
The Christ Bearer

Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Vol. 16, No. 2

February 2010

From the Rector:

Back in Wisconsin on our little farmstead years ago, Jenny and I used to call February, all 28 days of it, the longest month in the year! 28 overcast days in a row without an entire morning or afternoon in which the feeble sun might shine! Blizzards alternating with 45 degree days so that we were always struggling out to the barn to tend our livestock in either deep snow or deep mud. And neighbors offering us lutefisk to eat ... We certainly traded up when we came down here!

This year the Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, and once again we will offer the Imposition of Ashes at services starting at 7:30 AM, Noon, and at 5:30 PM. And once again we will be sharing the fellowship of the Agape Meal following the 5:30 PM Eucharist on Wednesdays with a simple supper of soups and breads and, again, without those yummy desserts we share the rest of the year! It is only for seven weeks and it is, after all, supposed to be a season of reflection, self-denial and penitence.

Considering the subject of the "Lenten Series" which I might offer after the Wednesday suppers this year, two congruent thoughts occurred to me. We have doubled in size over these past 18 months and many of our new members came to us after leaving an unhappy situation behind. In a similar vein, I was struck by the fact that the five or six people who spoke or wrote to me most emphatically to object to the white pigment rubbed into the cross at the front of the nave at the beginning of Advent, every one of them was moved to tell me of their objection based not upon esthetic or theological grounds, but because the changed appearance, the "white cross", reminded them of other churches or other denominations with which they had had very negative experiences. In other words, they continued to carry negative associations and memories from those situations encountered before coming to St. Christopher's which were brought to the fore and which rekindled negative feelings by seeing a pale-colored cross at the front of St. Christopher's now.

Upon consideration, the "Lenten Series" to be offered this year following the suppers on Wednesdays will be a brief presentation followed by some discussion based on the book When Bad Christians Happen to Good People: Where We Have Failed Each Other and How to Reverse The Damage by Dave Burchett who lives over in Garland, Texas. You do not have to buy the book but if you do want it to read, it is available from Amazon.com for \$1.29 to \$9.99 depending... Let us have a blessed, and healing, Lent. Amen.

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
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806)799-8208
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Weekly Services
Sunday - 8:00, 10:00 Holy Eucharist
Wednesday - 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist
w/ Holy Unction

Rector - The Rev. J. Edson Way
Deacon - Melissa Wafer-Cross
Deacon - Les Jackson
Deacon - Kathleen Borsch



Income & Expenses
(through December 31, 2009)

	Budgeted	Actual
Plate	\$ 10,080.00	\$ 27,579.57
Pledge	163,045.00	167,185.00
Other	<u>11,700.00</u>	<u>10,143.28</u>
Total Income	\$ 184,825.00	\$ 204,907.85
Expenses	\$ 184,825.00	\$ 168,875.08
Balance: Inc.-Exp.	\$ 0.00	\$ 36,032.77

Vestry Highlights - December

- Fr. Way's discretionary fund is receiving donations on a fairly regular basis, but there is always a need for more.
- There was discussion of nominations for the vestry and convention delegates.
- Carole Wolf and Podi Stofel will work on the budget and have it ready to present at the January vestry meeting. Following approval, it will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.
- John Wolf gave the final stewardship pledge drive report. Total pledges for 2010 are 86 with a total amount of \$187,855. Pledges are up by 15%, and the 2009 pledges are paid 100%.
- On February 13, St. Christopher's will host "Safeguarding God's Children" from 10:00 - 12:00.
- John Wolf reported that all lay readers have been relicensed.
- Fr. Way presented Carole Wolf and Podi Stofel plaques of appreciation for all of their hard work.
- Jan Kireilis reported that Edie Rische has finished the welcome pamphlets.
- The annual parish meeting will be Sunday, January 24, following the 10:00 service.

ERD Lenten Devotional Booklet

Copies of the Episcopal Relief and Development Lenten devotional booklet will be available before Ash Wednesday. This year's booklet is entitled *Healing Ourselves and A Hurting World*. The booklets will be available on the usher's desk in the Narthex and on the credenza outside the church

Ash Sympathy * Larry Beavers died on January 17 of sudden heart attack. Funeral services for Larry were held in Colorado City on January 23 with Fr. Edson Way presiding. The sympathy of the parish goes out to his wife, Donna Mize Beavers and to all of his family.

* Doris Killgore, a long time member of St. Christopher's, widow of H.G. Killgore, died on January 9. Gravesite services were held for Doris on January 18, with Fr. Jim Haney, retired, presiding. Our condolences to all of her family.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Thank You!

Dear St. Christopher's Family,

Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift. You have been and continue to be such a blessing to me. Please keep me in your thoughts and prayers. You are always in mine.

*Christ's peace,
Josh Rodriguez*



Food Pantry Requests for February

Vienna sausages
Baked Beans



St. Christopher's ECW will meet for lunch and a business meeting on Sunday, February 14, following the 10:00 am service. Come, bring a salad if you can and help plan our new year of in-reach and out-reach activities. This will be the first meeting for our new ECW President Missy Ratcliff to preside, so it would be nice to have a good turnout. All women of St. Christopher's are considered members of ECW



Deacon's Corner

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

James 3: 13-18

As Lent approaches, my thoughts, as in years past, turn to what it means to follow Christ at this time and in this place. It seems that in this post Christian, post modern, post almost everything society, the words Christian or non-Christian seem to be secular or political terms, having little to do with a spiritual jury, but some kind of agenda based in power and selfish ambition. Being called Christian or non-Christian tends to be more a means of relegating individuals or groups to an us and them kind of existence - an existence that does not remotely match up with what I perceive to be Christian. or being a Christian community. It's these same questions that James is struggling with in the passage above. What does it look like, at a practical level, to be a Christian in a culture in an environment that seems a bit confused about what it means to be "in the world and not of the world"? James concludes that "the wisdom from above is pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits." What we should seek after is a good life and works born of wisdom and gentleness.

Yours in Christ

Lex

Fr. Way concluded his sermon on the Second Sunday after Christmas with the following.

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained glass window's hue
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissueed fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare --
That God was Man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

Sundays & Wednesdays & Holy Days in February

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.



Wednesday, February 3 - Feast of Anskar, Bishop of Hamburg
Acts 1:1-9 Psalm 98:1-4 Mark 6:7-13
Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper at 6:00 pm

Sunday, February 7 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany (Year C)

Isaiah 6:1-13
Psalm 138
I Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Wednesday, February 10 - Feast of Absalom Jones (trans.)
Isaiah 61:1-4 Psalm 137:1-6 John 15:12-15
Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Agape supper at 6:00 pm

Sunday, February 14 Last Sunday after Epiphany (Year C)

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-43a

Wednesday, February 17 - ASH WEDNESDAY (Lent begins)
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Psalm 103 1 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:16-21
Ash Wednesday services at 7:30am, noon and 5:30 pm.
A supper of soup and bread and Lenten program will follow the 5:30 pm service.

Sunday, February 21 First Sunday in Lent (Year C)

Deuteronomy 26:1-11
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Romans 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13

Wednesday, February 24 - Feast of St. Matthias (Red)
Acts 1:15-26 Psalm 15 Philippians 3:13-21 John 15:1, 6-16
Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm - Soup & bread supper & Lenten program at 6:00 pm

Sunday, February 28 Second Sunday in Lent (Year C)

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35

Adult
Sunday School
Class



Adult Forum - Travelogue

During the month of February, the various peripatetic clergy of this parish will share some of their travel experiences. Deacon Wafer-Cross will share her experiences in Guatemala from the past summer, Deacon Jackson will talk about the icon class he attended in Pennsylvania, and Fr. Way will talk more about his trip to the Middle East and perhaps some about his Australian trip last year. Come at 9:00 each

Notes from the Senior Warden

Eucharista for 2010

Claire Randolph mentioned to me recently that she would like to see the names of all the choir members in the newsletter, not just those who do solos. She is so right to think of those who serve faithfully whether or not they “get their names in the paper.”

In truth, every one of you, choir members or not, should have your name brought to the public eye of the parish. So for this last Eucharista, I'd like for you to see YOU again in the column. This YOU is not a generic, catch all or a casual dismissal of anyone, for indeed each of YOU is God's child and someone I give thanks for. YOU don't have to have done anything out of the ordinary. YOU are part of this family, and YOU matter to me.

YOUR presence at church speaks to everyone else there. Think of the witness YOU give to others just by joining with all of us in worship. Maybe YOU sing, maybe YOU don't. Maybe YOU smile, maybe YOU cry. Maybe it's a day YOU just feel numb or YOU are very frustrated. Maybe YOU are in need of prayer or maybe YOU are there to pray for someone else. YOU are with us. Even when YOU are not able to be physically present at church, YOU are with us. So for this month, I'd like to ask YOU to look through YOUR church directory and give thanks for every other person whose name YOU see there, whether YOU know that someone personally or not. It might spark YOUR interest in getting to know those folks, in saying prayers for those YOU'VE yet to know.

DON'T SKIP OVER YOUR OWN NAME. Give YOUR gift of faith and love to YOURSELF and the rest of YOUR family.

Carole

Oh What a Night!

November 30, 2009 will be remembered by many in Central Alberta as a dreadful night with roads that were sheets of ice. It was a great night to stay at home.

In spite of the weather, a group of friends and family of Lee Brodie Sinclair as well as fellow clergy gathered at St. Leonard's on the Hill, Red Deer, to witness the joyous occasion of the ordination of Lee Sinclair to the transitional diaconate.

Bishop Derek Hoskin and ArchDeacon Barry Foster, braved the roads from Calgary to celebrate the service. ArchDeacon Foster's sermon spoke of Lee's journey, from a young girl who was denied being a server in her church simply because she was a girl, to the woman who was about to be ordained.

Lee's husband, the Rev. Gary Sinclair was by Lee's side to support her in her both her Christian and life journeys.

There were a range of musical selections from traditional to contemporary. A highlight for Lee was the performance of a song written by her friend, Kathleen Borsch. It was played on guitars and piano and sung by the choir.

Lee's first parish as the Reverend Dr. Lee Sinclair will be St Cyprian's, Lacombe. She has served in that parish in an interim, intern position for the past several months.



A Reader's Corner

ANDREI RUBLEV, Directed by Andrei Tarkovsky. 1966, released 1971. (205 minutes)
In Russian, with English subtitles.

Knowing the delight that many in our church community share when it comes to icons, a film on the great 15th century Russian icon painter and monk, Andrei Rublev, is worthy of a serious introduction - although, I should warn you that the icons are not revealed until the epilogue (in glorious color!!). The movie, itself, is filmed in black and white and starkly reveals life during a time of princes feuding with princes, the tartars sweeping across Russia and the common people thrust in the middle where they are subject to violence and deprivation. Amidst these passionate and tragic times, the Russian Orthodox church struggles to build and rebuild its churches, decorating them with murals and icons for the glory of God (through the patronage of the triumphant princes).

The movie is divided into seven sections that create a story based loosely on Rublev's life. The movie places him in a fairly accurate historical venue and reveals, through this historical rendering, how the importance of faith can effect an artistic response to the tragedies of the times. Some of the scenes are not for the faint-hearted for he lived during a turbulent age where war and primitive conditions were common. Yet, some scenes are slow-moving and lyrical as the director draws the viewer into what life must have been like when circumstances were calmer. Many interesting characters are introduced – Kirill, his fellow monk who is jealous of Rublev's talent; Theophanes the Greek, a master icon painter; Durochka, a holy fool (acted by Tarkovsky's wife); as well as Boriska, a teenage boy who though faith and natural skill is able to build and cast a church bell (fascinating scene). All these characters influence Rublev on his spiritual journey from faith to despair to silence (both physically and artistically) and then back to faith (and his art) again.

This film is also known as *The Passion According to Andrei*, and even though nearly 3.5 hours long, is well worth the viewing. As one reviewer has written, "Just experience the sequences as self-contained ideas. After a couple of hours you'll see it working up to something you hadn't thought possible at first. And by the two-hundred minute mark it evolves into a complete emotional and cinematic experience." I found it so.

Andrei Tarkovsky (1932-1986) is recognized as one of Russia's greatest directors. Many of his films have a sense of timelessness and are concerned with faith and transcendence. *Andrei Rublev*, even though set in a particular time period, is one of these.

I watched it first through Netflix, found it on Amazon and now have it in my collection for repeated viewing. It's quite haunting. I also have a book on Rublev. It's in Russian, but his icons are awesome. If anyone would like to borrow either or both, I shall be happy to lend.

Awards: Cannes Film Festival (1969); French Syndicate of Cinema Critics (1971); Jussi (1973)

Open invitation:

I would like to invite any reader or viewer to join me in this column. If you have read a book or seen a movie that you wish to recommend to other readers/viewers, please email me (candia.thew@ttuhsc.edu) with your suggestion. I can also submit a "guest" review or I can add an addendum to my own contribution by naming the book or movie (title) and

This 'n That

- More crosses are needed to fill the third cross display board in the basement. You may leave your donated cross on the small table just inside the door to the parish hall.
- The Prayer Shawl group will meet Monday, February 1 at 4:00 pm to bring completed shawls and to exchange ideas and suggestions. If you knit or crochet or would like to learn in order to make these shawls, join this group. Contact Jane Barnes for more information.
- WEAR YOUR NAMETAG!!!!
- Sign up to provide snacks for the Sunday fellowship hours.
- 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.
- There are still blank spaces on the Altar Flower calendar for 2010. Please sign up to give flowers in memory or in honor of someone for one or more Sundays in the new year.

Youth Activities

Our youth group is growing larger with 13 members now! We would like to welcome our newest members: Lexie Avarado, Jacey Punchard, Emilee Ragsdale and Aubry Ragsdale. We have movie and pizza night every Saturday at St. Christopher's from 6:00 - 9:00 except the weeks in January when the church is under construction.

On Saturday January 23 the youth group, accompanied by adults who wished to see the movie, attended a showing of the movie *To Save A Life*. This movie, which involves teen suicide, was produced by a church in California and has become a feature film across the country.

The dates for our youth group meeting in this



February 15
send information to
jambarnes@suddenlink.net



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Jan Kireilis	February 1
Glenn Cummings	February 3
Wendell Aycok	February 8
Karen Hagee	February 11
Karen Barrington	February 15
Betty Brown	February 16
Martha Walker	February 16
Herbert Leaverton	February 17
Jenny Way	February 19
Mara Driscoll	February 24
Paula Evans	February 25
Clay Lawson	February 26
Ethan Morgan	February 26

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Doug & Annie Cashell	February 4
Steve & Kathleen Finley	February 5
Jack & Paula Purkeypile	February 9
Wayne & Rachel Huffaker	February 15
Donnie & Paula Evans	February 17

St. Christopher's chapter of Daughters of the King will meet on Sunday, February 7, following the 10:00 service. At this meeting we will continue a study of the book *Triologue: Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Dialogue*, by Leonard Swidler, Reuven Firestone, and Kalid Duran. Please try to read the first section before this meeting. Any woman is welcome to visit this meeting and to join this study.



Women's Bible Study

A new bible study opportunity is being offered at St. Christopher's during Lent. The group will meet on Saturday mornings, beginning at 10:00 am. The first meeting will be February 20, and the course will run through March 27.

The study will be called *The Parables of Jesus* and is a six week course with a study guide and a DVD. The course was developed by Bible Scholars. The study will be led by Linda Lawson. In the study we will investigate the historical, religious and social

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

Elaine Howard, Administrative Assistant
Linda Swartz, Financial Assistant
Jane Barnes, Newsletter Editor
David Cross, WebMaster

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Carole Wolf, Senior Warden
Donnie Evans, Junior Warden
Rebecca DelHotal, Clerk
Podi Stofel, *Ex officio*, Treasurer

Wendell Aycock
Jan Kireilis

Doug Cashell
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