



THE CURATE



Rector's Corner

Keeping a Holy Lent

The Proper Preface for Lent:

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Several people have asked me to write something about how to keep a holy Lent, and I think that this preface that is said during the Eucharistic Prayer in Lent provides a very good summary of a holy Lent. Lent is about cleansing, preparing, praying, giving, renewing, and growing. The ultimate purpose of Lent is to strengthen our spiritual lives, and in the early Church, it was a time when converts to Christ were taught the faith in preparation for their baptism at the Easter Vigil. Lent prepares us for Easter and our encounter with the risen Lord. It is a time of self-examination and repentance through prayer, fasting, self-denial, alms-giving, meditating on the Scriptures, and participating in the Sacraments. The key, however to keeping a holy Lent is time, time spent with God.

Here are several suggestions for Lenten activities:

1. Give yourself a spiritual checkup. Step back and reflect on how you are living your life and see if there are areas where there is a need for change or in religious language, *repentance*. I know that Confession is not widely practiced at St. Philip's since I have heard only

one in my seven months here, but it can be good for the soul. It is completely confidential, and remember that you are confessing to God, not to me. Give me a call if you want to schedule an appointment.

2. Dedicate at least 30 minutes in the morning and 30 minutes in the evening for prayer and reading the Bible. The *Daily Office* is a great way to do this. If you are not familiar with navigating the *Daily Office*, not to worry. Give me a call and I will be glad to help you. It will only take a few minutes.
3. Take advantage of the Noonday Prayer services held at St. Philip's every Tuesday at noon during Lent. We have a great lineup of speakers and this is a good time for prayer, reflection, and fellowship that includes a free lunch.
4. Find a good Christian book and read it during Lent. Some authors I recommend are C.S. Lewis, Dallas Willard, Charles Colson, Bishop Tom Wright, and Henri Nouwen. A classic that is perfect for Lent is *The Imitation of Christ* by Thomas à Kempis.
5. Give alms. Find some clear need in Palestine or an overseas mission and send them money. The St. Philip's Fund for the Poor is a great way to help the needy.
6. You are probably not going to like this last suggestion. Self-denial. Giving something up for Lent like a food or drink or activity can help us focus. I recommend fasting at least for some period of time on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

During this season of Lent, you will be hearing more from me about these ways of keeping a holy Lent. Lent is an opportunity for true spiritual growth not only for us individually, but for our Church.

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During Lent we can lay a spiritual foundation that will carry us through the entire year. Have a holy Lent!
Yours in Christ,

Ted ☩

Jr. Warden's Report

Curt Winkler

Greetings St. Philip's!

I would like to thank all of you for your confidence in me as a new Vestry member. Father Ted asked and the Vestry unanimously selected me as your Junior Warden. My first couple of weeks have been pretty busy getting reacquainted with where everything is. I look forward to serving this church in the coming year. If anyone has any problems, please feel free to contact me.

Treasurer's Report

Norwood Brenneke

	December	Year-to-Date	Budget
Beginning Balance	23,426.90	33,859.92	225,000.00
Total Income	40,566.00	223,161.08	
Total Disbursements	13,675.89	206,703.99	
Ending Balance	50,317.01	50,317.01	

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Our Lay Eucharistic Visitors assisting Fr. Ted in visiting our members who are homebound or in nursing homes and/or assisted living facilities made 18 visits in January to celebrate Holy Communion with them.



Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. Jn 6:35



St. Mary's Guild

St. Mary's Guild Meeting will be on Monday, February 15 at 6 p.m. Bob Beck will do lessons in the Psalms. There will also be a planning meeting for the Chili Supper to be held on Wednesday, March 17.

ECW

The Episcopal Church Women began the new year on January 12, with newly elected president Katherin Wardlaw presiding. Future programs and projects were discussed including an update of the ECW membership brochure, the newly established House Committee and other committee functions.

Parishioner Willi Buhl presented a humorous program entitled "When in Rome".

On February 9, Fr. Ted Welty will present a program in which he will discuss the 10 week Alpha Program that is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, April 6.



From the Better Business Bureau

All family members need to be aware of this. With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data. The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice: If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.

Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census. **REMEMBER, NO MATTER WHAT THEY ASK, YOU REALLY ONLY NEED TO TELL THEM HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE AT YOUR ADDRESS.**

While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, **YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION.** The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Any one asking for that information is NOT with the Census Bureau.

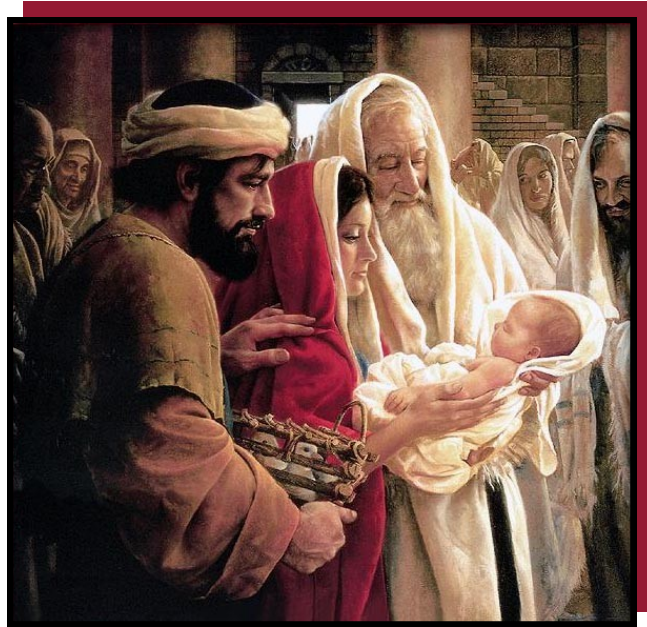
AND REMEMBER, THE CENSUS BUREAU HAS DECIDED NOT TO WORK WITH ACORN ON GATHERING THIS INFORMATION. No Acorn worker should approach you saying he/she is with the Census Bureau.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by E-mail, so be on the lookout for E-mail scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an E-mail that is supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.



Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not upon your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6



The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

The Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple celebrates an early episode in the life of Jesus. The Presentation of Christ in the Temple is a Principal Feast celebrated either on February 2 or on the Sunday between January 28 and February 3.

The event is described in the Gospel of Luke 2:22–40. Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem forty days after his birth to complete Mary's ritual purification after childbirth, and to perform the redemption of the firstborn, in obedience to the Law of Moses (Leviticus 12, Exodus 13:12-15, etc.).

Upon bringing Jesus into the temple, they encountered Simeon the Righteous. The Gospel records that Simeon had been promised that *"he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord."* (Luke 2:26) Simeon prayed the prayer that would become known as the *Nunc Dimittis*, or Canticle of Simeon, which prophesied the redemption of the world by Jesus:

"Lord, now you are letting your servant go in peace, just as you said. I have seen with my own eyes the one you have sent to save people. You have made this way for all peoples to be saved. He is a light which will shine for those who do not know God. He is the one who will bring praise to your people Israel." (Luke 2:29-32).

Simeon then prophesied to Mary: "He will be a sign that people do not believe in. He will make many

people in Israel fall and rise. (Yes, a long knife will cut your heart too.) What people think will be made known." (Luke 2:34-35).

The elderly prophetess Anna was also in the Temple, and offered prayers and praise to God for Jesus, and spoke to everyone there about Jesus and his role in the redemption of Israel (Luke 2:36-38).

Altar Flowers

Thanks to all who participate in giving altar flower memorials and thanksgiving offerings. To designate flowers on February 7 and 14, please call the church office or contact Francis Williams at 903-729-5743.

DOK

There will be no DOK meeting in February.



Mardi Gras

Will everyone please turn in all ticket money and any bills relating to Mardi Gras as soon as possible, so that we can have a complete accounting by the ECW February meeting. Thanks so much!



Bible Studies Resume

The Old Testament Bible study at 6 p.m. at Bebe Beazley's home will resume Monday, February 1. The Wednesday morning Bible study will resume February 3 at 10 a.m.

Lenten Luncheons

This year we will continue the long-standing tradition of Lenten luncheons at St. Philip's. Each Tuesday of Lent we will have a service of Noonday Prayer beginning at 12:00 Noon with lunch to follow. The schedule of guest preachers follows:

- February 23** Rev. Bruce Hay, Sr. Pastor, First United Methodist Church of Palestine
- March 2** The Rt. Rev. Rayford High, Bishop Suffragan of The Diocese of Texas
- March 9** Rev. Roy Duncan, Pastor, Antioch Baptist Church, Palestine
- March 16** The Hon. Bascom Bentley, State District Judge
- March 23** Rev. Jay Abernathy, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Palestine

Cursillo

Cursillo will be held at beautiful Camp Allen four times in 2010. The dates are:
#227 - Feb 4-7 (Hosted by the Secretariat)
#228 - Jun 17-20 (Hosted by NE Convocation)
#229 - Aug 26-29 (Hosted by SW Convocation)
#230 - Nov 11-14 (Campsite-E. Harris Convocation)

Scholarships are available at St. Philip's. To arrange for a scholarship, contact Jenny Cunningham at 903-478-3804 or Martha Polasek at 903-723-4754. You can download an application to attend a Cursillo weekend at www.episcopalcursillotexas.org and click on "Register". You may also get one from Jenny or Martha.

Merry and Bob Blackwell will be on the team of Cursillo #228, June 17-20. The N.E. Convocation team will be made up from Episcopal Churches in the NE Convocation.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday comes this year on February 17, and we will have two services at St. Philip's that day. Both services will be the Holy Eucharist with the imposition of ashes at noon and 5:30. This Ash Wednesday service begins our Lenten journey as the ashes smudged on our foreheads remind us of our mortality and our need for forgiveness. We start here because we must know our need for mercy and grace before we can receive God's freely given gift of salvation.

The focus of Ash Wednesday is on penitence, or sorrow for sin, and fasting; the imposition of ashes is a reminder that we are mortal and that we receive eternal life as a free gift of God. At the appropriate time in the service, you will be asked to come forward to the altar rail and either stand or kneel. Father Ted will make the sign of the Cross on your forehead with the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

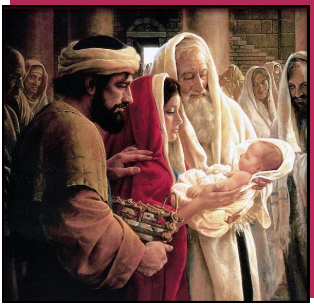
Whether or not you remove the ashes after the service is strictly a matter of personal choice, but some people leave them on as a testimony to their faith and a public reminder of this Holy Day in our Church Calendar. Others prefer to follow Jesus' directive to "go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret." Following the imposition of the ashes, we will read Psalm 51 together and then pray the Litany of Penitence. This is a day that we contemplate our mortality and then offer grateful thanks for the great gift God has given us in His Son Jesus Christ.



Journaling as a Lenten Discipline

Journaling can be a tool for self examination. The empty page is always ready to receive the contents of your heart. No one sees it but you. Jesus can show us truth regarding the state of our heart.

Journaling is a way to center our thoughts on Christ, write our prayers and record the ones that have been answered, write down wisdom and insights gleaned from scripture and from listening to our teacher, the Holy Spirit. Spiritual growth is a process, and journaling can be very beneficial.



February

2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30 p <i>Women's Cursillo Group</i> 6 p OT Study	2 The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple 6:15 p Girl Scouts	3 10 a Bible Study 9 a Staff Mtg. 5:30 p Euch/Healing 6:30 p Choir	4	5 8:00 a <i>Men's Cursillo Group</i>	6
7 7:30 a Euch Rite I 8:45 a Bible Study 10 a Euch Rite II	8 5:30 p <i>Women's Cursillo Group</i> 6 p OT Study	9 9:30 a ECW 6 p Vestry Mtg. 6:15 p Girl Scouts	10 10 a Bible Study 9 a Staff Mtg. 5:30 p Euch/Healing 6:30 p Choir	11 DOK-No mtg. this month	12 8:00 a <i>Men's Cursillo Group</i> Lincoln's B-day	13
14 7:30 a Euch Rite I 8:45 a Bible Study 10 a Euch Rite II 	15 6 p St Mary's Guild President's Day 5:30 p <i>Women's Cursillo Group</i> 6 p OT Study	16 6:15 p Girl Scouts	17 Ash Wed/ Imposition of Ashes 12 noon & 5:30 p 10 a Bible Study 9 a Staff Mtg. 5:30 p Euch/Heal 6:30 p Choir	18	19 8:00 a <i>Men's Cursillo Group</i>	20
21 Lent Begins 7:30 a Euch Rite I 8:45 a Bible Study 10 a Euch Rite II	22 5:30 p <i>Women's Cursillo</i> 6 p OT Study	23 12 p Lenten Speaker: Rev. Bruce Hay followed by Luncheon 6:15 p Girl Scouts	24 10 a Bible Study 9 a Staff Mtg. 5:30 p Euch/Heal 6:30 p Choir	25	26 8:00 a <i>Men's Cursillo Group</i>	27
28 2nd Sun Lent 7:30 a Euch Rite I 8:45 a Bible Study 10 a Euch Rite II						

January 2010							March 2010						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													



- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 John Myers | 13 Helen Elliott |
| 2 Louise Cox | 13 Elizabeth McDonald |
| 3 Bill Mitchell | 14 Butch Bradley |
| 5 Chris Kolstad | 15 Nina Winkler |
| 5 Willi Buhl | 20 Alicia Bennett |
| 7 Suzanne Mills | 27 Justin Weiner |
| 8 Judy Nemer | 28 Bennett Gierkey |
| 8 Haley Weiner | |
| 10 Sara Bradley | |
| 11 David Brown | |
| 12 Jenny Cunningham | |



Anniversaries



- 5 Jim & Chauncey Boone
- 20 Chris & Toni Rogers



CHURCH INFORMATION

ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

Monday -Thursday 9a-5p
 Friday 9a-12p
Closed Federal Holidays
Phone: 903-729-4214
Fax: 903-729-8691

Church Office email:

Priest: twelty4235@aol.com
Church Administrator: kelan@stphilipepiscopalchurch.org
Website: stphilipepiscopalchurch.org

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