

THE BELL TOWER

October - 2010

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! . . . Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:17,20)



When we talk about “*feeling our age*” (as I seem to do more and more often), we usually mean it as a negative experience or feeling; the assumption being that we are somehow meant to perpetually feel younger than we actually are. *Feeling our age*, therefore, is an unwanted and usually ignored reminder that we are in fact, aging. Of course it is totally unrealistic to feel otherwise—what age could we feel except the age that we are? But that is not how we are wired; instead, we hold tenaciously to our youth in many different ways—refusing to acknowledge reality, for fear that to do so would immediately render us decrepit and incapacitated. However, there is actually no need for such mental self-trickery. Because, in fact, we can be born anew in Christ whenever we deign to meet him and discover his current plan for our lives. And as I love to say, God is never finished with us. So no matter what our real age, our portion of God’s work remains to be done every day.

I have been reading some daily thoughts in a monthly publication called the *Monastic Way*, and I want to share a few of its ideas from August: *If you are not where you thought you would be at this stage of life, you are, nevertheless, where God is waiting to find you. (8/24)*

We don’t fall into ruts in life: we dig them for ourselves. We settle in, we withdraw from other people, we stop trying new foods, new friends, new places, new books, new ideas, new events. We just curl up within ourselves. We stop trying. Or more to the point, we stop living long before we die. And in the doing of it, without realizing it, perhaps, we stop the search for God. “If you love everything,” F. Dostoevsky says, “you will perceive the divine mystery in all things. (8/23)

Therefore the bottom line is to expect to feel your age, but do not allow aging to cause you to stop living. And above all, do not forget for a minute that you are still engaged in the work of making disciples as ambassadors for Christ. That is the one job from which we never retire.

May God bless you and keep you,
Paul+



GIANT YEW TREE A PART OF OUR CHURCH.

“God said ‘Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with seed in it’ And it was so.” (Genesis 1:11)

Though we seldom think about it, trees are a big part of our lives. For their natural beauty and the shade they provide, we enjoy and appreciate them. So it is for our yew. Everyone wants to know how old it is. According to the gentleman from the Texas forest service we don't really know, but it is unlikely it would have stood through the 1900 storm. So assume it goes back to the early 1900's, lets choose 1910 for its birthday so we can say it has seen a lot and that makes it 100 years old!

Celebrating this event of our tree being the largest of its kind in the State of Texas were Donna Leibbert of the Galveston Island Tree Conservancy and Matt Weaver of the Texas Forest Service who presented Grace with a certificate acknowledging the fact.

It has long been the stalwart guardian of our church – except when it succumbed to Hurricane Alicia. She was upended, her roots exposed. Quick-thinking Kenny Wegner got a winch truck and used it to right her. Guy wires kept her straight and not a little prayer. She survived and became the magnificent tree that we see today.

The spirit of resilience and survival of our yew tree is symbolic of the spirit and resilience of Grace Church. Thanks be to God. – *Jan Dorsett*

Collect for the Conservation of Natural Resources

Almighty God, in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow workers in your creation. Give us wisdom and reverence so to us the resources of nature, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

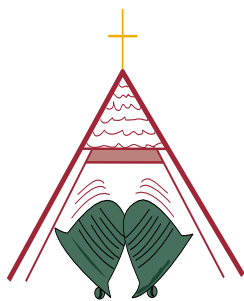
CHURCH BLOOPERS (these are real!)

“The Fasting and Prayer Conference includes meals.”

“Potluck supper at 5:00 – prayer and medication to follow,”

“The supper was severed by the Vestry.”

“Say “Hell” to someone who doesn't care much about you.”



PEALINGS

Great news!! The Grace Episcopalops are scheduled to perform on Sunday, October 17th for the *medium-brow* Galveston Musical Club at 3:30 PM at the Meridian concert hall!

Christian Ed: Thomas the Tank Engine is back in the Nursery!!!! Thank you so much for all your donations that allowed us to purchase a new table, board and several trains and accessories. The Fred Miller store in Nederland also contributed with a sizable discount on the items.

We are planning on dividing our classes into age appropriate groups, with the youngest non-readers in the Nursery, the 5th and above in the Library and the grade schoolers in the classroom. We like to have 2 supervisors in each class. Emma and Imani and Jarod have been excellent assistants. Please let us know if you would like to assist. We have a training program, *Protecting God's Children*, that is a requirement for teachers.

We will be studying the Old Testament from Sept to Dec. Those old Bible stories always take on new meaning for the adults when seen through the eyes of young children.



Daughter's of the King: We will have the Service of Admission on Oct 24. ShuShu Clowers, Doris Niccolai, Judy Ricketts, Janice Rhymes and Nancy Wilkes will be admitted at that time. All the Daughter's

are requested to be at that service if at all possible. Our dues are due. If you haven't given me a check made out to Grace Church for 35.00, please do so at your earliest convenience.

A new class will begin in Jan. for anyone wishing to become a "prayer warrior"

The fall Ingathering for UTO will be on Sunday, Nov 7. If you aren't familiar with UTO it stands for United Thank Offering which is a project of Episcopal Church Women. The goal of this project is

to encourage people to get in the habit of dropping a coin in the UTO blue box when you give thanks for the blessings in your life. We gather in the coins twice a year. The donations are pooled around the nation and are used to fund grants for projects all around the world. These projects have included medical clinics, outreach programs, nutrition and child-rearing centers. One of the earliest projects was to purchase a small plane for a doctor covering hundreds of miles in Alaska. The plane was named the Blue Box. We don't mind counting pennies if you'll drop them in your box. Blue UTO boxes are available at the back of the church and waiting to go home with you!

Local Volunteers Wind Up Their Work

September 13, 2010 marked the 2nd anniversary of Hurricane Ike's impact in Galveston, and the Texas Episcopal Diocese Disaster Relief and Development task force (TEDRD) celebrated our progress with two home blessings.

After a good day of volunteering and rebuilding, Rev. Paul Wehner of Grace led a home blessing of Henry's house. Though it still needs a few coats of paint, Henry's house has come a long way.

Following the blessing, Henry offered his sincerest thanks for all the volunteers and staff that have put in many hours restoring his home. TEDRD then blessed Gerald's home. Gerald spent most of the day helping restore Henry's home before returning to his own home for the blessing. Rev. Pat Ritchie of St. Stephen's-Beaumont led the blessing. Gerald's home is now complete and ready for him to move in! It has been a long journey for Gerald as he lived outside in a tent for a while before finding temporary housing. Both Gerald and Henry are members of Grace Episcopal Church in Galveston.

80 Years Old with Another 20 to Go
Grace celebrates the Rev. Helen Appelberg's Birthday

It was a delightful experience, her 80th birthday, one in which she reiterated her desire to have twenty more, God willing.

The church was full for this event. Helen preached and celebrated at the altar and received her birthday blessing, along with Aaron Hervey and John Buck. Then we went to Jinkins Hall and celebrated some more with good food and birthday cake.

The Reverend Helen Appelberg is a delightful person, full of energy and with a wonderful sense of humor that punctuates the serious messages she offers.

Many thanks to chairperson Nancy Wilkes and her committee for a wonderful celebration!

The African Team Ministry, which serves the Church in East Africa, will once more have a sale of handmade Crafts and Jewelry

Sunday, October 10th and Sunday, October 17
in Jinkins Hall, beginning at 11:00 AM

Proceeds from the sale of these items helps Anglican Dioceses in Africa provide support for orphans, aid to refugees, clean water and medical care in villages, repairing churches, and training for the laity.

Come and browse- you might find a unique Christmas gift or two!

Fall Teaching Series

Wednesday evenings, Sept. 15 - Nov. 17

10-week study of the *Parables of Jesus*

Using a study guide by John Moore, that includes his modern day versions of familiar parables, we will take a fresh look at how Jesus teaches us by telling stories that are never out of date.



“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” - Colossians 3:17

UTO FALL INGATHERING—SUNDAY November 7.
BRING YOUR ENVELOPES AND/OR UTO BOXES TO CHURCH



ECW NEWS

Event details and registration information is available on the [ECW web page](#) of the Diocese's website at www.epicenter.org or contact Gail Davis, ECW Annual Retreat Registrar at 409-832-3405 or gdavis8@gt.rr.com.

When you go to the [ECW web page](#), the link to the registration form is on the left side under the meeting logo or you can [click here to register now](#). If you don't have a computer, please call 409-832-3405 . Hope to see you ladies there. Remember, EVERY WOMAN at GRACE is automatically a member of ECW and that this site shows all the speakers and the schedule These are fun and uplifting retreats. I have been going almost 15 years. *Barbara Zimmerman*

Graceful Gatherers hosted through November!

So please mark you calendars: October 1st: Jeff & Mary Kilgore's home

November 5th: Stan and ShuShu Clower's home



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 you fellow church members. Please feel free to join us whenever possible.

Contemplative Prayer

Practice your new resolution to put Sabbath time in your week!

Grace Church hosts a contemplative prayer/Christian meditation group in the chapel on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm led by Bill Noble. We start with a weekly reading from the World Community Meditation, then meditate for twenty minutes, then have a brief period of questions and discussion. All baptized Christians have the capacity for contemplative prayer/meditation through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Please come to the chapel on Tuesdays for a quiet hour of prayer and meditation. If you have questions, call Bill Noble at 409-939-8099.

Upcoming Events

Wednesdays thru November 17– Fall Teaching Series Begins. A 10-week study of the *Parables of Jesus*. Using a study guide by John Moore, that includes his modern day versions of familiar parables, we will take a fresh look at how Jesus teaches us by telling stories that are never out of date.

September 25-October 10- St. Augustine's 2nd Annual Art Show—enter your masterpiece and win a prize.

Friday, October 1 @ 7:00—9:00 PM-Graceful Gatherers at home of Mary & Jeff Kilgore.

Sunday, October 3 after 9:30 service the Daughters of the King will meet in the Library.

October 7, @ 5:30 PM- Grace is feeding the volunteers at William Temple Center.

Sunday, October 24 at the 9:30 service- The new members to the Daughters of the King will be admitted

Sunday, October 17 @ 3:30 PM—Grace's Episcopops perform at the Meridian concert hall at 2228 Seawall Blvd.

Friday, Novemer @ 7:00—9:00 PM-Graceful Gatherers at home of Stan & ShuShu Clowers.

Sunday, November 7- UTO Fall Ingathering

November 12-14– Graceful Getaway to Camp Allen. Our annual weekend in the cabins on Lake Coffield, in the piney woods of Camp Allen.

2010 VESTRY

SR. WARDEN: Ella Anderson

JR. WARDEN: David Wilkes

SECRETARY: Vickie Robertson

John McCulley

Dan Ricketts

Carol Ramirez

Derek Paget-Clarke

TREASURER– Derek Paget-Clarke

CHANCELLOR– Jeff Kilgore

RECTOR- Fr. Paul Wehner

2010 FOUNDATION BOARD

CHAIRMAN: Rev. Paul Wehner, Rector

PRESIDENT: Camellia St. John

TREASURER: John Buck

SECRETARY: Peggy Baldwin-Clayton

Kenny Wegner

EX-OFFICIO: Ella Anderson, Sr. Warden

Happy Anniversary!

10/2/ Stan & Shu Shu Clowers

10/6 Matt & Michaelle Arbaugh

Happy Birthday!

10/1 Heather Shafer

10/4 Ambur Betts

Carol Ramirez

Leslie Watts

10/8 Corlie Jackson

10/9 Valerian Chyle

10/11 James Fulbright

10/12 Britney Niccolai

10/14 Matt Arbaugh

10/18 Shirley Bridges

10/21 Barbara McGuffey

10/22 Alan Higgins

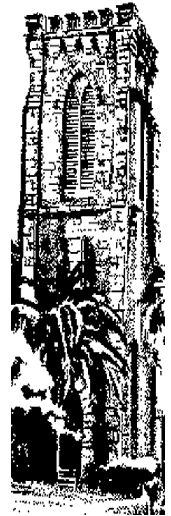
10/23 Geni Croley

10/26 Allen Phillips

10/31 Sherry Wehner

THE BELL TOWER

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1115 36TH STREET
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77550
409 762-9676



DIOCESAN AND GRACE CHURCH MINISTERS

THE RIGHT REVEREND ANDY DOYLE - BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF TEXAS

THE REVEREND PAUL B. WEHNER - RECTOR

AARON HERVEY - ORGANIST

LAURA HYATT - CHOIR DIRECTOR

CATHY GOULD – PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

MARTINA AYALA - SEXTON

ELLA ANDERSON - SENIOR WARDEN

DAVID WILKES - JUNIOR WARDEN

DEREK PAGET-CLARKE - TREASURER

LAY MINISTRIES COORDINATOR—JAYNE DAVIS

SILK PURSE THRIFT SHOP - SHIRLEY BRIDGES

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING - CATHY SMITH

ALTAR GUILD - SHUSHU CLOWERS, DIRECTOR

ACOLYTE ABBA - GERALD RICHARD

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - CATHY SMITH

WEDDING COORDINATOR - PAT BEVIL

WEBMASTER - JUDY WEBB

BELL TOWER EDITOR - JAN DORSETT

ST. VINCENT'S HOUSE - MICHAEL JACKSON

WM. TEMPLE EPISCOPAL CENTER - THE REV. KYLE STILLINGS

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