

THE BELL TOWER

February - 2010

2009 RECTOR'S REPORT

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

The following is excerpted from Fr. Paul's report to the Annual Meeting of January 17, 2010.

As we have struggled together to repair our lives in 2009, I pray that all of you have been comforted by your faith in a loving God and have been strengthened by the support of your Grace Church family. As we begin 2010, I believe that Grace Church has become a closer community in Christ because of our common struggles. While we are smaller in number, new people have stepped up and assisted in our ministries. You have seen what needs to be done and have helped without waiting to be asked. Because you have been so supportive and uncomplaining about the inconveniences caused by the storm, we have accomplished amazing things in 2009.

I mentioned in a recent sermon on stewardship that my three priorities for Grace Church are hospitality, discipleship, and outreach; therefore my goals for 2010 reflect those priorities.

Hospitality – The budget for 2010 includes increases in our investment in hospitality. Grace is well known in Galveston and in the Diocese as a welcoming parish, but hospitality is always about what we do for the NEXT person who comes through our doors, not what we did last week or last month. Therefore it is important that we continue to allocate our time and energy to providing for our guests. In addition to our after-church fellowship and Graceful Gatherers, we are planning more events such as newcomer receptions, movie nights, game nights, etc. as an easy way for new folks to meet us.

Discipleship – In our baptismal covenant, we promise to *continue in the apostles' teaching*. In other words, part of our job descriptions as Christians is to continually improve our knowledge and understanding of our faith. Grace plans to offer those opportunities – primarily on Wednesday nights. We will have our annual Lenten educational series on the Wednesday nights in Lent and are also planning a Wednesday Bible study series for the Spring. In addition, if a group of folks want to meet on some other day of the week, I will be happy to support them.

Outreach – Outreach is the work that we do and the support that we lend to those outside our immediate circle. This comes in many forms – from the buying of jewelry to aid the Anglican mission in Africa, to going on mission trips to help restore places that have suffered loss. We also host meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year, I plan to increase our participation with the two Episcopal institutions on the Island. St. Vincent's House is in continual need of food for its pantry and volunteers to work with its clients. And William Temple is scheduled to host more than 100 volunteers every month, with whom we can interact and provide meals. There are great opportunities for all of us to be involved in Outreach in some way – please make it a priority to participate in at least two outreach projects this year.

May God bless us and keep us all.

Fr. Paul+

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN• Just want to say how honored I am that Father Paul has asked me to serve as Senior Warden for 2010. As a member of Grace for the past 18 years.....and, as your Senior Warden during the process of calling Father Paul to Grace..... I am privileged and blessed..... and humbled..... to be entrusted with this important position. Traditionally, the Senior Warden is selected by the Rector from the Vestry members, and is known as the "Rector's Warden." Some of the most important Senior Warden responsibilities are to support and assist the Rector; to pray daily for him (or her, as the case may be); to meet regularly with the Rector to review the life and work of the congregation, plan ahead, anticipate and resolve problems; and, to be available to discuss any and all concerns with Rector, maintaining confidentiality as appropriate. Other responsibilities include meeting with congregational leaders and members as needed and to pray daily for our all concerns with members of the congregation.

Saint Paul wrote, in Colossians 1:9-12, "For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light."

So, I ask that you, too, recognizing that one of the gifts we can give each other as a church family is our prayers for one another..... and that prayer can touch us as nothing else can..... continue to pray for our Rector, and for your Senior Warden, and for each other as we begin this new year..... 2010.

ELLA ANDERSON



Vera Gang Scott Scholarship

The fund was started in 1972 by the ECW Board of the Diocese of Texas with a gift—her life's savings—from Vera Gang Scott who in the 1920s had received aid for her education from the diocesan women. Mrs. Scott's gift was to help others as she had been helped. Vera Gang Scott grew up in Galveston and though she lived in many states, she always considered herself a Texan. She led an active life as an educator and continued to be involved in service to others. She was very proud that a school was named after her in Colorado Springs.

Applications are available online at
www.epicenter.org
→ Organizations
→ Episcopal Church Women
→ ECW Funds

Send Applications and Contributions to:

Jeannine Shirey Brown
1100 South Lakeside Drive
Burnet, TX 78611
512.680.1356
jeanninebrown@zeecon.com
Trinity, Marble Falls

Contributions to the Vera Gang Scott Scholarship Fund can be made by anyone or any group as a gift, thanksgiving or memorial. All gifts are added to the original endowment—only the income generated is used for the scholarships granted each spring. Donations should be mailed to Jeannine Shirey Brown.

2009 Recipients

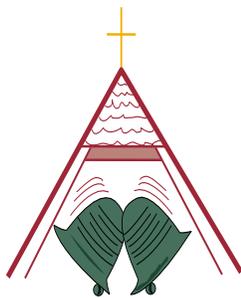
Catherine Lundy-Peterson
attending Stephen F. Austin
member of Christ Church, Nacogdoches

Joyce McGee
attending Tyler Junior College
member of Christ Church, Tyler

Morgan Rogers
attending Texas Tech
member of Trinity, Marble Falls

Andrea McDonald
attending Prairie View A&M
member of St. Francis, Prairie View

All applications for 2010 Scholarship Awards must be RECEIVED by Wednesday, March 31, 2010.



PEALINGS

FRIDAY, FEB.5 Graceful Gatherers at David & Nancy Wilkes home

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, FEB. 12 – 13
Annual Council of the Diocese of Texas in
Killeen, Texas

WEDNESDAY , FEB. 17 AT 12 NOON, & 6 PM.
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES. Imposition of
Ashes and Holy Communion at both services.
Soup and salad supper following the evening
service.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24 @ 6 PM. Lenten
series of worship begins; fellowship and
teaching every Wednesday through March 24.

The 2010 Contributor envelopes are in the back
of the church. If you don't see yours, call 762-
9676 and request your envelopes.

The 2010 Flower Book is up to date. Choose
your dates to celebrate or remember a special
person or event; there are plenty of spaces.

Grace Church Loves Kids!

The Nursery is now available every Sunday,
9:00 AM until 11:00 AM.

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS - Know of someone
who is housebound? Call the church and ask
to have a Eucharistic visit. Our LEV's will bring
communion and a warm greeting from the
church.

THE OBSERVANCE OF LENT

Lent is a season of soul-searching and
repentance. It is a season for reflection and
taking stock. Lent originated in the very earliest
days of the Church as a preparatory time for
Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves
and when converts were instructed in the faith
and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty
days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates
Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty
days. All churches that have a continuous history
extending before 1500 AD observe Lent. The
ancient church that wrote, collected, canonized,
and propagated the New Testament also observed
Lent, believing it to be a commandment from the
apostles.

Why 40 Days?

...Because forty days is a traditional number of
discipline, devotion, and preparation in the Bible.
Thus Moses stayed on the Mountain of God forty
days (*Exodus 24:18 and 34:28*), the spies were in
the land for forty days (*Numbers 13:25*), Elijah
traveled forty days before he reached the cave
where he had his vision (*1 Kings 19:8*), Nineveh
was given forty days to repent (*Jonah 3:4*), and
most importantly, prior to undertaking his
ministry, Jesus spent forty days in wilderness
praying and fasting (*Matthew 4:2*).
Jesus used a forty day period of prayer and
fasting to prepare for his ministry, which
culminated in his death and resurrection.
Therefore, it is fitting for Christians to imitate
him with a forty day period of prayer and fasting
to prepare for the celebration of his ministry's
climax, Good Friday (the day of the crucifixion)
and Easter Sunday (the day of the resurrection).

"Mardi Gras" means "Fat Tuesday."

Traditionally, it is the last day for Catholics to
indulge—and often overindulge—before Ash
Wednesday starts the sober weeks of fasting
that come with Lent. Formally known as
Shrove Tuesday, Mardi Gras has long been a
time of extravagant fun for European
Christians. In fact, some people think Mardi
Gras celebrations have their source in the wild
springtime orgies of the ancient Romans..

*Dear Grace Church,
Thank you very much for considering me worthy of the Golden Scholarship. I really appreciate it. Grace Church has been a big part of my life and the people there are very inspiring with how kind and accepting they are. It has been a joy going to church there and I always look forward to returning whenever I am home. Have a blessed New Year.*

*Sincerely
Kelsey Kilgore*



The Silk Purse Will Soon Be Re-Opening

The Silk Purse, one of the most active outreach programs of Grace Church, expects to be serving its clients again in early June.

The elderly structure was devastated in Hurricane Ike and the best way forward has required a great deal of thought and negotiation with various local authorities by Grace Re-building and repair Committee, culminating with the letting of contracts within the last few weeks.

Work is now in progress.

Shirley Bridges, the Silk Purse manager, planning on the premise that the finished building will have absolutely nothing in it except two doors, walls, and a floor, plus utilities, advises that before we open, two key stages, must be completed. Firstly we will need the very basic furnishings and tools required to operate, and secondly, the actual donations.

STAGE ONE- IS GOING ON NOW

We are looking for the donation of the following items, new or used: one desk with drawers, one work table, four or five upright chairs, 2 self standing file cabinets, display shelving, electric cash register, 2 desktop adding machines.

STAGE TWO- TO BE ANNOUNCED

When we get an official date we will then accept the clothing and other useful things you have been kindly saving for our re-opening.

Shirley Bridges



Safari to Guatamala

By Bill Watson



I recently returned from a nine day trip to Guatemala and Belize. It was part vacation and adventure but was also an opportunity to distribute educational kits to Mayan children we encountered as we motored along Guatemala's Rio Dulce, heading to the Gulf of Mexico.



The trip started with my flying into Flores, Guatemala, via Belize City and from there taking a bus south to Fronteras, Guatemala on the Rio Dulce. My friend Jim's 60 foot motor-sailer, my home for the next week, was at Ram Marina (on land) near Fronteras where it had been for the last 6 months. While the boat was being prepared to be put back into the river, Rehilio and I made a couple of trips to Morales, a larger city an hour away, to buy elementary reading books, pencils, notebooks, rulers, toys, etc to put in the children's educational kits. The biggest item in the kits were wooden knee desks which Jim with a little assistance from me assembled in Galveston and shipped to Guatemala.



Finally the boat was put into the water and we set off up the river towards the Gulf of Mexico. The scenery along the river was tremendous. The Rio Dulce is a wide sometimes shallow (at times too shallow for a boat requiring 6.6 feet of water) river which meanders between mountains, covered with verdant foliage and generally unspoiled by modern civilization. We encountered local people in dugout canoes, usually engaged in fishing with homemade nets. The dugout canoes are the primary mode of water transportation for the people living in that region although we did encounter the occasional motorized ferryboat and sailboat. Along the river were residences (thatched roof huts) built by the Mayans often with their own little dock with a dugout canoe tied up.



We had no trouble finding children to give educational kits to. The children receiving the kits as well as their parents were very pleasant and gracious. It was a very rewarding experience for me to be part of this and seeing how politely and patiently the children were as they waited for their kits. There is generally no formal education available to these children. However we did come upon a small marina run by a Texas couple who were making an impact. She is a nurse's assistant and was the primary source of medical care for the local people. He established and teaches language classes to the children and their parents. We had dinner at the small restaurant that is part of the marina and run by this Texas couple. The special of the day was chicken fried steak that of course we all ordered. We could hear conversations from other tables in several different languages. This remote part of the world is a stop for hardy sailors from all over the world.



Later on we encountered two young boys fishing from their dugout canoe. They had caught a Tilapia and offered to sell it to us for 25 Quezalas (about \$3). I regret not buying it; I didn't feel like cleaning a fish. Maybe next time.



February 1, 2010
Fr. Bill Russell Settles In

On November 18, 2009, Fr. William Russell had a deep thrombus stroke due to high blood pressure. He spent 3 long weeks in the UTMB MICU and was moved to the ACE Unit up stairs in UTMB. He had lost his voice, movement of his right side and some of his left. Oxygen was a daily-added necessity as well as insulin intravenously to help his body grow stronger again.

He progress slowly but enough to be moved to a long term care acute care facility at Cornerstone Hospital in Clear Lake. The staff there was helpful as were all the professionals at UTMB. He began attempting to say some words and his ability to use his left hand and even some of his right hand grew some every day.

He had many visitors from Galveston Grace Episcopal and from Emmanuel Episcopal in Houston. We believe that each visit gave him encouragement to move forward in his progress. The speech therapist and PT were positive about his speech and physical strength progress.

Shortly after January 1, 2010, the time to start looking for another facility arose. A skilled nursing facility was next on the agenda and Bay Winds in Texas City and Regency Village in Webster were considered. Besides Mary, Fr. Bill has five other children and they were looking in the Dallas/Ft Worth area. After many discussions, the choice of Grace Presbyterian Village in Dallas was chosen. Fr Bill was moved up to Dallas on January Friday 15, 2010.

He has his own room will some of his own furniture. He is continuing to progress and has been able to have food by mouth. (Pudding type consistency.) He is trying to speak more although still very difficult. He appears to be able to read so cards or letter in large print type would be welcome.

His oldest son Greg Russell reports:

"On another positive note, Dad looked better than ever yesterday January 27, 2010 when Toni (daughter in law) and I attended his "Care Plan Meeting". Afterwards he was able to hold his own cup and easily bring it to his lips and drink apple juice under the supervision of the therapist. It looked just as if he was casually sipping a cup of coffee on his own. He is also reading and carrying his prayer book now in the chair that we roll him around in. He wants me to bring in his magazines now so I will be doing that. The therapist indicated he can read now to a limited extent and Jon had his glasses fixed and he is again wearing them."

He will probably be in the Grace Presbyterian specialized nursing unit until the end of April or longer. We are not sure how telephone communication is going, however; trying to talk to him may be another positive encouragement for him

You may write to him—call church office for information

Upcoming Events

Friday, February 5 @ 7:00 PM— Graceful Gatherers at a location to be announced.

Friday & Saturday, February 12-13—Annual Council of the Diocese of Texas in Killeen, TX

Wednesday, February 17 @ 12 Noon & 6:00 PM— Ash Wednesday services. Imposition of ashes and Holy Communion at both services. Soup and salad supper to follow evening service

Wednesday, February 24 @ 6:00 PM—Lenten series of worship begins; fellowship and teaching every Wednesday through March 24.

Saturday, February 27 from 10am - 4:30pm- GHF Tour of Sacred Places- Grace is participating this year

Friday, March 5— Graceful Gatherers at a location to be announced.

Sunday, March 28— Palm Sunday; Holy Week begins.

Thursday, April 1 @ 6:00 PM— Maundy Thursday service, followed by all-night prayer vigil in the Chapel.

Friday, April 2 @ noon— Good Friday service at 12:00 noon with Stations of the Cross

Sunday, April 4— Easter Sunday! Services at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM.

2010 FOUNDATION BOARD

CHAIRMAN: Rev. Paul Wehner, Rector
PRESIDENT: Camellia St. John
TREASURER: John Buck
 Peggy Baldwin-Clayton
 Kenny Wegner
EX-OFFICIO: Ella Anderson, Sr. Warden

2010 VESTRY

SR. WARDEN: Ella Anderson
JR. WARDEN: David Wilkes
SECRETARY: Vickie Robertson
 John McCulley
 Dan Ricketts
 Carol Ramirez
 Derek Paget-Clarke

TREASURER— Marilyn Cooper
CHANCELLOR— Jeff Kilgore
RECTOR- Fr. Paul Wehner

Happy Anniversary!

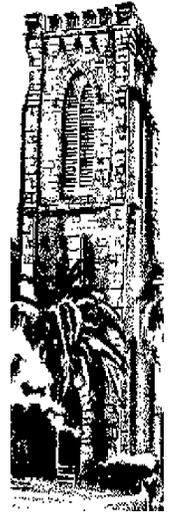
2/18 Mike & Lynn McNeely
 2/19 Richard & Margaret Cutrer
 2/28 Bill & Patty Turney

Happy Birthday!

2/2 Haley Higgins
 2/3 Laura Eanes
 2/4 Pat Bevil
 Jeremy Harr
 2/5 Tony Albonetti
 Bob Eanes
 Jody Tomberlin
 Kenny Wegner
 2/11 Dorothy Lucas
 2/13 Ray Jones
 Kari Roe
 2/17 William Jones
 Jeff Kilgore
 2/19 Mary Walker-Chyle
 2/22 Patsy Mount
 2/23 Kelsey Kilgore
 2/24 Emily Barillas
 Drew Boullion
 Michael Jackson
 2/26 Jennie Drain

THE BELL TOWER

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



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

THE REVEREND PAUL B. WEHNER - RECTOR

THE REVEREND BILL RUSSELL - CURATE

AARON HERVEY - ORGANIST

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e-mail address: gecg@att.net