

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S PARISH NEWS

JULY 2018





A LETTER FROM MOTHER JAN

This past month provided one of those intense heart-raising and heart-wrenching times, where joy and tears jockey for position in their perpetual coexistence. Where we are so fully aware of our need and the presence of God.

Our children and so many Jesus-driven leaders came each morning in the Vacation Bible School time, excited, expectant, and open-hearted, ready to sing and play and learn in God. And I was welcomed in the celebrating, especially as we opened and closed the day with just a little buffoonery of this Fool-for-Christ (aka your priest).

Yet each day also included the rest of the work – the living and the dying – the tears and fears and confusion and sorting – even the paperwork. Each day combined the mundane and the breath-taking. And it's all got to be met in love, for there is no other way to keep going.

Isn't that life? Our prayers each Sunday are wise enough to recognize this, juxtaposing our thanksgivings with acknowledgement of our grief. For our opposing emotions go hand in hand through life. Great joy is best tasted by one who's known its absence. And great sorrow most deeply accompanies the joy of great love.

There is one constant – one assurance for us: In all, we are in God's love. We spoke of this constancy that is our salvation in Vacation Bible School. Our theme, "Shipwrecked," visualized of God as our life preserver: with us always, protecting us when the seas are calm and the sun is bright, and remaining with us to keep us afloat when the waves break over our heads in the darkness. Not removing each situation – staying with

us to hold us up. We move through life in God. God is with us in the difficult times and the happy times. God is the constant – God *is* the Life preserver.

It's a great analogy, though a little simpler than we might need. For God is animate. God and we are not to be merely passive companions floating together, but we are to be in active relationship, working and learning throughout the journey. Offering our life preserver to those struggling or singing on their way through life. Rejoicing when each storm ends, and holding fast when a new waves crashes.

Each of us – and our families – and this family of St. Christopher's and beyond go through the waves and the calm continually. It's life on earth, yet in God, life is held up in great hope.

On Saturday, we went to St. John the Divine Episcopal Church in Houston for Becky's ordination. It's in a beautiful part of the city and built to match its surroundings. I spent a lot of time looking at the stained glass window occupying the front of its nave. It's designed in four sections. The lower right frame shows a man – Jesus, I think – kneeling – hands lifted in prayer or acceptance – before a figure who seems to be offering the cross. It's an image of submission and at the same time, readiness.

The next image shows Jesus standing in power, holding a chalice – the Life of the World – with 11 more leading into it and a single spilled chalice in the lower frame. It's a man in his prime – offering everything that's needed to a needy world. Will we take it?

The third image is one of crucifixion: power given up after giving all. It's immediately followed by resurrection and ascension: life beyond the life and lives of the broken. And as we follow the panes, we're led right back where we started: to life lifted to God – in faith and obedience – knowing the cross, the power, the death and the living will all be part. Again – and again. Learning and experiencing into forever. Ready and God's own – forever. It is all about the living, in the now, and yes, somehow the forever.

So what's the message? I think it's about peace – and our reminder that we are *always* going to be in part of the circle of living. And it is a reminder for us of patience in each of life's changes. For we will be joyful – yet pain is almost certain to come into our lives – and then, the joy again. Always, the circle. We are EN-circled by the life-saving love and strength of the Holy Spirit and the circle of love we hope to form through our life's relationships. Our stability comes when our focal point is God, at our Center.

God bless you in the Joy and in the Healing, *Jan+*

Daughters of the King
every 3rd Saturday 9:30a.m.
For information contact Pam:
pamelaclancy60@yahoo.com



*Ladies!
Come join us for Christmas in
July!
"Ladies Nite In" will be at 6:00*

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| July 13 | Naomi and Ritchie West |
| July 17 | Sally and Raymond Williams |
| July 18 | Tim and Vanessa Delgado-Robinson |
| July 29 | Gary and Penny Gillespie |



We have 6 soldiers that we will be packing boxes for on July 17th at 10:00 a.m. Can you help by writing a note or bake some homemade cookies? As always you are welcome to come help pack as well.

Are you called to listen?

Might you want to be part of our St. Christopher's Pastoral Care work?

A team is forming.

Please contact Mother Jan, janicejones2@aol.com, to talk about this possibility.

Register now for the Best Preschool in Central Texas, right here at St. Christopher's. Forms are available at church or contact Preschool at 254-526-8380.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 8 *Michelle Mangliarot*
July 8 *Becky Sparks*
July 12 *Clare Kroeger*
July 14 *Bobbie Moore*
July 17 *Alex Gonzalez*
July 22 *David Hostet*
July 23 *Timothy Giardito*
July 25 *Jerry Taylor*
July 28 *Cheryl Stone*
July 30 *Olivia Walter*

**You are invited to
Extended Family:
A gathering of fellowship and fun.
July 21st at Mies' home
1814 McGinnis Ct, Harker Heights
For info contact Kathy: cashkmh@yahoo.com**

Wednesday Lunch Bunch! M. Jan invites you to come at noon on Wednesdays to talk Bible or life or anything but politics. Bring a friend, bring your knitting (!) - come as you are able beginning on Wednesday, July 11th in our Parish Hall.



**Men's Prayer
Breakfast**

Join us on the 2nd and
4th Saturday of the
month at 8:00a.m. for
food, fellowship and
prayer.

For more information
contact Barnett:

bcarthey@hotmail.com





St. Christopher's needs you to help with the work in and beyond our church. One option is through a gift credit or debit using your credit or debit card. Stop and see our treasurer, Bill, on Sunday morning and he will process your gift.

"All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own we give thee."

Ministry Schedule:

Vestry of the day:

July 1 – Larry
July 8 – Cam
July 15 – Beth
July 22 – Pam
July 29 – Rich

Lay Eucharistic Visitor:

July 1 – Cheryl
July 8 – Dustin
July 15 – Grace and Judy
July 22 – Cheryl
July 29 – Dustin

10:30 Lectors: (listed in order of reading)

July 1 – Nancy Fisher, Marilyn Hennes
July 8 – Nichole Gailey, Beth Bodkin
July 15 – Larry Taylor, Mies Handy
July 22 – Debbie Hargreaves, Chris Messing
July 29 – Callie Koelling, Jared Koelling

Ushers:

July 1 – Lenore Guyton, Carol Carter, Marilyn Hennes
July 8 – Holly and Dave Miller
July 15 – Kathy Stone and Steve Bodkin
July 22 – Steve Culver, Debbie Hargreaves
July 29 – Nichole, David, and Children

Lay Eucharistic Ministers:

July 1 – Rich Fisher, Jayne Doxsey, Naomi Fisher
July 8 – Judy Harris, Steve Bodkin, Scott Clark
July 15 – Will Horne, Grace Kim, Jayne Doxsey
July 22 – Rich Fisher, Scott Clark, Larry Taylor
July 29 – Judy Harris, Steve Bodkin, Kelly Raspberry

Acolyte:

July 1 – Rich Fisher
July 8 – Judy Harris
July 15 – Will Horne
July 22 – Rich Fisher
July 29 – Judy Harris

Children's Chapel:

July 1 – JoAnn Carthey, Melvina Hart
July 8 – Mary Wilson, Cam Baker
July 15 – Barb Snipes, Sue McLendon
July 22 – Judy Harris, Jenny Taylor
July 29 – Cam Baker, JoAnn Carthey

Bread Bakers:

July 1 – Beth Bodkin
July 8 – Mary Wilson
July 15 – JoAnn Carthey
July 22 – Callie Koelling
July 29 – Linda Wood

8:15 Lectors:

July 1 – Royce Ann Crawford
July 8 – Judy Harris
July 15 – Pam Clancy
July 22 – Judy Harris
July 29 – Dave Wood

8:15 LEM:

July 1 – Dave
July 8 – Judy
July 15 – Judy
July 22 – Pam
July 29 – Dave

Altar Guild:

July 1 – Team C
July 8 – Team D
July 15 – Team A
July 22 – Team B
July 29 – Team C

HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH

July 1, 8:15 & 10:30	Services of Holy Eucharist
July 4	Independence Day - Office Closed
July 8, 8:15 & 10:30	Services of Holy Eucharist
July 9, 7:00pm	BINGO at Indian Oaks Nursing home
July 11, Noon	Wednesday Lunch Bunch
July 14, 8:00am	Men's Prayer Breakfast
July 15, 8:15, 10:30 6:30pm	Services of Holy Eucharist Extended Family at Mies' home
July 16, 6:30pm	Vestry meeting
July 17, 10:00am	Packing boxes for deployed soldiers
July 18, Noon	Wednesday Lunch Bunch
July 21, 9:30am 6:00pm	Daughters of the King Vintage Hearts at Otts' home
July 22, 8:15 & 10:30	Services of Holy Eucharist
July 23, 6:00pm	Ladies Night In: Christmas in July
July 25, Noon	Wednesday Lunch Bunch
July 28, 8:00am	Men's Prayer Breakfast
July 29, 8:15 & 10:30	Services of Holy Eucharist

Did you know...that you can give your offering electronically right now?
Just scan this code box and it will take you to our webpage. Then go to the DONATE
button and follow the instructions.

