



THE CURATE



Rector's Corner

As we enter the 50 days of Easter, it is especially important for us to stay in God's Word. The Daily Office is a great way to stay focused and give structure to our daily Bible study. If you have never tried using the Daily Office Lectionary, turn to page 957 in your *Book of Common Prayer*. We are in the week 5 of Lent as I write this article on Monday, March 22. I normally read the Old Testament and Gospel lessons in the morning and the New Testament in the evening. You will see that on this day the Old Testament lesson is from Exodus, the New Testament from First Corinthians, and the Gospel from Mark. You can follow the Lectionary week-by-week through the Church Year.

Last year, I came across the following article written by Charles Colson, and I think that it reinforces beautifully the importance of staying in the Word. It was written just before last Easter.

"As we've talked about the last few days on BreakPoint, Christian hope is not wide-eyed optimism or emotions. Christian hope is based on the certainty of God's promises and His character. And it is evidenced by the fruits of joy, sacrificial love, boldness, and endurance. We see no better example of this kind of hope than in the life of our Savior, especially in the days and hours before His death. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus certainly had cause to abandon hope. His closest friends fell asleep in the time when, as he said, His soul was 'overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.'" He pled with His Father to take the cup away from Him if it was possible. But there was no other way."

Yet even in that hour of agony, Jesus pressed on. The writer of Hebrews tells us why: "For the joy set before Him, [He] endured the cross, despising its shame." When the authorities came for Him, and Judas betrayed the Son of Man with a kiss, Jesus showed us the example of hope's boldness. His disciples reached for their swords to protect Him, but Jesus rebuked them. He said, "Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and He will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?"

No one could press on like this without hope. But where did it come from? Jesus told the disciples its source in those very moments. He said, "But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?" From childhood, Jesus had studied the Word of God. He read from Isaiah's scrolls at the beginning of his public ministry. He had declared Himself to be the Suffering Servant whom Isaiah had foretold.

We see this again later, after the resurrection on the road to Emmaus. Jesus opened up the minds of the disciples to see all the things that had been foretold about Him in the Scriptures. Jesus—He who enjoyed the deepest level of intimacy with the Father—showed us how to put our hope in God by trusting in the Word of God.

The hope God gave Him enabled Him to endure what followed: the mockery, the scourging, the hammer, the lance, and the abandonment. Christ showed us hope transformed into sacrificial love. And as He was crushed under the weight of the sins of the world, the fragrance of His gift goes up to God as the perfect—the most pleasing—of any sacrifice.

And just as had been foretold, on the third day Christ did rise from the grave. He broke the chains of the captive. →

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Rector's Corner Continued

He set the prisoners free by conquering death and sin.

As Christians, we have no reason to lack hope. Christ has shown the trustworthiness of God and of His Word. Having seen that God loved us enough that He did not even spare His own Son, how can we lack for hope today, even in these bleak times? Christ became for us both the basis of our hope, and our ultimate example of hope.

As we celebrate Easter this coming Sunday, I want to challenge you to, in these tough times, make a point to live in light of that tremendous resurrection hope.

Be joyful. Love beyond what is reasonable. Be bold. And endure. You are not like those who have no hope. You live on the other side of the Resurrection. Amen and Amen!

Yours in Christ,
Ted✠

Jr. Warden's Report

Curt Winkler

Greetings St. Philips, I have really enjoyed the Lenten services with all of you. Father Ted has done a wonderful job. For those of you who were unable to attend, you missed some really great speakers not to mention wonderful lunches! Hats off to all the food crews!

Father Ted is really taking us to a new level. I encourage everyone to attend as many services as you can during Holy Week. I think he deserves all of our support.

All looks good with our new gutters and roof. No more leaks over the administrative offices. Bob "the builder" from Watson has stopped the leaks over the Parish Hall entry. He will replace the damaged doors and woodwork; however, due to weather and our busy schedule, I have asked that he wait. We need to get through the Lenten and Easter season first. All will be taken care of when things slow down.

I have several plaques ready and several more to do! Dickens asked that we only give them a few at a time so not to overload them. I will wait until all plaques are finished before I install them.

Please remember to turn off lights and lock

doors. We have been very careful with the lights and our bills reflect that, remember this is your money we are saving!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in church!

Treasurer's Report

Norwood Brenneke

	January	Year-to-Date
Beginning Balance	46,668.17	49,461.53
Total Income	29,060.00	45,876.50
Total Expenses	18,892.64	38,502.50
Ending Balance	56,835.53	56,835.53

St. Mary's Guild

St. Mary's Guild will meet on Monday April 19 at 6 p.m. in the choir room. Bob Beck will do the lesson in Psalms.

In May, St. Mary's will have a salad supper at our last meeting before the summer break. The time and place will be announced in the May Curate and in the Sunday bulletin when we get a firm date and time.

The Chili supper was well attended with approximately 55 people in attendance for good food and fellowship.

DOK

DOK will meet Thursday April 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

ECW

Katherin Wardlaw

We have had a very busy month in ECW. At our meeting on March 9, Mary Kolstad graciously gave a program on the guidelines for using or renting the new Parish Hall kitchen. Mary, thank you for a very helpful talk! We appreciate all you do for ECW and the House Committee.

The ECW sponsored the first Lenten Luncheon on February 23, with Barbara Kolstad in charge of the



ECW Pictures

arrangements.

We appreciate all the hard work that Barbara and her volunteers did to make this luncheon possible.

Linda Walton and Francis Williams successfully completed the large task of choosing and acquiring new flatware for the Parrish Hall kitchen. Martha Polasek and Linda Walton, along with helpers Kathy Wardlaw, Maxine Barnett, Martha Styner, and Kelan finished the new ECW brochure. Linda used her excellent organizing skills, and Martha her amazing computer skills, which resulted in a newly formatted listing of names and contact information of the members of ECW.

The budget committee met before the monthly meeting and proposed a budget for the 2010 year, which the membership approved. Our new budget includes excellent outreach missions (some of which we have been supporting for years). Thanks to this committee for their careful consideration of how to spend funds best to serve God. Joann Evans was the hostess for our last meeting, and we enjoyed the festive table adorned with Easter eggs and Spring decorations.

We are excited about all of the programs that Maxine Barnett has planned for this year and appreciate her hard work to make these possible. Happy Easter from ECW!



A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

We thank you, God our Father, for those who have responded to your call to priestly ministry. Accept this prayer we offer on their behalf: Fill your priests with the sure knowledge of your love. Open their hearts to the power and consolation of the Holy Spirit. Lead them to new depths of union with your Son. Increase in them profound faith in the Sacraments they celebrate as they nourish and heal us.

Lord Jesus Christ, grant that these, your priests, may inspire us to strive for holiness by the power of their example as men of prayer who ponder your Word and follow you will. *Amen*

-selected in part from the Catholic Archdiocese of Hartford

More

ECW Pictures



ALPHA TASK FORCE TEAM

Alpha just isn't Alpha without a meal! It is amazing how sharing a meal gives people a chance to relax and become acquainted.

Food has always been an important part of the Alpha Course because it provides a setting where people get to know each other and form lasting friendships.

The Task Force Team is a critical part of the Alpha team. These people set up and clear away tables, plan menus, purchase ingredients, and cook meals. Members of the Task Force Team are extremely important, because without them, Alpha would simply not happen.

The menus are set, and all we need are volunteers to help for each Monday evening dinner starting April 12. We will need a different team of eight people each week to join Leo. Muriel Mizell, Chris Kolstad, and I will do kitchen duty and serve for the following ten weeks. Of course, anyone may volunteer for more than one week.

Please sign up on sheets in the parish hall kitchen and/or call Mary Kolstad at 903.724.1480 or Muriel Mizell at 903.729.1433. This is an important facet of ministry to our dinner guests and sets the mood for the entire evening.

-Thank you with Blessings from Mary Kolstad

Little Women- The Musical

By Katherin Wardlaw

Have you seen the play at the Texas Theater yet? It is the story of the four March girls and their mother during the Victorian age. The story is a timeless classic. Our own Tom Prater plays the role of Mr. Lawrence, the grumpy grandfather who lives next door.

Congratulations to Tom on his stage debut! Tom started singing at an early age...mostly gospel songs. As a child, he played drums in his father's band as they traveled. He also plays the piano and accordion.

Tom is a welcome addition to the St. Philip's choir, and we wish him continued success with the play!



Tom Prater as Mr. Lawrence

HONDURAS MISSION WORK

By Gay Gayle Cox

As a new member of St. Philip's, I have found Fr. Ted Welty to be very encouraging in his commitment to mission work within and outside the United States. His recognition of its part in the Great Commission was reassuring to me as I made the transition from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Dallas, to my husband John's home parish to be able to worship with his mother, Louise Cox. I first felt truly connected to St. Philip's when Charlie Nichols shared his photographs of the disabled children he found in an under-funded orphanage in Catacamas, Honduras. For all of the 12 years that I was a member of St. Luke's, I was inspired by its continuing involvement in the mission field of Honduras. For many years, I experienced the blessing of the missionaries as they left for the work, but only in the last two years did I join them.

The mission of St. Luke's Mission team includes mentoring other parishes about how mission trips can most effectively serve the people of the host country. The mission team leaders have taught others at St. Michael's and All Angels, Incarnation, Epiphany, Transfiguration and Good Shepherd how to do this work, and those parishes have gone on to conduct their own missions. Mission work builds up the church that sponsors the trip and helps bridge the connection of members in other local Christian communities as well as with those served on the mission trips. As churches see the aging and dwindling of their memberships, it is important to

Honduras Continued

find ways that offer the opportunity for hands-on Christian service. A commitment to serve the “least of these” can energize a congregation as the members work together—whether they actually go on the mission trip, serve on the prayer team at home, help with the logistics of assembling the supplies and packing for the trip, donate or raise funds at parish-wide events, or simply celebrate the leaving and return of the missionaries.

I was given the opportunity to speak at the March 21 Sunday school about the most recent trip to Honduras. My purpose for the talk was to inspire St. Philip’s members to consider accepting the opportunity to partner with St. Luke’s in 2011 for their next Honduran mission trip. This would entail a number of St. Philip’s members committing to go and “learn the ropes”. First, they would meet with Carol Taylor of St. Luke’s. Team leaders would be paired with experienced missionaries, and St. Luke’s would share all their protocols. I would be happy to offer the Power-Point presentation again for others who might like to see it. There was a very nice turnout for the first showing despite the snow!

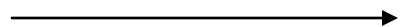
The Bishop of the Diocese of Honduras (a Diocese of the Episcopal Church of the USA), The Rt. Rev. Lloyd Allen, conducted a retreat for St. Luke’s, Epiphany and Good Shepherd in February to prepare them for their upcoming trips. He focused on the need for mission efforts to be about “teaching the people to fish, not giving them fish”. ECUSA has cut the funding of the Diocese by 30%, which he considers a blessing as they are forced to look for other ways to support the missions and help them obtain parish status. In the presentation, I featured two mission congregations in Honduras that are attempting to become self-supporting by selling noon meals prepared by members and growing vegetables on the church’s plot. The key, Bishop Allen believes, is in the field of microeconomics/microfinance. He told me about Honduras Hope, <http://www.hondurashope.org/>, a Dallas based group with whose leadership we can connect, and Five Talents, <http://www.fivetalents.org/>. I told him about St. Philip’s and the business acumen of its members. He believes that we as a parish could be instrumental in helping with this effort. He said that when Charlie comes again to Honduras, he would send a missionary couple (the wife is a physical therapist) with him to see about the orphanage he discovered.

There is no presence of the Episcopal Church in Catacamas, so this could be the beginning of a mission planting.

Bishop Allen suggested those at the retreat read, “The Hole in our Gospel” by the President of World Vision U.S., Richard Stearns, published in 2009 by Thomas Nelson. <http://www.theholeinourgospel.com/blog/do-you-think-there-is-a-hole-in-our-gospel/>. We used a study guide that goes with the book to discuss the text. I highly recommend you read this book and consider how in our global community the definition of “our neighbor” has greatly expanded. We may want to start a book club to discuss its chapters. If anyone wants to start such a group on Saturday evenings, I would gladly facilitate it. Just contact me at ggcox@swbell.net. The book points out how Christians in the USA now have the “awareness, access, and ability” to reach out far beyond our borders. Affordable airfare and mass communication has only made this truly possible for people like us in the last 50 years. Now that it is, we have a duty to use this technology to spread the good news worldwide in a way it has never been possible before.

In announcing his ministry at the synagogue in Nazareth, his home village, Jesus said he fulfilled the Isaiah passage which states “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor”. Luke 4:18, quoting Isaiah 61.1. If you remove all the references to poverty and social and economic injustice (there are over 2000 verses pertaining to these subjects, see <http://www.povertyandjusticebible.org/Home.php>), there would literally be a hole in your Bible and your Gospel. We are so very financially blessed. “If your income is \$25,000 a year, you are wealthier than approximately 90 percent of the world’s population! If you make \$50,000 per year, you are wealthier than 99 percent of the world! Does this shock you? Remember, of the 6.7 billion people on earth, almost half of them live on less than two dollars a day.” Read “The Hole in Our Gospel”, p. 215.

What will Jesus say when he reminds us that it was Him personally we had the opportunity to help when we encountered someone who was sick, hungry, thirsty or naked? We can make a huge difference when we go and share the love of Jesus to the poor. When Jesus said, “For ye have the poor with you always” (Mark 14:7), the listeners would have



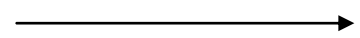
thought of Deuteronomy 15:11 that states, “For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, you shall open your hand wide unto your brother, to your poor, and to your needy, in your land.” Reaching out to the poor (with wide-open hands) is the means of sharing the Gospel. Do we actually believe what we pray when we ask that God’s will be done *on Earth*? Then, it’s up to us to be the Body of Christ that goes about the earth doing this work. Like St. Francis of Assisi said, “Preach the gospel always; if necessary, use words”. Each mission trip is called La Brigada de Amor, The Brigade of Love, which makes the purpose clear. Our expression of Christ’s love by action is the evangelism we take to the world.

St. Luke’s mission trips always include medical, dental, and eyeglass clinics, children’s Christian education, and construction teams. Speaking Spanish is not required. Anyone can find a way to serve.

TAKING BLOOD PRESSURE



2010 HONDURAS GROUP



MORE HONDURAS PICTURES



BROTHERHOOD GARDEN CHECK



CONSRUCTION CREW



CHILDREN



DR. PRAYING



← **PRAYING**

↑ **TRIAGE**



**DENTISTS****EYEGLASSES**

THE INFLUENCE OF CHRISTIANITY ON WESTERN CULTURE

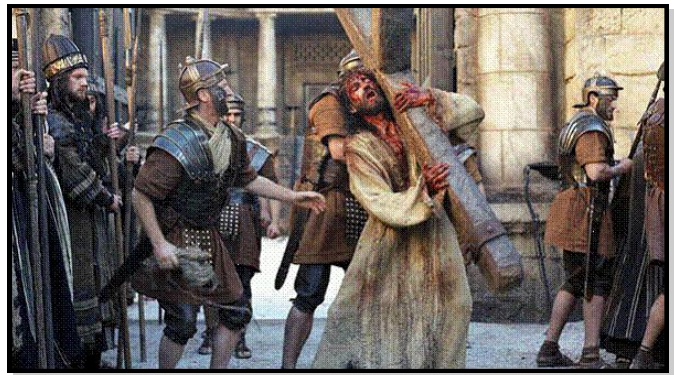
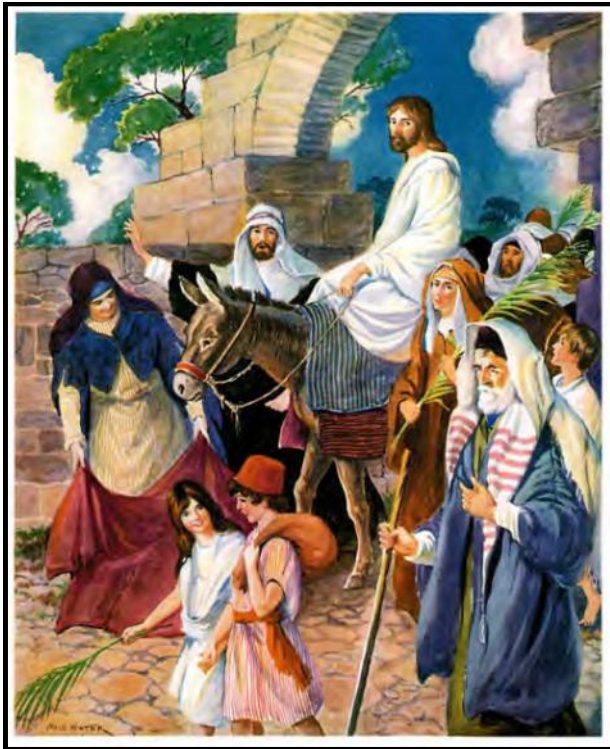
As the proponents of revisionist history attempt to minimize the influence of Christianity on our culture, just take a look at these expressions that are used in our everyday communication:

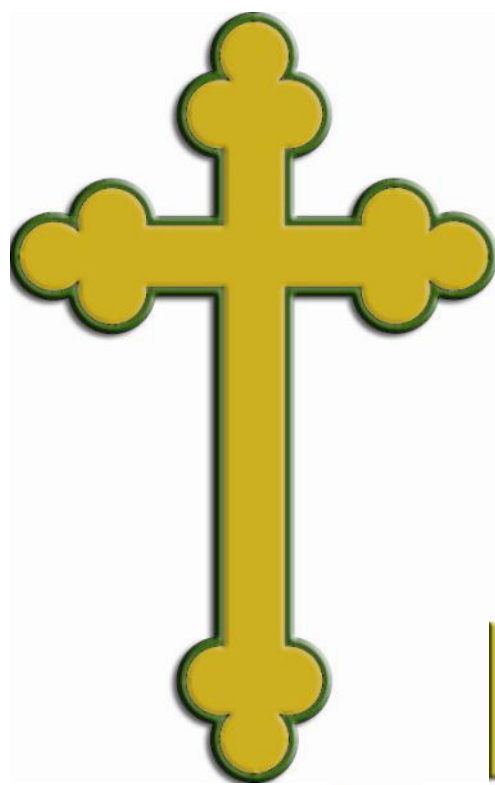
- "A law unto themselves" Romans 2:14
- "A house divided" Matthew 12:25, Luke 11:17
- "A man after his own heart" 1 Samuel 13:14
- "Apple of my eye" Deuteronomy 2:10, Zechariah 2:8
- "At my wit's end" Psalm 107:27
- "Blind leading the blind" Matthew 15:14, Luke 6:39
- "By the skin of our teeth" Job 19:20
- "Can a leopard change his spots?" Jeremiah 13:23
- "Don't cast your pearls before swine" Matthew 7:6
- "Drop in the bucket" Isaiah 40:15
- "Dust of the earth" Genesis 13:16
- "Eat, drink, and be merry" Ecclesiastes 8:15
- "Eye for an eye" Exodus 21:24, Leviticus 24:20, Deuteronomy 19:21 Matthew 5:38
- "Good Samaritan" Luke 10:25-37
- "He gave up the ghost" Luke 23:46
- "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone" John 8:7
- "Handwriting on the wall" Daniel 5:5
- "How are the mighty fallen" 1 Samuel 1:19-27
- "Labor of love" 1 Thessalonians 1:3
- "Letter of the law" 2 Corinthians 3:6
- "Man shall not live by bread alone" Deuteronomy 8:3, Matthew 4:4

-More to follow...

**DR. FIXLER**

JESUS' SACRIFICE FOR US- HIS GIFT OF LOVE TO US





Easter



Alleluiah!

The Lord is Risen Indeed!

Altar Flowers

Altar Flower Memorials and Thanksgivings

To make an offering for flowers, please fill out and return the form below. Be sure to list those you are remembering or honoring in order for the names to appear in the service bulletin.

2010 Altar Flower Offering

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Flowers given in loving memory of

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Flowers given in thanksgiving of:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

My check for \$_____ payable to **St. Philip's Altar Flowers** is enclosed.

Mail to: Altar Guild Flowers, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 106 E. Crawford , Palestine, TX 75801.

THE DISCIPLINE OF STUDY

The purpose of the spiritual disciplines is the total transformation of the person. It aims at replacing old destructive habits of thoughts with new life-giving habits. Nowhere is this purpose more clearly seen than in the discipline of study. The apostle Paul tells us that the way we are transformed is through the renewal of the mind (Rom. 12:2). The mind is renewed by applying it to those things that will transform it. "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is anything worthy of praise, *think* about these things."(Phil. 4:8). The discipline of study is the primary vehicle to bring us to "*think* about these things."

Therefore, we should rejoice that we are not left to our own devices, but have been given this means of God's grace for the changing of our inner spirit.

-selected from Celebration of Discipline by Richard J. Foster

Cursillo

Jenny Cunningham and Martha Polasek traveled to Longview and presented a Chaining and Philosophy program to the NE Convocation Cursillo team meeting in preparation for Cursillo #228 to be held at Camp Allen on June 17-20.

The Women's Cursillo group usually meets on Monday evenings at 5:30 in the parlor. In order for the members of this group to participate in the Alpha program, we have changed our meeting time to **Thursday** evenings at the same time and place, starting April 16.



APRIL 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:30p Euch/foot washing	2 Good Friday 8:00a Men's Cursillo 12p Euch from Reserved Sac/ Stations of the Cross	3 Easter Vigil 8p Euch/Baptism
4 EASTER 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Fellowship 10a Euch Rite II	5 5:30p Women's Cursillo Group 6p OT Study	6 6:15p Girl Scouts	7 9 a Staff Mtg. 10a Bible Study 5:30p Euch/Heal 6:30p Choir	8 5:30p DOK Mtg.	9 8:00a Men's Cursillo Group	10
11 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Bible Study 10a Euch Rite II	12 6p OT Study 6p Alpha	13 9:30a ECW 6p Vestry Mtg. 6:15p Girl Scouts	14 9a Staff Mtg. 10a Bible Study 5:30p Euch/Heal 6:30p Choir	15 5:30p Women's Cursillo Group	16 8:00a Men's Cursillo Group	17
18 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Bible Study 10a Euch Rite II	19 6p OT Study 6p St. Mary's Guild 6p Alpha	20 6:15p Girl Scouts	21 9a Staff Mtg. 10a Bible Study 5:30p Euch/Heal 6:30p Choir	22 8a Pal Resource Ctr. Parish Hall Use 5:30p Women's Cursillo Group	23 8a Pal Resource Ctr. Parish Hall Use 8:00a Men's Cursillo Group	24
25 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Bible Study 10a Euch Rite II	26 6p OT Study 6p Alpha	27 6:15p Girl Scouts	28 9a Staff Mtg. 10a Bible Study 12p Eucharist 5:30p Euch/Heal 6:30p Choir	29 5:30p Women's Cursillo Group	30 8:00a Men's Cursillo Group	

March 2010						
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28						

May 2010						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Happy Birthday

- 6 Frank George Jr.
- 13 Linda McDonald
- 13 John Raney
- 30 Shirlee Padgett
- 30 Katherin Wardlaw



Anniversaries



- Dan & Marian Raney
- Butch & Judy Bradley
- Mike Gorby & Carolyn Salter
- Frank & Jeanette George

CHURCH INFORMATION

ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

Rector Ted Welty
Church Administrator Kelan Eckerman
Organist/Choirmaster Clarissa Delany
Sexton Chris Rogers

Leo Mizell (Senior Warden)
Curt Winkler (Junior Warden)
Norwood Brenneke (Treasurer)
Mark Davis (Vestry Clerk)

Bob Blackwell Kay Chapman
Frank George Jay Dietz
Ann Royall Maffitt Sparky Kolstad
Charlie Nichols Martha Styner

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday -Thursday 9a-5p
Friday 9a-12p
Closed Federal Holidays
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Fax: 903-729-8691

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Priest: twelty4235@aol.com
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stphilipsalastine@embarqmail.com
Website: stphilipepiscopalchurch.org
Curate: ma_polasek@earthlink.net

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