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# The Christ Bearer

## Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

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Vol. 17, No. 5

May 2011

### *From the Rector:*

The entirety of the month of May falls within the Great Fifty Days of Easter, that season of the liturgical year that begins on Easter Sunday and continues through the Day of Pentecost heralding the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. This extended Easter Season is considered a period of joyful and grateful celebration of the Resurrection and of the promise of Eternal Life to all faithful believers. During this time the confession of sin is generally deemed unnecessary prior to the Eucharistic Feast, and in the early church, this was the period when the newly baptized Christians (baptized at the Easter Vigil the Saturday night before Easter Sunday) received additional instruction in the details of the faith. Like the Twelve Days of Christmas, it reminds us that these major celebrations of the church are more than a mere twenty-four hour extravaganza, over and done when the last dishes are washed and put back into the cupboard!

Monday, May 2nd through Thursday, May 5th, our Bishop Scott has called all active clergy to a Clergy Conference to be held at Quarterman Ranch outside of Amarillo. This will be a time for clergy in the Diocese of Northwest Texas to spend some time together without the demands of business as at the annual Diocesan Convention. The Reverend Charlie Cook, retired professor from the Episcopal Seminary in Austin (and former Assistant Rector at St. Christopher's many years ago) will be with us to lead us in reflection upon our vocations, responsibilities in the parishes of the diocese, and whatever else comes to Charlie's fertile imagination, I am sure! I am looking forward to this opportunity.

I will also be attending a conference in Richmond, Virginia, from May 9th to May 16th, hosted by the CREDO Institute, a program of the national Episcopal Church for clergy over the age of fifty-five. The program will focus on self-evaluation and self-care in the areas of spiritual wellness, vocational wellness, physical wellness, and financial wellness. The purpose is to assist aging clergy (gulp, I guess that means me) to maintain their vitality, to resist stresses in those subject areas that may contribute to poor performance and burn-out, and to keep us rockin' to and fro in the saddle for as long as possible. Some of you may remember the Reverend Mike Ehmer who left this Diocese to join the staff of the CREDO Institute some years ago. I will try to share what I have learned when I get back home to St. Christopher's.

Enjoy a Holy Easter! The Lord is Risen!

*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 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Lubbock, TX 79413  
(806) 799-8208  
[www.stchristophers.org](http://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 March 31, 2011**

	Budgeted	Actual
Plate	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 3,767.64
Pledge	51,750.00	54,205.00
Other	1,800.00	1,800.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 57,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 59,772.64</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>57,299.99</b>	<b>50,400.19</b>
<b>Balance: Inc-Exp.</b>	<b>0.01</b>	<b>\$ 9,372.45</b>

### Vestry Highlights – March

- Fr. Way reported on Les Jackson for Continued Support to the Seminary of the Southwest. Signatures from the vestry were required.
- Steve Maines assumed the role of Senior Warden and stated his expectations and desires for the year.
- John Edwards reported on several Junior Warden issues: work on the Columbarium is complete; an insurance claim for the basement flooding was filed, and our cost was the \$1000 deductible; trees have been trimmed; the part-time sexton position has worked out well; lighting concerns for the Nelson Room were discussed; ushers will have hearing devices available for those who are hard of hearing.
- The vestry approved a proposal for the remodel of the downstairs bathroom.
- The ECW Outreach Luncheon raised \$627 for various outreach projects. The Brotherhood had a great Boy's Night Out.
- The Building Use Committee calendar will be maintained by Elaine Howard in the office. She will contact the committee if there is a conflict.
- The vestry will meet next on April 28.

**Editorial Comment:**

I have a new computer with all new software, so you will notice several format changes in this newsletter. Please be patient with me as I continue to refine the process.



Our condolences go out to Bob and Sandy Sherman on the death of their sisters. Sandy's sister, Joyce Armstrong, died on March 28 in St. Francisville, LA. Bob's sister, Judy Hume, died on April 4 in Willow Hill, Illinois.

We also received word that Ladonna Strannathan, died on March 28. We extend our sympathy to her family.

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



### Food Pantry Requests for May

Jell-o and Vienna sausages



We welcome into the body of Christ's Church Don McReynolds who was baptized at the Easter Vigil on Easter Eve. Don is the husband of Nancy McReynolds.

### Change in Mah Jongg Days

The group that gathers at St. Christopher's to play Mah Jongg each week is changing their meeting day to Thursdays. They will continue to begin at 11:00 am.

### Sewing Machine Available

Mandy Wiley has a Bel Air sewing machine she would like to give to someone who needs it. It is an old machine and needs an adjustment to the head, but it is otherwise a good machine. Contact Mandy at 742-3641, ext. 243, or mandy.wiley6@ttu.edu.



## Deacon's Corner

*"Oh, Lord, how shining and festive is your gift to us, if we only look and see."*

Mary Oliver

Last summer, after our trip to Scotland and England, the island of Iona off the coast of Scotland became a touchstone of the journey for me. One of the pictures I took is now the background on my computer screen. The photo shows the approach to Iona with the abbey as the focal point, but around the abbey are signs of everyday life. A fishing boat floats in the bay, laundry flaps on a line outside a house, cattle graze in the shadows of the abbey. What I see in this photograph is an emblem of what I hope for in my spiritual journey: to be mindful the presence of the holy in the midst of the daily.

In her book, *Toward Holy Ground*, Margaret Guenther writes about her Uncle Henry, who was a water witch or a "dowser." He could take a forked hickory or willow branch and find water. He walked slowly over the ground until some unseen force tugged the branch and said, "Dig here." Guenther is convinced that all of us have the ability to become "dowsers" when we respond to the tug that tells us where the wells are. Guenther says, "One of the great mysteries of wells is knowing where to dig." As for her own abilities as a dowser, she continues, "...though I can't make the willow branches work for me, I can feel the spiritual tug toward the deep and holy source and say to myself, 'Dig here.'" Sometimes in the seeming aridity of daily life, the ordinary moments provide a well of holiness to remind us of the sacred presence that surrounds all life. Mindfulness offers a sip of living water that restores.

*Melissa*

## How Many Pesticides Are You Consuming?

Jane Ann Wilson passed this on from the newsletter from the G.R.U.B. program of the South Plains Food Bank. If you regularly choose foods listed in the "Dirty Dozen" list, you might want to consider purchasing them in their "organic" form, so your consumption of pesticides is less.

### The Dirty Dozen

Celery  
Peaches  
Strawberries  
Apples  
Domestic blueberries  
Nectarines  
Sweet bell peppers  
Spinach, kale and collard greens  
Cherries  
Potatoes  
Imported grapes  
Lettuce

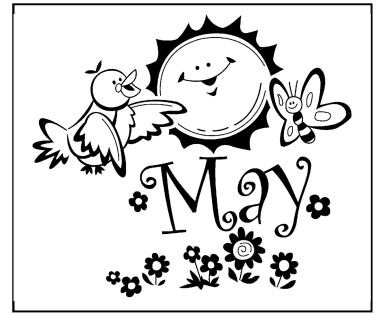
### The Clean Fifteen

Onions  
Avocados  
Sweet corn  
Pineapples  
Mangoes  
Sweet peas  
Asparagus  
Kiwi fruit  
Cabbage  
Eggplant  
Cantaloupe  
Watermelon

Grapefruit  
Sweet potatoes  
Sweet onions

## Sundays & Wednesdays in May

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, May 1<sup>st</sup>**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9

John 20:19-31

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – Monnica, mother of Augustine**

*1 Samuel 1:10-11:20*

*Psalm 115:12-18*

*Luke 7:11-17*

*Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm*

*Agape supper following service – All are welcome*

**Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

**Third Sunday of Easter**

**Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> – Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop**

*Wisdom 7:7-14*

*Psalm 19:7-14*

*John 8:25-32*

*Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm*

*Agape supper following service – All are welcome*

**Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**

Acts 2:42-47

Psalm 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> – Dunstan, Archbishop**

*Ecclesiasticus 44:1-7*

*Psalm 57:6-11*

*Matthew 24:42-47*

*Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm*

*Agape supper following service – All are welcome*

**Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Acts 7:55-60

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

1 Peter 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> – Bede the Venerable**

*Wisdom 7:15-22*

*Psalm 78:1-4*

*Matthew 13:47-52*

*Service of Holy Eucharist & Unction at 5:30 pm*

*Agape supper following service – All are welcome*

Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22-31

Psalm 66:7-18

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

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## Notes from the Senior Warden

I appreciate the opportunity to return the vestry and the role of Senior Warden. I know I speak for both Paula Evans and myself in thanking the vestry and Father Edson for their confidence in us. I want to thank Dave Bartl and Missy Ratcliff for their service on the vestry.

I see the role of Senior Warden as a person who supports our clergy in their role of ministering to our church family along with helping to provide leadership to the vestry and our church members. We are blessed to be part of God's Church here at St. Christopher's ... we are to be mindful that it is "His Church" and that we are to be good stewards of our Time, Talent and Treasures as we all minister to all individuals and things inside of doors as well as those individuals and the community outside our doors.

Side note...thank you all for your many thoughts and prayers as I begin my treatments for my CML, I pray that my medicine is successful in its treatment of my disease.

Steve Maines



Congratulations to Helen Burns on the birth of her first grandchild. Megan Ashley Burns was born on Saturday, March 26, to Todd and Lynne Burns.



## Women's Fall Retreat

The diocesan Episcopal Church Women will be sponsoring a Women's Fall Retreat at Quarterman Ranch in Amarillo September 16 – 17. This year's retreat will be led by Kathy Carlton Willis from Brenham, TX and is entitled "Brownies and Bunny Slippers: Learn to Live Warm and Fuzzy." For additional information about Kathy, go to <http://kcwcomm.blogspot.com> and <http://www.kathycarltonwillis.com>.

A registration form and more detailed information will follow in later newsletters. All women of the diocese are invited to attend and share in fellowship and worship. Please plan to join the E.C.W. for a relaxing and inspirational weekend.



## **A Reader's Corner**

**by Candia Welch Thew**

*Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*, by Karen Armstrong. New York: Knopf, 2010. (198p., plus notes and bibliography)

After 9/11, many religious leaders gathered in discourse in an attempt to understand and to offer solutions in order to help heal our fractious world. When Karen Armstrong won the prestigious TED prize in 2007 (a non-profit organization known for encouraging “ideas worth spreading”) her “wish for a better world” was “to build a global community in which all people live together in mutual respect” (p.3). From this wish came the Charter for Compassion (<http://charterforcompassion.org>) that has been endorsed by many leaders of various faiths such as Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, H.H. the Dalai Lama, Sister Joan Chittister, Rabbi David Saperstein and Sheikh Ali Goma, to name just a few. Other religious groups have taken up the call. This book was written in support of this ideal. It is a book for the rest of us - a kind of workbook or guidebook, in a way – a book to “step” through in an attempt to grow spiritually and humanitarily.

At the basis of all faiths, the author insists, is compassion which is “the test of true spirituality” and which may be simply defined as “the Golden Rule” – “do unto others as you would have them do unto you” or “do not do to others as you would not have them do to you”. The twelve steps begin with a lesson on compassion where other religions and their common ideals are explained. Then comes a step toward our own world where compassion can be practiced in a more intimate light. From here, we learn compassion for ourselves, empathy for others and, finally, we are lead to the global perspective where we are encouraged, as Christ said, to love our “enemies”. Each of the twelve steps builds on the one previously. The author suggests that we read the book through first and then begin again and work on each step, finishing one before stepping to the next. Among her last words are “constant practice does indeed make perfect and that if we persevere, we too can become a force for good in the world” (p.192). She never fails to emphasize the importance of the individual and how one person can make a difference. In fact, she provides many examples: Buddha, Confucius, Moses, Christ, Mohammed, Gandhi...

Karen Armstrong, a former nun, has written several books on major religions. She believes “that religion isn’t about believing things. It’s ethical alchemy. It’s about behaving in a way that changes you, that gives you intimations of holiness and sacredness” (from her profile on TED.com).

NOTE: the Lubbock Interfaith Dialogue which meets monthly at St. John’s United Methodist Church will be discussing this book in the future. A date has not been set yet.

### An 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](mailto: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 recommended by (your name).



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Debbie Cummings	May 1	Presley Thomas	May 21
Jonathan Walker	May 4	Mitzi Lehne	May 22
Mary Mixon	May 6	Debbie Maines	May 22
Shirley Webb	May 9	Amanda Rogers	May 22
B.L. Jones	May 10	Del Dyche	May 25
David Bartl	May 16	Peggy Miller	May 27
Jack Bettis	May 17	Beth Harlan	May 28
Elizabeth Middleton	May 17	Malorie Stofel	May 28
Ellen Stanley	May 18	Adam Eckleberry	May 29
Fr. Edson Way	May 18	Donnie Evans	May 30
Gerald Wilson	May 20		

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Roger Schaefer & Dannie Botros	May 16	Don & Nancy McReynolds	May 24
Les & Valinda Jackson	May 22	Sam & Catherine Lanham	May 30

## This 'n That

- **FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS** – One or two people are needed each Sunday to bring “goodies” for the Adult Forum group, following the 8:00 service, and three people are needed each week to prepare coffee and treats for the fellowship time following the 10:00 service. There are sign-up sheets in the basement and in the Nelson Room in white notebooks. Please keep the refreshments simple.
- **NAMETAGS** – If each of us wears our nametag each week, it makes it easier for newcomers (and for those of us with failing memories) to put names with faces. Karen Hodges does a great job of preparing the name tags and putting them on the bulletin board in the Narthex. It’s your job to take it off the board and put it on each week. If you need a nametag, see Karen. There is a \$.25 penalty for not wearing your nametag – put your payment in the blue jar on the refreshment table.
- **PRAYER SHAWL GROUP** – The prayer shawl group will meet on Monday, May 2, at 4:00 pm at Jane Barnes’ home, 3816 56<sup>th</sup> Street. Please bring any shawls you have completed and plan to stay awhile and knit or crochet and visit.
- **PRAYER SHAWLS** – There are LOTS of prayer shawls in the credenza outside the church office. Please take one to anyone you know of who is ill or bereaved or in need of a special loving hug. Make sure to add that person’s name to the book in the cabinet.
- **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.
- **NO MORE EGGS** – Linda Lawson asked me to announce that she will no longer have eggs to sell after the end of May.

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**St. Christopher's Episcopal Church**

2807 42<sup>nd</sup> Street (at Elgin)

Lubbock, Texas 79413

(806) 799-8208

e-mail: [stcoff@nts-online.net](mailto:stcoff@nts-online.net)

website: [www.stchristophers.org](http://www.stchristophers.org)

The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Mayer, Bishop

The Rev. J. Edson Way, PhD, Rector

Kathleen Borsch, Deacon

Melissa Wafer-Cross, Deacon

Les Jackson, Seminarian

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**

2807 42<sup>nd</sup> Street

Lubbock, TX 79413

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