, Lubbock. Other *Saints* participating in this year's Race were Podi Stofel, Jan Kireillis, Debbie and Steve Maines, Pat Jordan, Jane Ann Wilson, and Jane Ann's daughter, Sarah Wilson. [Of the total, \$690.00 was raised by the St. Christopher's Racers.]

Check the St. Christopher's website or the diocesan website for photos from this event.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Bob Cope	December 1	Sawyer Swords	December 14
Lois High	December 3	Betsy Brock	December 15
Martha Burford	December 4	Don McReynolds	December 15
Makinzie Rogers	December 5	Paula Purkeypile	December 15
Elizabeth Linder	December 8	Poppy Burnette	December 19
Rob Bethea	December 12	Grace Rogers	December 19
Austin Dorsett	December 13	Lynn Ledbetter Gum	December 23
Tiffany Rubio	December 13	Christina Stofel	December 23
Josh Rodriguez	December 14	Diane Aycock	December 29

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jerry & Bobbie Matches	December 21	Steve & Debbie Maines	December 29
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This 'n That

- **BONUS STICKERS** – If you're not saving the United Supermarkets bonus stickers for yourself, bring them to Martha Robinson, and she'll use them to get small appliances for the church kitchen or for others who need them.
 - **ACOLYTES NEEDED** – Since we have so few children who can or want to serve as acolytes, how about some of us adults stepping up to the task? Let Rebekah Borsch know that you would like to serve one Sunday a month.
 - **2012 FLOWER CHART** - A new flower chart will be up soon in the Narthex. Please sign up for one or more Sundays. It costs around \$50 each Sunday to place flowers on our altar, so in the month you sign up for flowers, add as much as you can afford to your pledge check and indicate that the extra amount is for "altar flowers." This is a special way to honor loved ones on their birthdays or to mark other special days.
 - **PRAYER REQUESTS** – Submit prayer needs via the Daughters of the King prayer cards in the pews. Put the cards in the offering plate or in the little box on the credence shelf at the back of the church.
 - **FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS** – There was at least one Sunday recently when there was no coffee or "goodies" following the 10:00 am service, because no one had signed up to be host/hostess that day. No big deal, we all managed just fine, but we missed out on the fellowship. Please sign up in the notebook on the table in the Nelson Room, so these "no goodie" Sundays don't happen again. Martha Robinson has been helping keep the 9:00 am group supplied, but she needs some help with donations to purchase cookies, etc. She puts a basket out each week – be generous, please.
 - **NAMETAGS** – Your editor hasn't seen many people wearing name tags lately. Please pick yours up and pin it on each week. We have visitors or new members almost every Sunday, and it will help them learn names more quickly. If you don't have a name tag (or have lost yours), ask Karen Hodges to make you one.
 - **CANS FOR CAMP** – Bring empty aluminum drink cans, tied up in bags, to the church. The money from cashing in these cans goes into a fund to help send children from St. Christopher's to Camp Quarterman. Jenny Way is in charge of collecting the cans.
 - **FAIR TRADE COFFEE** - Jane Ann Wilson will be placing an order for Fair Trade Coffee on the first of each month. If you want her to order some for you, contact her by the first Sunday of each month.
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St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

2807 42nd Street (at Elgin)

Lubbock, Texas 79413

(806) 799-8208

e-mail: stcoff@nts-online.net

website: www.stchristophers.org

The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer, Bishop

The Rev. J. Edson Way, PhD, Rector

Kathleen Borsch, Deacon

Melissa Wafer-Cross, Deacon

Elaine Howard, Administrative Assistant

Linda Swartz, Financial Assistant

Jane Barnes, Newsletter Editor

David Cross, WebMaster

Josh Rodriguez, Seminarian

The Vestry

Steve Maines, Senior Warden

John Edwards, Junior Warden

Nancy McReynolds, Clerk

Luann "Podi" Stofel, Treasurer

Doug Cashell

Karen Hodges

Paul Driscoll

Paula Evans

Jan Kireilis

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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