

THE BELL TOWER

July - 2012

FROM OUR RECTOR.....

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹² 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ~ John 15:1-12



Dear People of Grace,

Throughout your search process and in these first days as your new rector, it has been an honor and a joy to be among so many fruit-bearing branches. It is clear to me that you are people who love well-- you love this church and this community. I am deeply grateful that I now am able to join you as you continue to follow Christ's commandment: "that you love one another as I have loved you" (v.12b). In my time as your rector, my hope and my prayer for Grace is that you all know how very much you are loved by God, and then go and so love the world.

Our love for each other and our love for the world is grounded in the abiding love of Christ. We are branches, and Jesus is the true vine. As the scripture you know so well reminds us, apart from God we can do nothing (v. 5). Abide. The word abide appears eleven times in this passage. While there are many ways to interpret this, one way is to hear a reminder that as we grow and are pruned and bloom and bear fruit in these weeks and months and years ahead, in all things we are to abide in God's love. Keep your ears and eyes open for developing opportunities for you to abide and also to branch-out.

Many Blessings,
Rev. Meredith+



From our Senior Warden

This month's article is one that I have been looking forward to writing for awhile. Our new rector is here and we are no longer a church in transition! Rev. Meredith Holt's first day at Grace was on July 1, 2012 and her first day was shared with a visit from Bishop Doyle. It was a great day of celebration for Grace.

With our new rector here I have been reflecting on how far we have come in the last year and wonder how far do we still have to go. A year ago we had no idea where this journey would lead us. We knew that God was leading us down this path, but had no idea that Rev. Meredith was who He had chosen for us. Last year at this time we had no idea what we wanted for Grace 3-5 years down the road or what we were looking for in a new rector.

During this past year through the meetings we had and the survey we completed we learned a lot about who we are, where we wanted to go in the future and what we were looking for in our new rector. The brochure committee got busy and produced an informative parish profile about Grace which not only showed that we celebrated our past, but we are committed to our future. Then the Search Committee went to work spending many hours of preparation getting ready to interview the candidates. Not knowing that they would make the decision to call Rev. Meredith on the very day that the scripture matched the theme of our Parish Profile, "I am the vine and you are the branches....".

Now that the transition part of this journey is completed we are starting to look to the future and Rev. Meredith will be guiding us down that new path to the Grace we all envisioned what seems so long ago.

My thanks goes out to all of you that have helped so much this past year and I know we will all continue to grow into the future of Grace.

Faithfully,
Judy Webb



Episcopops: share music and fun

Submitted by Bill Watson

The next Episcopops get together is on July 21st at 6pm. If you haven't experienced Episcopops yet, think of it as a mini Graceful Gathers with music! Come join us sometime. I think you will enjoy the experience.

For more information contact [Bill Watson](#).



Hunt island treasure twice a week

Treasure hunting expeditions are offered twice a week at Galveston Island's popular Silk Purse, one of Galveston's most highly regarded resale emporiums, operated by Grace Church and located at the corner of 37th Street and Avenue L. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Tuesday and Saturday, adventuresome explorers can search out exceptional bargains and one-of-a-kind collectibles in a friendly, boutique-style atmosphere. In addition to a generous selection of men's, women's and children's clothing, the Silk Purse offers jewelry, hats, ties, toys, hobby supplies, small appliances and furnishings, games, sports equipment, house and dinner ware, plus decorative items. Clothing sizes range from newborn to "plus," and styles include casual, sportswear, business and professional attire, and dressy and formal wear. Donations are also "grace-fully" accepted during regular

From our Junior Warden

Submitted by John McCulley

Over 55 Group

A window air conditioning unit has been installed in the kitchen to help offset the heat from the oven there. The front step hand rails to Jenkins Hall were painted, and a broken sign post at the Silk Purse was replaced. The pews in the church were adjusted to make the spacing more uniform, and a broken window blind at Molhusen House was repaired.

If you enjoy hands-on repair and maintenance work, you are invited to join the “Over 55 Group” on Tuesday mornings at the church. It is a great opportunity to combine fellowship and service.

Junior Warden Report

Maintenance on two of the three large stained glass windows on the south side of the church has been completed. The faded and loose plexiglass storm covers have been replaced with crystal clear Lexan. Copper vents have been installed to vent heat and humidity between the Lexan covers and the windows. Loose window caulking has been replaced, and the window frames have been primed and painted. The third window will receive the same treatment in the next week or two. If you compare the brightness of the colors in the two finished windows to the colors of the one yet to be done - it is the first large window on the left as you enter the church – you will see quite a difference! Also, you can now clearly see the stained glass from outside the church.

Boy Scout Troop 177

Our two oldest scouts and Scoutmaster Pete Rhymes joined another Galveston troop and went to the Northern Tier High Adventure camp in Canada. There will be a report on this adventure next month. One of our scouts went to summer camp at the council camp near West Columbia, Camp Karankawa. The troop is not meeting during the summer, but regular meetings will resume when school starts again in the fall.



DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Submitted by Judy Ricketts

The Grace Church Daughters of the King group meets monthly on the first Sunday of the month after the church service. The Daughters of the King is a group of women who pray daily for those in our lives and our parish who may need our prayers. Please feel free to request prayers for those people you are concerned about. You can make prayer requests by completing the blue prayer form in the church pews or by calling the church office. The Daughters of the King welcomes new members. Please consider joining this active and dedicated group of ladies.



From Ellen Cook, Diocesan UTO Chair:

Thank you for your United Thank Offering of \$193. Our next In-Gathering is All Saints Sunday, Nov. 4, 2012

“Give us grateful hearts, our father, for all thy mercies, and make us mindful of the needs of others: through Jesus Christ our ord. *Amen*

BCP 835



Christian Education

Submitted by Cathy Smith

Our current Christian Ed program is focused on emphasizing the gifts of the Holy Spirit as we seek to be good disciples. Because our summer program includes fun and games, we encourage everyone to please wear casual clothes. As part of an ongoing program, we also are photographing our summer students. We have photos of many of our kids when they were little ones, and now -- when many are almost adults-- they love seeing themselves when they were young. From Ohio, Miss Betty says, "Hi," and that she misses everyone.

Grace Church "Getaway" at Camp Allen

Submitted by Bill Watson

If you haven't already signed up for our annual Camp Allen getaway for the weekend of Nov. 9-11, 2012 please contact the [church office](#) or [Bill Watson](#) right away. We have to release any unconfirmed cabins by the end of July.



If you've not been to one of these events, our getaway is an opportunity to enjoy the company of fellow parishioners amid the natural beauty and tranquility that is Camp Allen. We usually conduct/attend a service either Saturday night or Sunday morning. Mealtime is another community event, with everyone chipping in for the cost of the food and helping with cooking or cleanup. The cost for food has been something like \$25 or \$30 per head in the past. You also can elect to provide your own food if you choose.

The church has reserved three lakeside cabins for the weekend, and each cabin has a kitchen, three bedrooms and two full baths in a modern, climate-controlled interior. In the event we have more 'campers' than cabins, we assign cabin rooms on a first-paid basis. There are also always rooms available at the nearby Camp Allen hotel, which is very nice but is also two miles (a 10 minute drive) from the cabins. The cost per bedroom in the lakeside cabins for the two nights is \$134. (Roommates can share that cost.) Because of Camp Allen contract issues, you will need to pay for your lakeside cabin bedroom by the end of July.

We hope to see you at this annual getaway.

Who's hungry?

How hungry are you today? If you are like most members of Grace, you're probably not very hungry at all, and even if you are, you have the resources to fix the problem. For many Galvestonians, however, hunger is very real, and they struggle daily with the ongoing challenge of providing themselves -- and perhaps their families as well -- with adequate nutrition.

To assist them in their efforts, please don't forget to help replenish the *St. Vincent's Food Pantry* through your donations of shelf-stable food items and/or monetary donations. High-nutrition items such as canned or shelf-stable meats, beverages, vegetables and fruits can be placed in the St. Vincent's basket at the back of the church, and the specially marked Hunger Fund envelopes in the pew backs can be used for cash and checks to be dropped in the offering plate. What you may view as only a can of beans or a package of tuna fish could possibly be "dinner" for a fellow citizen.



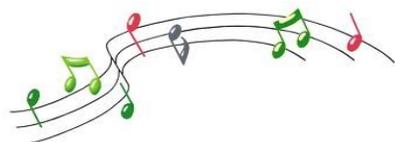
I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. *John 15:5*

Mark Your Calendars and Let's Celebrate

Sunday, August 19th 5pm

You are invited to the installation of
the Reverend Meredith Holt
as the 26th rector of Grace, Galveston

Reception will follow the service



Notes on Hymns....

Submitted by Laura Hyatt—Choir Director

“Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before His presence with singing” Psalm 100:2

Every Sunday we sing Hymn 380, third verse “Praise God from whom all blessings flow”. This part of the service is called the Doxology and it is a hymn of praise and thanksgiving for all of the blessings that are part of our daily lives. Because we use it in this way we rarely sing the entire hymn even though it is certainly one of the most well known melodies in our hymnal.

During the Reformation in Europe (1500s) there was a division among Protestants concerning congregational singing. (Prior to this time in the Catholic church only the clergy chanted or sang during worship). Some Reformers like Martin Luther advocated hymns and carols as part of worship. Others, like John Calvin thought only the Psalms of David should be sung. He was a fierce advocate for the use of metrical (i.e. with rhythm and rhyme pattern versions) of the Psalms. He felt that church worship should be simple and consist only of prayer, preaching and the singing of Psalms.

In 1551, a hymnbook of Psalms was published in Geneva. In it Psalm 134 (All people that on earth do dwell....) was set to a majestic and beautiful melody composed by a man named Louis Bourgeois. Ten years later another version of the Psalter was published and this time the same melody was used with the words to Psalm 100 (Praise God from whom all blessings flow...) as paraphrased by Rev. William Kethe, a Scotsman. Even since the publication of the 1561 hymnal this tune has been called “The Old 100th” because of its association with Psalm 100. Christians today know it as the melody to which the Doxology is typically sung but for 500 years it has been more closely associated with William Kethe’s rendition of Psalm 100. If you know the melody of the Doxology, take time to sing this old hymn and make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth His praise forth tell, Come ye before Him and rejoice.

The Lord ye know, is God indeed, Without our aid he did us make,
We are His flock, He doth us feed, and for His sheep He doth us take.

Adapted from “Then Sings My Soul” by Robert J. Morgan

Please mark your calendars:

August 3 7-9 *Bill Watson, 3319 Lanyard*
 September 7 7-9 *Stan & Pat Brown, 7501 Antilles*
 October 5 7-9 *Val & Carol Ramirez, 4715 Woodrow*
 November 2 7-9 *Jeff & Mary Kilgore, 164 Bora Bora*
 December 7 7-9 *Peggy Baldwin-Clayton & Jean Baldwin, 5222 Denver*

Graceful Gatherers is hosted monthly, usually on the first Friday of the month. All adults are welcome to join us for a pot luck dinner and enjoyable company. This is a great way to get to know your fellow church members. Please feel free to join us whenever possible.

***Bell Tower via e-mail***

As announced by Judy Webb in the May issue, the Bell Tower is moving to a new distribution plan. Beginning with this July edition, distribution will be by way of e-mail, and hard-copy versions delivered through the U.S. Postal Service will be sent only to those requesting this special service through Cathy in the church office. We hope this new e-mail distribution method will help with getting vital information out to our church family on a more timely basis and also reduce the cost in man/woman-power and money of producing the Bell Tower.

2011/12 VESTRY

Judy Webb, SR WARDEN
John McCulley, JR., JR WARDEN
Vickie Robertson
Carol Ramirez
Dan Ricketts
William Jones
Treasurer-Derek Paget-Clarke
CHANCELLOR- Jeff Kilgore
Rector- The Rev. Meredith L. Holt

2011/12 FOUNDATION BOARD

CHAIRMAN: The Rev. Meredith L. Holt
Peggy Baldwin-Clayton, Secretary
Bill Watson, Treasurer
Kenny Wegner, President
Leslie Watts
Judy Webb, Ex Officio

From Our Editor: Please submit your information in writing to Leslie Watts at 3812 Bernardo de Galvez, Galveston Texas, 77550-6662 or by e-mail to lwatts7@flash.net. Please submit by the 15th of the month to make sure your article is included in the next month's Bell Tower.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 1	Rev. Meredith's 1st Sunday & Bishop Andy Doyle's visitation
Friday, July 6	Graceful Gatherers at Jim Rothgeb & Bob Scott's
Sunday, July 8	Daughters of the King Meeting
Tuesday, July 10	Finance Committee Meeting
Sunday, July 15	Foundation Meeting
Tuesday, July 17	Vestry Meeting
Saturday, July 21	Episcopops in Jinkins Hall
Friday, August 3	Graceful Gatherers at the home of Bill Watson
Saturday, August 4	Diocese of Texas ECW Board of Directors summer meeting will be at Grace
Sunday, August 12	Acolyte training with Rev. Meredith following the 9:30am service
<i>Sunday, August 19</i>	<i>Rev. Meredith's installation as 26th Rector of Grace Church</i>
Friday, September 14	Episcopal night at Astros—signup at the back of the church
November 9-11, 2012	Camp Allen Retreat

Happy Birthday!

7/3	Nancy Conoly
7/5	Mathias Gonzales Laura Hyatt
7/8	Kathleen Lucas
7/12	Dylan Fulbright
7/13	JLyn Provenzano
7/14	Char Carranza Kendall Harr Nancy Uhrbock
7/16	Brody Shafer
7/17	Connie Carman
7/19	Mike McNeely
7/21	Dolores Paget-Clarke
7/25	Judy Webb
7/26	Jim Rothgeb
7/29	Linda McCulley
7/30	Lois West

Happy Anniversary

7/7	Carol & Val Ramirez
7/22	Meg & Brandt Raeburn
7/30	Marietta & Chris Anagnostis

New email addresses for Grace Church

Rev. Meredith Holt
rector@gracechurchgalveston.org
 Cathy Gould
office@gracechurchgalveston.org
 Website
webmaster@gracechurchgalveston.org

May God grant you always...A sunbeam to warm you, a moonbeam to charm you, a sheltering Angel so nothing can harm you. Laughter to cheer you. Faithful friends near you. And whenever you pray, Heaven to hear you. *-An Irish Blessing*



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 MEREDITH L. HOLT -RECTOR

THE REV. HELEN W. APPELBERG, ASSOCIATE PRIEST

AARON HERVEY - ORGANIST

LAURA HYATT - CHOIR DIRECTOR

CATHY GOULD – PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

MARIE ARMSTRONG - SEXTON

JUDY WEBB - SENIOR WARDEN

JOHN MCCULLEY - JUNIOR WARDEN

DEREK PAGET-CLARKE - TREASURER

LAY MINISTRIES COORDINATOR—JAYNE DAVIS

SILK PURSE THRIFT SHOP - SHIRLEY BRIDGES

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING - JUDY RICKETTS

ALTAR GUILD - SHUSHU CLOWERS, DIRECTOR

ACOLYTE ABBA - GERALD RICHARD

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - CATHY SMITH

WEDDING CEREMONY COORDINATOR - PAT BEVIL

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW) - ELLIE HANLEY

WEBMASTER - JUDY WEBB

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