

# THE BELL TOWER

## January - 2010



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

As we begin our second post-Ike year, I look forward to being able to enjoy the fruits of our labors from 2009. Much of the work of restoring and rebuilding has been done, and I hope to redirect the energy that we used to work on our buildings toward our ministries in 2010. Our church has never looked better; our offices and classrooms are refurbished and more comfortable to use; and our parish hall has all that we need to gather for food and fellowship. Therefore our mission in 2010 is to use those benefits to work for the expansion of God's kingdom.

The above scripture reminds us that God's purpose can be found in every circumstance that we encounter in life. It does not say, as sometimes interpreted, that God does bad things to us to teach us a lesson. Bad things happen as part of life, not as part of God's plan for our lives. However, God encourages us in our struggles and provides sustenance in our times of need. God invites us to utilize our times of struggle and great difficulty as opportunities to draw closer to him. God promises to be always ready to comfort and reassure us that we are known and loved by him.

God continues to abundantly bless our Grace Church in many ways. And I pray that as we begin a new year together, each of us will share those blessings with someone who has not yet heard the good news of God in Christ. Invite a friend (or a stranger) to join us on Sunday or at one of our other functions; and let the love of God and Grace work together to bring good in that person's life. May God bless you and keep you all. Happy New Year!

Faithfully,  
*Fr. Paul+*

## Twelve Days of Christmas

If you reached the point in your holidays when you've heard the "Twelve Days of Christmas" enough times (maybe 30) to never want to hear it again (until next year), join me in this little consideration of the meaning of the song. There are many theories about the origin of the song, but the most common are that they go back to the middle ages at a time when Catholics were not allowed to profess their faith in public. The twelve days, therefore, became a set of clues describing the Christian faith so they could be memorized. If you don't believe this, consider the explanation of the clues that follows. There are lots of theories about the song, but this is probably the most common.

### Twelve Days of Christmas

On the first day of Christmas, my true love sent to me a partridge in a pear tree.  
 On the second day of Christmas, my true love sent to me two turtle doves.  
 On the third day of Christmas, my true love sent to me three French hens,  
 On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me four calling birds,  
 On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me five golden rings,  
 On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me six geese a-laying,  
 On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love sent to me seven swans a-swimming,  
 On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me eight maids a-milking,  
 On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me nine ladies dancing  
 On the tenth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me ten lords a-leaping,  
 On the eleventh day of Christmas, my true love sent to me eleven pipers piping,  
 On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love sent to me twelve drummers drumming,

Symbolism of the Twelve Days of Christmas:

One True Love refers to God

Two Turtle Doves refers to the Old and New Testaments

Three French Hens refers to Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues

Four Calling Birds refers to the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists

Five Golden Rings refers to the first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.

Six Geese A-laying refers to the six days of creation

Seven Swans A-swimming refers to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments

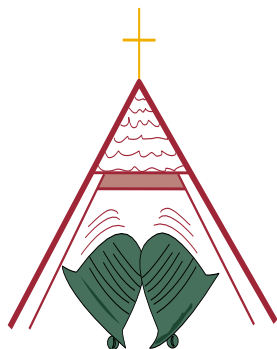
Eight Maids A-milking refers to the eight beatitudes

Nine Ladies Dancing refers to the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

Ten Lords A-leaping refers to the ten commandments

Eleven Pipers Piping refers to the eleven faithful apostles

Twelve Drummers Drumming refers to the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed



## PEALINGS

**Dates to Note:** Epiphany (12<sup>th</sup> Night) was January 6, Sunday, January 10 is the day of Gena Davis' ordination – 5:30 pm Holy Trinity, Baytown,

Sunday January 17 is the day of the annual parish meeting following the 9:30 service, covered dish bring your favorite dish to share. Bring your little ones. Cathy Smith and Betty Harris do a wonderful job of working with and teaching our little ones. Thanks be to God!

Kudos to Doris Niccolai and her helpers for their spectacular job in the kitchen. We always a good dish to enjoy with our fellowship after our Sunday worship.

For those who have been asking:

Fr. Bill Russell  
Cornerstone Hospital  
109 Medical Center Blvd.  
Webster, Texas 77590

A card or brief visit will be appreciated by Fr. Bill.

Fr. Bill may soon be moving to a care facility near Dallas. You may drop your cards at the church office and we will forward them for you when we have his new address.

To My Friends at Grace

I am deeply humbled at my walk with Christ as I prepare for ordination to the priesthood. My journey into this vocation began with you, and I am forever grateful and hold a very special place in my heart for you. Your kindness, hospitality, and servanthood are a model for all churches on how to be the loving hands and feet of Christ. I will hope and pray that every place I am called to serve will be as

loving and prayerful as you. Gary, Cameron, and I would be honored if you would be present at my ordination, and if you can't, prayers will do! My ordination, God willing, will be on Sunday, January 10, 5:30 pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, 5010 N. Main Street, Baytown. Please keep Cameron and Gary in your prayers as we transition to this new life in Christ.

Much love to you!

*Gena+*

### ADA HOUSE CHRISTMAS DINNER

Grace Episcopal members once again hosted the residents, guests, and staff of ADA House to a wonderful Christmas dinner on Sunday evening, December 6, 2009. Ella Anderson and Cathy Gould prepared the invitations for our guests. Leslie Watts decorated the Jenkins Hall entrance and Bob Scott created beautiful Christmas decorations for the tables. Shirley Bridges and the kitchen helpers worked their magic in the kitchen and Janice and Pete Rhymes, along with the other Troop 177 leaders and Boy Scouts, served our guests to a delicious dinner catered by Mosquito Café. We were treated to piano music throughout the evening by Aaron Hervey, our organist, and the evening ended with Christmas carols led by Laura Hyatt and the Grace choir members. Upon leaving, each ADA House resident received a gift from Grace Episcopal Church, which was selected and beautifully wrapped by Susan Walker-Benson.

Thanks to all of our Grace Church members who helped in all the many ways to create such a meaningful evening. Our guests enjoyed being greeted and getting to know our members during dinner and appreciated all of our efforts in preparing, decorating, and serving such a special event for them during the holidays.

*Barbara McGuffey*

## REMEMBERING TIME PAST

Last year's Parish Meeting seems so long ago. We were so injured, traumatized. Parts of us were missing - things we had owned, people who had been our neighbors, day to day life as we had known it - home - broken. Thank God for Grace. We may have been meeting, praying, worshipping, celebrating in chaos, but we had each other. And while it was hard to hear and tell each other's stories, it helped us start to heal - it was just so good to be together.

We are not the same as we were. Like our city, we are smaller. Old friends have moved away, but new ones are among us. Our landscape has changed: our buildings are different; actually, our Church is more beautiful than ever, and our other buildings are better, or becoming that way. Some of our trees will go away, and in one or two cases, that's probably a good thing. We will never be the same again. (Actually, we never were - "the same" is an illusion.) Painful though it can be, change appears to be part of the Plan.

Change is an amazing teacher. It helps us focus on what's really important. It reminds us of the impermanence of things and circumstances, and teaches us that when change happens, it is most easily met when we stop resisting it. It shows us how prone we are to take people and circumstances - our very lives - for granted, and makes us stop doing that, at least for awhile. It makes us more aware of the needs of others. It heals us, as it causes us to grow. It never stops, thankfully; and thankfully, most of the time it is so gradual we hardly notice it, until we remember back to time past.

Grace Church, like each and every one of us, will continue to change. Mostly, it will be the gradual sort that fools us into thinking - believing - that everything is as safe and comfortable as it always has been; the sort that doesn't disrupt us, make us squirm in our skin. But Grace Church, like each and every one of us, will again have to meet that other kind of change sometime. And what we will need to meet it will be available - friends, community, and our changeless God, Who is not somewhere out there, but right here with us, and all about us.

The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore. Amen

Love,  
Vickie Robertson

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, January 6**—The Epiphany of our Lord.

**Sunday, January 17**—Annual Parish Meeting after the 9:30 AM service with Covered dish brunch.

**Thursday, January 21 at 7:00 PM**—The Ordination of the Rev. Chester Makowski at St. Augustine of Hippo in Galveston.

**Monday, February 1 @ 7:00 PM**—Pre-Council meeting at St. Michael's, La Marque.

**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.

### 2010 VESTRY

**SR. WARDEN:** Ella Anderson— 771-3023

**JR. WARDEN:** David Wilkes— 737-2700

**SECRETARY:** Vickie Robertson— 986-1195

**John McCulley— 632-0125**

**Dan Ricketts- 795-0460**

**Carol Ramirez- 740-2029**

**Derek Paget-Clarke- 737-2091**

**TREASURER— Marilyn Cooper— 771-4437**

**CHANCELLOR— Jeff Kilgore— 935-5564**

**RECTOR- Fr. Paul Wehner- 766-0088**

### 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

### ***Happy Anniversary!***

1/6 Barbara & Patrick McGuffey

1/8 Mary & Jeff Kilgore

1/11 Linda & Rick Singleton

1/12 Anne & Jack Jinkins

1/19 Corlie & Michael Jackson

## Happy Birthday!

1/2 Vickie Arthur

1/10 Rose Daniels

Charles Roe

1/12 Edna Wegner

1/17 Alicia Carranza

Jayne Davis

1/19 Caeli Richard

1/20 Fr. Paul

1/21 Anne Prater

1/24 Leda Lee

1/25 Linda Singleton

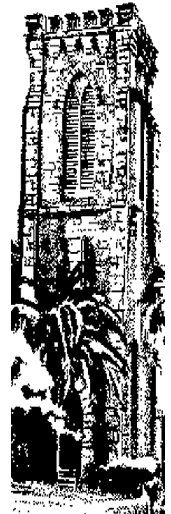
1/26 Peggy Baldwin-Clayton

1/27 Michael Molis

1/28 Val Ramirez

# THE BELL TOWER

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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

THE REVEREND BILL RUSSELL - CURATE

AARON HERVEY - ORGANIST

LAURA HYATT - CHOIR DIRECTOR

CATHY GOULD – PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

MARTINA AYALA - SEXTON

ELLA ANDERSON - SENIOR WARDEN

DAVID WILKES - JUNIOR WARDEN

MARILYN COOPER - 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 - RHONDA CUMMINS

BELL TOWER EDITOR - JAN DORSETT

ST. VINCENT'S HOUSE - MICHAEL JACKSON

WM. TEMPLE EPISCOPAL CENTER - THE REV. KYLE STILLINGS

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