
The Christ Bearer

Newsletter of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Vol. 16, No. 9

September 2010

From the Rector:

It's September and I am very glad to be back from my time away and reunited with the people of the parish of St. Christopher's. Although the beginning of the school year has long ago been moved up into August, my own biological clock still feels that September is the real beginning of the new cycle as God intended... and, therefore, this month I will be commencing an Adult Confirmation series for anyone desiring to make their association with St. Christopher's and The Episcopal Church more formal. The Book of Common Prayer on page 412 states that those baptized at an early age are "expected to make a public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism in the presence of a bishop and to receive the laying on of hands." I myself went through this liturgy of confirmation at the age of 53, and Jenny went through the preparations with me and likewise reaffirmed her commitment after having been away from the Episcopal Church for many years. (My bad influence, I confess.) Speak with me if you would like to be confirmed, reaffirmed, received into the Episcopal Church from another denomination or tradition, or simply to review the basic essentials of our Episcopal tradition with the group. Our bishop, The Right Reverend J. Scott Mayer, is scheduled to visit St. Christopher's on Sunday, November 21st, to preside over the confirmation service.

September also begins with the commemoration of one of my own favorite saintly heroes, David Pendleton Oakerhater, Deacon and Missionary to the Cheyenne Tribe of Oklahoma, probably the only Episcopal saint ever to gallop into battle against the United States Army during the Indian Wars of the latter 19th Century. His was a remarkable life and I wrote about him at some length in this newsletter last year. His commemoration on September 1st is an anniversary that always causes me to be amazed at God's working in the world, and at human resilience in the face of calamity.

Finally, September draws to a close with the Major Feast of St. Michael and All Angels on Wednesday, September 29th. St. Michael is considered an Archangel, or leader of angels, in Hebrew, Christian and Islamic traditions, and is usually portrayed in his role as leader of the armies of goodness in the contest with the cosmic forces of evil. In Hebrew the name "Michael" means "Who is like God (El)" 'though in post-Temple Rabbinic Jewish tradition of midrash, there is a question mark at the end, "Who is like God?" That strikes me as a demotion for the commander of God's army... Nonetheless, St. Michael is mentioned as the defender of Israel in the Hebrew Bible and the one to defeat Satan in the Book of Revelation. In the Anglican tradition St. Michael is commonly paired with St. George who slew the dragon, and both are depicted in art with spear and sword. The 29th came to be known as Michaelmas in the Middle Ages, one of the four "quarter days" dividing the annual cycle of months.

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.

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

Weekly Services
Sunday - 8:00, 10:00 Holy Eucharist
Wednesday - 5:30 p.m. 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 July 31, 2010)**

	Budgeted	Actual
Plate	\$ 14,583.35	\$ 8,859.23
Pledge	109,582.10	117,153.79
Other	4,200.00	3,600.00
Budget Revision	11,902.62	11,902.62
Total Income	\$ 140,268.07	\$ 141,515.64
Expenses	\$ 135,308.56	\$ 133,455.62
Balance: Inc.-Exp.	\$ 4,959.51	\$ 8,060.02

Vestry Highlights - July

- Adult confirmation classes will begin in the fall and conclude with Bishop Mayer's visit Nov. 21.
- Fr. Way will be on vacation July 19 - Aug. 20. He will attend the Aug. 19 vestry meeting.
- David Perdue has accepted the call to St. Stephen's, and Fr. Way expects there will be weekly meetings for clergy here in Lubbock.
- Furnishings for the Bride's Room were provided by Fr. Edson and Jenny.
- City Councilman, Todd Klein has requested the use of the building on July 20, but the request was denied until we can establish a new building use policy.
- Daniel will have a six-week delay in beginning his job as sexton.
- All are encouraged to attend the deanery meeting on Aug. 28.
- Jr. Warden, John Edwards reported that Rollo Gurss has found some additional leaks in the roof, and we will be billed for those, but the reoccurring leaks were taken care of with warranty work.
- \$3,200 from the \$12,000 budget adjustment in Repair and Maintenance will be set aside to pay Daniel until the end of the year.
- Missy Ratcliff reported a successful ECW Outreach Luncheon on July 18 with donated funds going to Happy and Promise Camps. The pens from the pews are ready and will be distributed when the inserts are ready.
- A clarification was made regarding the Columbarium Completion bid - that bid was only a planning bid; no action has been taken at this time.
- Stewardship preparations are underway



* LaVerne Comer, mother of Webb and grandmother of Devin Powell, died on August 13. She was buried in Abilene on August 16. Shirley and Devin, you and all your family are in our prayers.

* Teresa Thomas' father died on August 15 in Ft. Worth. Our condolences and love go out to Teresa, Hoot, Reagan and Presley and to all of their family.



Food Pantry Requests for August



Dear St. Christopher's family,

Thank you for all the cards and good wishes on my 70th birthday last month. I've enjoyed reading all of them and knowing that I am in your thoughts and prayers.

Mel Barnes

Vestry minutes, continued

The Stewardship drive will begin in September and conclude by the end of November. Sunday, October 31 has been designated as Celebration Sunday with a breakfast provided by the committee and vestry. The theme will be from Sirach 35:12-13, "Give to the Most High as he has given to you."

- Nomination forms for diocesan positions were shared with the Vestry. Input would be appreciated for the following positions: Standing Committee, Trustees, Ecclesiastical Court, and General Convention Deputies.



September 15

send information to
jambbarnes@suddenlink.net



Deacon's Corner

What gifts do you offer to the Lord? Last year when I was in Guatemala, I bought a handmade, clay nativity set. I was fascinated by the Wise Men who carried wood, water, and bread. After I wrote about my own nativity set, several people asked me to bring one home for them on this trip; but this year the Wise Men carry different gifts. In fact, one of the Wise Men is really a Wise Woman with a water jar. The other two also carry noteworthy gifts—a pink baby blanket and a basket of corn. If you live in the highlands of Guatemala, a baby blanket is important for a child's well-being; I find the fact that the blanket is pink pretty amusing, but that is the American context of pink for girls and blue for boys. The Guatemalan Wise Man knows babies need to stay warm; so his gift is a pink blanket. The basket of corn exemplifies the heart of the Mayan people; corn is a sacred food. In her autobiography, Rigoberta Menchu says, "We only trust people who eat what we eat;" a mother's milk is often called corn. By bringing the basket of corn, the Wise Man offers to incorporate Jesus into the community of the people, to trust Him, to nurture Him; he ensures the infant Jesus' place among his people with a basket of corn.

God has given us the good and perfect gift of his Son Jesus the Christ and has given us the basket of sacred corn in the form of the Eucharist, his own body and blood. We are incorporated into His body through the bread and the wine. By offering our gifts back to the community, we live out the gift of the sacrament. Then, our lives become gift. When you leave the altar, think about where you might offer a jar of water, a pink baby blanket, a basket of corn, and do it in His name.

Melissa

Braggin' Time Our own Deacon Melissa received a prestigious award recently. At a special meeting in the Lubbock High library on August 19 LISD Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza surprised Melissa with the announcement that she is one of three finalists for the Texas Education Agency's secondary teacher of the year award. The three state finalists will go to Austin for personal interviews in September, and the winner will be named October 15.

In July Melissa made her second trip to Guatemala, helping build schools in the mountains. She has many stories to tell. Congratulations, Melissa. No one deserves this honor more than you.

* * * * *



Wedding Bells Steve and Debbie Maines will celebrate the marriage of their youngest Ashley, to Carlos Gonzalez on September 1 at the "W" Resort and Spa on the

island of Vieques (off the coast of Puerto Rico). Fr. Jim Haney IV will serve as the celebrant. Ashley and Carlos will live in Savannah, Texas following their honeymoon.

The Maines family wants to thank the hostesses and all those who honored Ashley at her bridal shower on July 18.

Adult Sunday School Class



On Sunday, September 12, Fr. Way will begin a new series of lessons the Adult Forum at 9:00 am. He will be drawing on a book called *Judaism*. During these classes he will be exploring the faith traditions

that

Sundays & Wednesdays in September

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, September 1st - David Pendleton Oakerhater

Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 96:1-7 Luke 10:1-9

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

Sunday, September 5th Proper 18

*Jeremiah 18:1-11
Psalm 139:1-5, 13-18
Philemon 1-21
Luke 14:25-33*

Wednesday, September 8th - The Martyrs of Memphis, 1878

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 Psalm 116:1-8 John 12:24-28

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

Sunday, 12th Proper 19

*Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
Psalm 14
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-10*

Wednesday, September 15th - Holy Cross Day (trans.) (RED)

Isaiah 45:21-25 Psalm 98 Philippians 2:5-11 John 12:31-36a

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

Sunday, September 19th Proper 20

*Jeremiah 8:18-9:1
Psalms 79:1-9
1 Timothy 2:1-7
Luke 16:1-13*

Wednesday, September 22nd - Philander Chase, Bishop

Isaiah 44:1-6, 8 Psalm 108:1-6 Luke 9:1-6

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

Sunday, September 26th Proper 21

*Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 Timothy 6:6-19
Luke 16:19-31*

Wednesday, September 29th - Saint Michael and All Angels (WHITE)

Genesis 28:10-17 Psalm 103 Revelation 12:7-12 John 1:47-51

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

Notes from the Senior Warden

By the time you read this, we will have held a Llano Estacado Deanery meeting for Convention Delegates and Clergy. The deanery meeting is held at Saint Christopher's this year, and the Diocesan Convention will be hosted by Saint Paul's, Lubbock October 8 and 9. As Father James P. Haney V points out, it will be part of Saint Paul's Centennial celebration, as they were organized in 1910. Wow, that calls for a big birthday party! Saint Christopher's will be 56 years old this February, if my math is correct.

For those who might have an interest in what goes on at convention, I would encourage you to sign up as a guest or possibly give the folks at Saint Paul's a call and see if they need a hand. To go one step further, let someone know that you might like to be considered as a delegate some day. The same goes for Vestry, another vitally important ministry. It is always taken for granted that someone is taking care of the business end of the church, but I feel like it is a job that we all share to some degree. Please express your desires or concerns to those that sit in these positions.

Lastly, thanks to those who have given their time to the church in so many ways.

Donnie



There was a good turn-out for the ECW salad luncheon and business meeting on Sunday, August 13. The were delicious; St. Christopher's has a lot of great

Debbie Maines reported on St. Benedict's Mission. The several teams of 2 - 3 ladies are feeding 30 - 35 people every Sunday morning. Three more people are needed to provide each team with 3 members. The people who come to the mission enjoy breakfast casseroles, cereal, milk, juice and fruit and sometimes burritos or various kinds of bread. St. Christopher's ECW voted to donate a plaque in memory of Fr. Barry Ferguson, founder of St. Benedict's, and a monetary gift of \$400.

If you haven't seen the Happy Camp photos on the digital photo frame, you can find them on the credenza in the entry area outside the church office. Carole Wolf reports that the camp has been so successful that plans are being made to hold two camps next year. We sponsored 22 children from Wheelock this summer. There were ten or more others who wanted to attend, but there wasn't room. Thanks to everyone who donated to this fund.

The Hope Community of Shalom can always use donations of socks - for every age group. Put them in the middle office (the Christian Education office, where the copier is.)

The first order of 60 pens made from the tops of our old pews is almost sold out. Contact Missy Ratcliff if you'd like to order one/some if there is a second order.

Monday, September 13, there will be a Ladies' Night Out for all St. Christopher's women at Orlando's on Indiana, beginning at 5:30 pm, or whenever you can get there. Don't miss out on this time of great fellowship. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Nelson Room.

Mark your calendar - The annual Bluegrass Night, featuring our own Doug Cashell, will be Saturday evening, October 23. There will be a great meal and tremendous music.

The next ECW luncheon/business meeting will be on November 14, following the 10:00 service.



A Reader's Corner

by Candia Welch Thew

The Irrational Season (The Crosswicks Journal, Book 3) by Madeleine L'Engle. New York: HarperCollins, 1977. (215p)

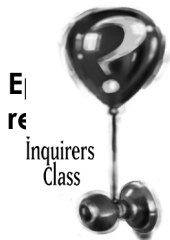
Some time ago, after I had read and then written a review of Madeleine L'Engle's *Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith and Art* (July 2007), one of our parishioners came to me and said that she had read many of L'Engle's books and that her favorite and the one that had influenced her the most was *The Irrational Season*. With all its soul-touching wisdom, I can understand why. I have not read the first two of the Crosswicks Journals (Crosswicks being a 200-year-old farm house in rural Connecticut), so I cannot compare or say how or if they are related.

Written as part memoir, she honestly examines her faith and how it grew and strengthened her daily life and her relationships with those around her. As the book cover explains, "it's an exploration of L'Engle's life as a professional woman, wife, mother and grandmother". Using the liturgical year as framework, she begins and ends with Advent. She names Advent as "the Coming of the Kingdom". It is the time of the end and the beginning. Creation. One of her repeated themes is God's love and that "it's the nature of love to create" – hence, our world, the coming of humanity, our love for each other and God's creation, God's love for all – an expanding and all encompassing notion. As she continues through the seasons, she writes of the importance of understanding the concept of "kairos" or "God's time" which is different from "chronos" or "man's time". She also writes of sometimes being angry with God and how this is an affirmation of faith. Everywhere she sees an affirmation of faith. Two of the chapters are in response to the Beatitudes, starting with Lent (chapter 5) and ending with Good Friday (chapter 6). Easter follows ("the most brilliant of all blessings", p.99) with a modern parable about her "Icon Tree" and how a cruel and destructive act can become interpreted as an avowal of resurrection. Other chapters cover the gift of prayer, her interpretation of the Trinity (still a difficult concept for me) and the promise of transfiguration. Biblical stories and her own poems enlarge her musings on life, relationships and the power of God's love.

Madeleine L'Engle (1918-2007) was an Episcopalian, a librarian and a writer of books for all ages. She is especially well-known for such children's books as "A Wrinkle in Time", for example.

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@tuhsc.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).



E|
re
Inquirers
Class

During the second week of September Father Way will begin a series of classes designed for those people who wish to learn more about the church - with the possible intention of being confirmed or from another faith community. If you are interested in joining these classes, please contact Fr. Way, so he can set a definite meeting date. Anyone is welcome to attend the classes, whether confirmation is desired, or not.

This 'n That

- **NEW PRAYER BOOKS** - You can still contribute to the purchase of new prayer books and have a nameplate placed in the front of the book with the name of the person you wish to honor. The cost per book is \$16. Be sure and put "Prayer Books" on the memo line of your check.
- **FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS** - Sign up to provide snacks for the Sunday fellowship hours.
- **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.
- **WEAR YOUR NAMETAG!** If you need one - if you've lost yours or never had one, tell Karen Hodges, and she'll arrange for you to get one.
- **PRAYER SHAWL GROUP** - The prayer shawl group will meet on Monday, September 13 (since the 1st Monday is Labor Day) at 4:00 pm at Jane Barnes' home, 3816 56th Street. Please bring any shawls you have completed and plan to sit and knit or crochet a while.
- **PRAYER SHAWL** - If you know of someone who is in need of comfort or support, consider giving them one of our prayer shawls. They are stored in the credenza outside the church office. Please be sure and record the person's name you give it to in the journal in the cabinet.
- **CANS FOR CAMP** - Jenny Way is taking over the Cans for Camp ministry. You may continue to bring your sacks of cans to the church.
- **SOCKS FOR HOPE SHALOM** - The clothing ministry at the Hope Community of Shalom is in need of socks - men's, women's, and children of all ages. If you can pick up a package or two on the current sales, they will be greatly appreciated. Just leave them in the church office.

Daughters of the King will not meet in September, as the first Sunday falls on Labor Day weekend. If you haven't yet read *Stones Into Schools*, please complete it. If you have a suggestion for our next study book, let



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Mary Catherine Jones	September 1
Podi Stofel	September 1
Sarah Wilson	September 4
Judy Hanslik	September 7
Marilou Harrison	September 7
Madeline Jane Barnes	September 9
Charles Welch	September 11
Blake Perez	September 13
Devin Powell	September 15
Kelly Trlica	September 16
Suzanne Aker	September 19
Patricia Smithwick	September 22
Caitlin Finley	September 28
John Wolf	September 29
Gerald Trlica	September 30

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Mel & Jane Barnes	September 2
Michael & K Landress	September 6
Edson & Jenny Way	September 6
Tom & Grace Rogers	September 7
Hoot & Teresa Thomas	September 21

Episcopal Church Women's Conference Saturday, September 25, 2010

St. Nicholas' Episcopal Church,
Midland

Jane Tomaine, Speaker
"Strengthening Your Core:
Benedictine Values & Practices for
Today's World"
Registration fee - \$25.00



**PLAN
AHEAD**

**Bluegrass Night
Saturday, October 23rd**

Good food - Great music!

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Kathleen Borsch, Deacon
Editor
Melissa Wafer-Cross, Deacon
Les Jackson, Seminarian

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Linda Swartz, Financial Assistant
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John Edwards, Junior Warden
Nancy McReynolds, Clerk
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