



# THE CURATE



February 2011



## Rector's Corner

**L**ast week I got a call from one of the funeral homes here in Palestine asking if I would come to the funeral home and do a funeral for a woman who had been a member of St. Philip's. I didn't recognize the name, but I agreed to do it. The woman's son then called me and asked if the funeral could be at St. Philip's. I told him that I would do the service at St. Philip's, but because of other commitments, we couldn't handle a reception. The family scheduled the reception at First United Methodist Church. Since the son is from out of town, I didn't meet with the family until the day before the funeral. The husband, son, and his wife met with me, and I went over a draft of the service leaflet with them. I explained that at St. Philip's, the only flowers in the church for a funeral are in the wall sconces behind the altar. I suggested that the family have the flowers delivered for the reception.

When the family told me that they had asked a grandson to deliver a eulogy during the funeral, I explained to them that there is no provision for a eulogy during the Burial Office in our Prayer Book. They discussed this among themselves for a few minutes and then said that the grandson probably didn't want to give a eulogy anyway. The next day, the service went as planned, and I went to the Oakwood Cemetery for the Committal. The son and husband said that it had been a beautiful service and thanked me. Since then I have received, what I would be considered hate mail from two of the family members complaining about the policy on flowers in the church and eulogies. These emails are both profane and threatening. I have since learned that the

deceased left St. Philip's with great anger and harsh words.

This unpleasant experience has made me want to make sure that we are all on the same page regarding funerals. The Burial Office begins, *I am the Resurrection and the Life, saith the Lord; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.* As Christians, we are called to witness, even in death to the new life God gives us in Christ through his death and Resurrection. Our *Book of Common Prayer* helps us keep our priorities straight and always keep God at the center of our liturgy. Our Burial Office is an act of worship where we glorify God for the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. It is also a time when members of the Church gather to comfort one another and offer mutual support and assurance of God's love for us all. It is a liturgy of celebration where we give thanks for the life of a deceased loved one and commend that person to the care of the Almighty and Everliving God.

Our Prayer Book contains instructions for conducting the various services including the Burial Offices, and these instructions are called rubrics. They are found in italics in various places along with the liturgy. The Episcopal Church further clarifies these instructions in a book called *Prayer Book Rubrics Expanded*. My policy on flowers and eulogies follows the rubrics of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.

I think that the policy on funeral flowers is pretty well understood at St. Philip's. Only altar flowers are permitted in the Church. Additional flowers may certainly be displayed in the Parish →

### Inside this issue:

Rector's Corner	1,2
Sr. Warden's Report	2
Treasurer's Report	2
Jr. Warden's Report (No Report)	
DOK	2
Altar Guild	3
Altar Flowers	3
ECW	3
St. Mary's Guild	3
My Utmost for His Highest	3,4
Cursillo	4
Fiesta	4
Bible Studies	4
ECW Pictures	5
Annual Parish Mtg. Pictures	6-11
Calendar, Birthdays Anniversaries	12
Church Information	13

## Rector's Corner Continued

Hall. From *Prayer Book Rubrics Expanded*, "Flowers should be restricted by parish policy. Flowers are appropriate in the places customary at the parish Eucharist; some arrangements might be allowed in the narthex or the parish hall; a spray may be used to cover the coffin when it is carried from the church (but it should not be used over or in place of the pall in the church)."

My impression is that the policy on eulogies is less well understood. Here is what *Prayer Book Rubrics Expanded* says about eulogies, "A homily may be preached by the celebrant in Rite I, or by the celebrant, or a friend or a relative in Rite II. It would also seem appropriate for an assisting minister to preach the homily. Note that it is a homily and not a eulogy. Its purpose is to draw out the way in which the lessons speak to the particular situation. Caution should be used if a friend or relative gives the homily; this may be emotionally difficult, and the person may find it hard to present a homily rather than a eulogy." A homily is a short sermon, and it can certainly remember the life of the deceased, but the homily should also remind us of our belief in God's loving gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Here is something that I include in every funeral homily, "...in this liturgy that has been handed down to us over the centuries the emphasis is on life, not death. The focus of the service we are experiencing today is on new life – new life in Jesus Christ. This is an Easter liturgy that finds its meaning in the resurrection. Jesus Christ defeated death once and for all, and because God raised him from the dead, we too shall be raised."

During the planning of a funeral with family of the deceased, the subject of a eulogy often comes up. I will allow a friend or family member to preach a homily, provided that I can see a copy of it prior to the service. Also, I recommend to families that the appropriate place for a eulogy is at a wake or reception. Several years ago while I was serving in Tyler, a woman who had four children died, and the children were dead-set on each one of them speaking at her funeral. I finally convinced them to give the eulogies at the reception in the parish hall. One of her grandchildren put together a video remembering her life, and when it was over, various family members spoke about what she had meant to them. It was beautiful. More recently, some of you may have attended the reception following Bill Mitchell's

memorial service. His family put together a slide show of his life that was very meaningful.

Many times, I have witnessed tension among family members of a deceased relative, because they have no idea what kind of funeral the person wanted. It helps immensely to plan ahead and leave something in writing and not burden your family with planning a funeral during their time of grief. Please feel free to contact me to help you prepare. I know that thinking about a funeral can seem morbid and something to avoid, but always remember the words of St. Paul who wrote, "*neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" Thanks be to God.

Yours in Christ,  
Ted †

## Sr. Warden's Report

2010 was a year in which St. Philip's was richly blessed, and it is good to look back and reflect upon these blessings. It is equally good, however, to look forward and prepare for the opportunities which 2011 contains. Among other things, we look forward to another Alpha course, a mission trip to Honduras, and a trip to The Holy Land. We are indeed blessed to have a Rector so dedicated to our mission statement, and I know that we are each in a position to, in some small way, help him shoulder these responsibilities.

## Treasurer's Report

Norwood Brenneke

	December	Year-to-Date
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	27,517.96	4,961.53
<b>Total Income</b>	28,759.22	242,477.75
<b>Total Expenses</b>	16,282.36	251,944.46
<b>Ending Balance</b>	39,994.82	39,994.82

## DOK



The DOK will meet on Thursday, February 10 at 5:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

## Altar Guild

**T**he altar guild served at four funerals in a two weeks' time period. We would still like to have new members so that they could share the joy of service. We thank the Lord for the women who serve faithfully for each service.

If you are interested in participating in a unique ministry at St. Philips, please contact Bev Beck at (903) 723-8874 or (903) 391-4479.

## Altar Flowers

**T**o dedicate **ALTAR FLOWERS** on a particular date, please contact Francis Williams at (903) 729-5743 or the Parish Administrator. Checks for altar flower donations should be made out to St. Philip's Altar Flowers and mailed to the church office.



**ECW**

*Katherin Wardlaw*



**T**he ECW met on January 11, with Joann Evans hosting. Thank you, Joann, for a lovely table and refreshments! Beverly Beck gave a powerful devotional about setting goals throughout our lives as Elizabeth Stafford Hutchinson did. Beverly said that if we as believers set goals with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God, and allowed nothing to keep us from accomplishing those goals, we, as the Body of Christ would be more effective. Then as we come into the Lord's presence in prayer and meditation, we would most likely hear him say to us, "Well done, my faithful servant". Most of you know that Mrs. Hutchinson was an amazing worker and an example for us all in setting goals and accomplishing them.

Vicky Gossett, Licensed Professional Counselor, and retired instructor from Trinity Valley Community College, gave a motivating program entitled, "To You, Who Is Jesus?" Vicky shared her spiritual understandings regarding the Virgin Mary, angels, Joseph, and the shepherds. She remarked that Jesus fulfilled hundreds of prophecies, which would be scientifically and mathematically unlikely unless He is who He says He is...the Son of God.

She went on to say that it is grace that makes Christianity unique from all the other religions of the world. She gave many examples of God's grace from the Scripture and modern life.

Linda Walton graciously agreed to be the new ECW photographer. Marilee Rogers gave a heartwarming report on the family that ECW sponsored for Christmas. Marilee and Melissa Winkler worked with this family carefully and helped the mother shop for a wonderful Christmas for her children, all supported by our ECW. Ann Welty gave an update on Fiesta. She reminded us that January 21 and 22 would be "cooking chili days" in the church kitchen. It was suggested that people brown their hamburger meat before they arrive at the kitchen.

Ann reported that 1,000 Fiesta tickets are in circulation. We hope to sell every single one of them! It is not too late to volunteer to serve in any capacity! Please notify the church office if you would like to help us. The next ECW meeting is March 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Muriel Mizell will host. We'll see you there!

## St. Mary's Guild

*Marian Raney*

**S**t. Mary's will meet on Monday February 21 at 6 p.m. for refreshments and at 6:30 p.m. for the meeting. We will be making plans for our Spaghetti lunch fund raiser (held on March 20 after the 10 a.m. service). Mark your calendar and join us! Thank you!

## My Utmost for His Highest

*A selected reading by Oswald Chambers*

### Have You Ever Been Alone With God?

"When they were alone, He expounded all things to His disciples." *Mark 4:34*

**Our Solitude with Him.** Jesus does not take us alone and expound things to us all the time; He expounds things to us as we can understand them. Other lives are parables. God is making us spell out our own souls. It is slow work, so slow that it takes God all time and eternity to make a man and woman after His own purpose. The only way we can be of use to God is to let Him take us through the crooks and crannies of our own characters. It is astounding how ignorant we are about ourselves! We do not know envy when we see it,



**My Utmost for His Highest Continued**

or laziness or, pride. Jesus reveals to us all that this body has been harboring before His grace began to work. How many of us have learned to look in with courage?

We have to get rid of the idea that we understand ourselves, it is the last conceit to go. The only One Who understands us is God. The greatest curse in spiritual life is conceit. If we have ever had a glimpse of what we are like in the sight of God, we shall never say, "Oh, I am so unworthy," because we shall know we are, beyond the possibility of stating it. As long as we are not quite sure that we are unworthy, God will keep narrowing us in until He gets us alone. Wherever there is any element of pride or conceit, Jesus cannot expound a thing. He will take us through the disappointment of a wounded pride of intellect, through disappointment of heart. He will reveal inordinate affections - things over which we never thought He would have to get us alone. We listen to many things in classes, but they are not an exposition to us yet. They will be when God gets us alone over them.

"When He was alone, the twelve ...asked of Him..." *Mark 4:10*

**His Solitude with Us.** When God gets us alone by affliction, heartbreak, or temptation, by disappointment, sickness, or by thwarted affection, by a broken friendship, or by a new friendship - when He gets us absolutely alone, and we are dumbfounded, and cannot ask one question, then He begins to expound. Watch Jesus Christ's training of the twelve. It was the disciples, not the crowd outside, who were perplexed. They constantly asked Him questions, and He constantly expounded things to them; but they only understood after they had received the Holy Spirit (see John 14:26).

If you are going on with God, the only thing that is clear to you, and the only thing God intends to be clear is the way He deals with your own soul. Your brother's sorrows and perplexities are absolute confusion to you. We imagine we understand where the other person is, until God gives us a dose of the plague of our own hearts. There are whole tracts of stubbornness and ignorance to be revealed by the Holy Spirit in each one of us, and it can only be done when Jesus gets us alone. Are we alone with Him now, or are we taken up with little fussy notions, fussy comradeships in God's service, fussy ideas about our bodies? Jesus can expound nothing until we get through all the noisy questions of the head and are alone with Him.

**Cursillo**

Cursillo #231, The Holy Spirit Who is From God, will be held at Camp Allen on February 3-6, 2011.

The Lay Rector is Steve Ryder, the Spiritual Advisors are Rev. Ned Bowersox and Rev. Reid Morgan. Head Cha is Jan Halstead. The Cursillos for both 2011 and 2012 are listed below:

**2011 Cursillos**

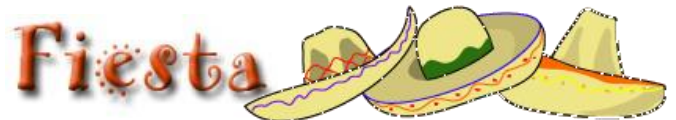
Feb 3-6  
Jun 16-19  
Aug 25-28  
Nov 3-6

**2012 Cursillos**

Feb 2-5  
Jun 14-17  
Aug 9-12  
Nov 1-4  
Feb 14-17 (2013)

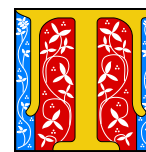
If you are interested in attending a Cursillo, please contact, Jenny Cunningham, Frank or Martha Polasek, and/or Merry or Bob Blackwell. The Diocese of Texas Cursillo website is

[www.episcopalcurstillotexas.org](http://www.episcopalcurstillotexas.org)

**Message from the Fiesta Chairman, Ann Welty**

lease remember St. Philip's Chili Fiesta on Tuesday, February 8. Please sell tickets and then give the money and unsold tickets to Kelan in the Church Office as soon as possible.

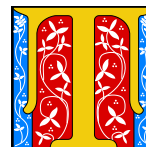
Remind people that this is the original St. Philip's chili recipe (not some later imitation). We will need help after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, February 6 for setting up. Thanks to everyone who has made chili and helped with this important fundraiser.

**Bible Studies**

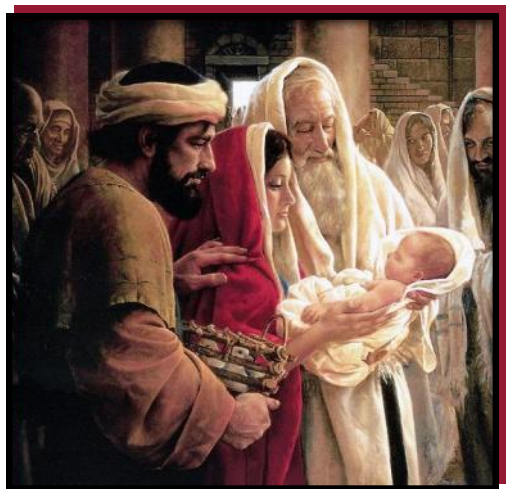
he Monday night Old Testament study is currently in recess. Bebe Beasley does not know, at this time, when it will begin again. The Wednesday 10 a.m. Bible study is active at its regular time. We are beginning a study of the Book of Acts.



# ECW Pictures



The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to actively place shawls. We welcome anyone who would like to participate.



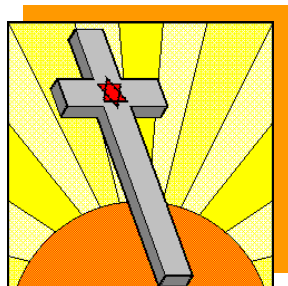
**The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple.**



# Annual Parish Meeting Pictures



# Annual Parish Meeting Pictures



# Annual Parish Meeting Pictures



# Annual Parish Meeting Pictures



# Annual Parish Meeting Pictures





# Annual Parish Meeting Pictures





# February 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
<b>6</b> 7:30a Euch Rite I <b>8:45a Christian Ed Study</b> 10a Euch Rite II	<b>7</b> 6p Vestry Mtg.	<b>8</b> <b>ECW Chili Fund Raiser</b>	<b>9</b> 9a Staff Mtg. 10a Bible Study <b>5:30p Euch/Heal</b> 6:30p Choir	<b>10</b> <b>5:30p DOK</b>	<b>11</b> 8:00a Men's Cursillo Group	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 7:30a Euch Rite I <b>8:45a Christian Ed Study</b> 10a Euch Rite II	<b>14</b> 5:30p Women's Cursillo Group <b>Valentine's Day</b>	<b>15</b> 8a-4p Parish Hall Anderson Co. Agent	<b>16</b> 9a Staff Mtg. 10a Bible Study <b>5:30p Euch/Heal</b> 6:30p Choir <b>Honduras Trip</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Honduras Trip</b>	<b>18</b> 8:00a Men's Cursillo Group <b>Honduras Trip</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 7:30a Euch Rite I 10a Euch Rite II <b>Honduras Trip</b>	<b>21</b> <b>6p St. Mary's Guild</b> 5:30p Women's Cursillo Group <b>Honduras Trip</b>	<b>22</b> <b>Honduras Trip</b>	<b>23</b> 9a Staff Mtg. 10a Bible Study <b>5:30p Euch/Heal</b> 6:30p Choir <b>Honduras Trip</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8:00a Men's Cursillo Group	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 7:30a Euch Rite I <b>8:45a Christian Ed Study</b> 10a Euch Rite II	<b>28</b> 5:30p Women's Cursillo Group					

January 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

March 2011						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



## Happy Birthday

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 John Myers          | 14 Butch Bradley   |
| 2 Louise Cox          | 18 Barbara Kolstad |
| 5 Chris Kolstad       | 20 Alicia Bennett  |
| 5 Willi Buhl          | 24 Justin Weiner   |
| 7 Suzanne Mills       | 28 Bennett Gierkey |
| 8 Judy Neimer         |                    |
| 8 Haley Weiner        |                    |
| 10 Sara Bradley       |                    |
| 11 David Brown        |                    |
| 12 Jenny Cunningham   |                    |
| 13 Helen Elliott      |                    |
| 13 Elizabeth McDonald |                    |



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

# CHURCH INFORMATION

## St. Philip's Staff

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

Sparky Kolstad (Senior Warden)  
 Curt Winkler (Junior Warden)  
 Norwood Brenneke (Treasurer)  
 Cynthia Dickey (Vestry Clerk)  
 Bob Blackwell Kay Chapman  
 Frank George David Sullivan  
 Marian Raney Martha Styner  
 Charlie Nichols Albert Holmes  
 Bob Beck Joann Evans

## Parish Office Hours

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

### Church Office email:

**Rector:** [twelty4235@aol.com](mailto:twelty4235@aol.com)  
**Church Administrator:** [kelan@stphilipepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:kelan@stphilipepiscopalchurch.org)  
[stphilipsalastine@embarqmail.com](mailto:stphilipsalastine@embarqmail.com)  
**Website:** [stphilipepiscopalchurch.org](http://stphilipepiscopalchurch.org)  
**Curate:** [ma\\_polasek@earthlink.net](mailto:ma_polasek@earthlink.net)

**St. Philip's Episcopal Church**  
 106 East Crawford  
 Palestine, TX 75801



**Return Service Requested**

Non Profit Organization  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Palestine, Texas  
 Permit No. 156