



THE CURATE



January 2011

Rector's Corner

Well Done, Good and Faithful Servants

Except for the annual election of new members, most Episcopalians seldom give their parish vestry much thought. It is surprising that even the canons of the Episcopal Church say very little about the role of the vestry. As a matter of fact, this is it from Canon 1.14.2: "The vestry shall be agents and legal representatives of the parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the parish to its clergy." This deceptively simple sentence describes a huge amount of legal and fiduciary responsibility for the vestry in making decisions that are in keeping with the law and sound financial principles. In my opinion, even more important is the spiritual leadership that is not spoken of in the Canons of the Church. It takes a special group of people to discern, with the rector, what the parish is called to do and to have oversight of that work.

Over the years, St. Philip's Church has been blessed with people who are willing to take on the task of leading the parish. This past year was no different, and I want to take an opportunity to thank the 2010 Vestry. In particular I would like to thank the vestry members who have completed their three year terms of office. They are Mark Davis, Ann Royall Maffitt, Leo Mizell, and Norwood Brenneke. Thanks also to Jay Dietz who has moved to Dallas and to Al Holmes who filled her term until the end of the year. All of these members of St. Philip's have given freely of their time and talents. When you see them, please thank them for their service. Well done, good and faithful servants.

Annual Parish Meeting Monday, January 10, 2011

Don't forget the Annual Meeting on January 10. As always, we will enjoy a covered-dish dinner so everyone will need to bring something good to eat. There will be a VERY short state of the parish reports following dinner. The major item on the agenda is the vestry election. This is an important meeting. Please plan to attend.

Vestry Election

You will be asked to vote for five people for the St. Philip's vestry this year. One of those elected will serve for two years to fill the unexpired term of Jay Dietz. The following people have been nominated and determined to be qualified and are willing to stand for election to the St. Philip's vestry: Bob Beck, Jim Boone, Joanne Evans, Al Holmes, Larry Hudson, Frank Polasek, Marian Raney, David Sullivan, Terry Thorn, and Cad Williams.

Happy New Year!

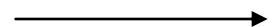
Like other Christian festivals, the celebration of New Years Day in the West started before the church came into existence. At first, the Romans celebrated the beginning of the new year on March 1, not January 1. Julius Caesar instituted New Year's Day on January 1 to honor Janus, the two-faced god who looks backwards into the old year and forwards into the new. The custom of "New Years resolutions" began in this earliest period, as the Romans made resolutions with a moral flavor: mostly to be good to others.

When Rome took on Christianity as its official faith, the Christians kept New Years Day. Only, they traded the vaguely moral emphasis for a practice of fasting and prayer aimed at living



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Rector's Corner Continued

the New Year in the New Life of Christ. Soon, however, the new year celebration reverted to March 1, and this early emphasis on spiritual things dissolved.

Or rather, it shifted to a new celebration on January 1. Beginning in the middle of the sixth century, parts of the church began to set aside January 1 as the Feast of the Circumcision, commemorating Jesus' circumcision. As with other Jewish boy babies, Jesus was circumcised eight days after his birth ([Luke 2:21](#), "when eight days were accomplished"). Our current *Book of Common Prayer* now calls this Feast Day "The Holy Name of Jesus."

But the pagans had apparently spoiled January 1 for many Christians: the Roman church did not accept this feast day until the 11th century. It was finally in 1752, when Britain and its possessions adopted the Gregorian calendar, that January 1 again came to be recognized and celebrated as the first day of the year. Some Christians, however, still hesitated to celebrate the day. The Puritans, for example, were leery of the associations of January 1 with the pagan god Janus—they preferred not even to say the name of the month, referring to it rather as "First Month." And of course they stood against the dissipations usually indulged during the celebration.

Instead, the Puritans urged their young people, especially, to skip the revelry and meditate on the year past and the year to come. Always ready to introspect—in famously excruciating detail—they adopted again the old custom of making resolutions. They vowed to take more care against their besetting sins, make better use of their talents and other divine gifts, and treat others with Christian charity.

Today, some Christians may be inclined to follow the Puritans' lead, at least absenting themselves from the festivities: January 1st has clearly continued to be a day dedicated more to godless indulgence than to meditative fasting. But many have also seen, as the Puritans did, a divine opportunity in the longstanding practice of making resolutions. In fact, this practice even harmonizes with the Feast Day: circumcision is a symbol of sanctification—that is, the "setting aside" of persons and things for God's purposes.

With or without such historical understandings, many of us may have taken New Years Eve and New Years Day as God-given opportunities. We

have taken at least a few minutes to reflect, pray, and dedicate ourselves anew to our Lord. New Years Day has come and gone, but it is not too late to make some resolutions. The American Puritan divine, Jonathan Edwards created a list of 70 resolutions over a two year period following his graduation from Yale. It's worth looking at few of his resolutions.

- "Resolved, that I will do whatsoever I think to be most to God's glory, and my own good, profit and pleasure, in the whole of my duration, without any consideration of the time, whether now, or never so many myriads of ages hence."
- "Resolved to do whatever I think to be my duty, and most for the good and advantage of mankind in general."
- "Resolved to do this, whatever difficulties I meet with, how many and how great soever."
- "Resolved, to be endeavoring to find out fit objects of charity and liberality."
- "Resolved, never to do anything out of revenge."
- "Resolved, never to do anything, which if I should see in another, I should count a just occasion to despise him for, or to think any way the more meanly of him."
- "Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same."
- "Resolved, never to count that a prayer, nor to let that pass as a prayer, nor that as a petition of a prayer, which is so made, that I cannot hope that God will answer it; nor that as a confession, which I cannot hope God will accept."
- "Resolved, frequently to renew the dedication of myself to God, which was made at my baptism; which I solemnly renewed, when I was received into the communion of the church; and which I have solemnly re-made this 12th day of January, 1722.

"I frequently hear persons in old age say how they would live, if they were to live their lives over again: resolved, that I will live just so as I can think I shall wish I had done, supposing I live to old age." 1

The spirituality of the Puritans and Jonathan Edwards was intense to say the least, but his resolutions are worth at least considering. HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Yours in Christ,

Ted ☩

Christianity Today,

The Origins of New Years' Resolutions, and One Famous List Chris Armstrong | posted 8/08/2008

Treasurer's Report

Norwood Brenneke

	November	Year-to-Date
Beginning Balance	28,901.08	49,461.53
Total Income	19,556.71	213,718.53
Total Expenses	20,680.73	235,662.10
Ending Balance	27,517.96	27,517.96

Altar Guild



The Guild has worked diligently to prepare the Church for worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Thanks to Frances Williams for all of her hard work and preparation. Her dedication is an inspiration to us all.

The Altar Guild continues to need new members. 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



To 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



Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to everyone! ECW has been very busy and energized! Ann Welty hosted a beautiful meeting with special treats and refreshments on Tuesday, December 14. We thank Father Ted for his help in assisting Ann and for attending the recent ECW meetings. His attendance has enhanced our productivity and communication with the rest of the church. We appreciate everything you do, Father Ted! President Katherin Wardlaw presented a Christmas gift from the ECW to him.

We would also like to extend a special "thank you" to Maxine Barnette, our outgoing Vice President. Maxine has served ECW faithfully with many

interesting and informative programs for our meetings. We appreciate her introductions of speakers and announcements, countless phone calls and contacts to line up these programs, her sponsorship of the ShoeBox ministry, and attendance at officer and related meetings!

ECW is also grateful to Martha Styner, our outgoing Treasurer. She has kept us fiscally sound, to the penny, in spite of growing expenses and projects in 2009. She administered and balanced a budget that included many outreach contributions to the community and to St. Philip's. We appreciate all your wisdom and hard work, Martha!

As readers of the Curate have seen, Nancy Waggoner has taken wonderful photographs of our events for the past year! We have had great pictorial coverage of our projects and speakers. Thank you, Nancy, for your dedication and service! ECW now needs a new photographer for the 2011 church year. If you would like to volunteer, please call Katherin Wardlaw at (903) 729-7243 or email her at counselingtesting@yahoo.com.

Jeanette George, member of the Nominating Committee, presented a slate of officers for 2011. They are Joann Evans, Treasurer; Linda Walton, Secretary; Beverly Beck, Vice-President; and Katherin Wardlaw, President. The membership voted to accept this slate of officers. Thank you Jeannette for conducting the election of new officers! Best Wishes and good luck to the 2011 officers! Thanks to the Nominating Committee for their diligent work.

Ann Welty, the Chair of Fiesta, gave a detailed report on the development of the plans for Fiesta, on February 8. She has already arranged for all of the chili cookers. Chairpersons for different committees quickly volunteered, and we are on our way! We will all be busy for the next few weeks preparing for this huge event that funds all of our activities for the next year. If you have not volunteered for a committee yet, PLEASE call Ann and let her know that you can help. We need everyone's help! Working on Fiesta is fun, and it is an excellent way to make friends and deepen your Christian fellowship.

Marilee Rogers reported that she and Melissa Winkler took our chosen family to shop for their Christmas, all funded by ECW. Each year ECW budgets to provide Christmas for a needy family in our community. Thank you, Marilee and Melissa, for this special ministry. Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 11th at 9:30 in the Parish Hall. Joann Evans will be the hostess. All women of the Parish are welcome to attend and join our efforts to serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

Beverly Beck, newly elected Vice President and program chairperson, has arranged a very exciting speaker for our first ECW program of the New Year.

Vicki Dossett, MS, is a licensed counselor and will be presenting a program entitled "To you, who is Jesus?" Please make every effort to attend and begin a new year of caring and sharing with other women of St. Philip's Episcopal Church.

ECW Devotional!

By Bev Beck



saiah, whose name means "God is my Salvation", lived years before the birth of Jesus.

Yet, there are more prophecies of Jesus in Isaiah than in any other prophetic book in the Bible. An example of a particularly well-known prophecy is found in Isaiah 9:6:

"For unto us a child is born; for unto us a Son is given, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

If these descriptive prophetic words do not describe our relationship with Him, our relationship should be examined.

Fiesta

LET'S MAKE CHILI!



e will have a "make chili day" on Friday January 21 and again on Saturday January 22 in the parish kitchen. Bring your ingredients (some of you ladies may want to share the spices with another), and we will begin at 10 a.m. both days. We can freeze the chili at the church. We will take an inventory of supplies, decorations, tablecloths, and cookers those same days. This will be a fun day!

St. Mary's Guild



n Monday January 17, St. Mary's Guild will meet in the Parish Hall at 6 p.m. for refreshments and 6:30 p.m. for the meeting. Bob Beck will be our speaker for January. He will present a program entitled "How Scripture Influences Our Spiritual Growth and Development". We will be having a different speaker each month.

For more information, contact Marian Raney, President.

Christmas at St. Philip's



Christmas at St. Philip's



Christmas at St. Philip's



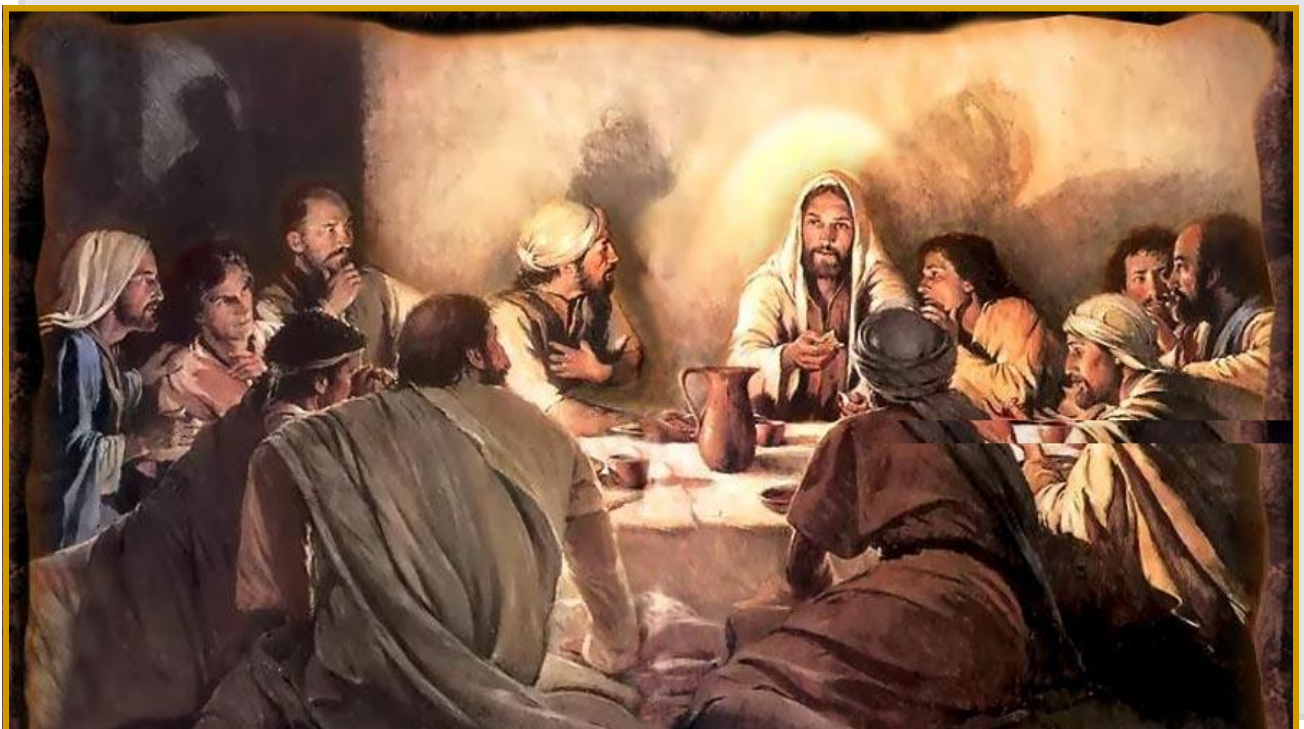
ECW Pictures



This is most of the people who helped with the poinsettias on the Altar just before Christmas. Altar Guild Director, Flower Chair, and a group of volunteers.



***Happy New Year
Everyone!***





January 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 7:30a Euch Rite I 10a Euch Rite II	3 6p OT Study	4	5 9a Staff Mtg. 10a Bible Study 5:30p Euch/Heal 6:30p Choir	6	7 8:00a Men's Cursillo Group	8
9 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Christian Ed Study 10a Euch Rite II	10 6p Parish Mtg	11 9:30a ECW 6p Vestry Mtg.	12 9a Staff Mtg. 10a Bible Study 5:30p Euch/Heal 6:30p Choir	13 5:30p DOK	14 8:00a Men's Cursillo Group	15
16 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Christian Ed Study 10a Euch Rite II	17 6p St. Mary's Guild 5:30p Women's Cursillo Group 6p OT Study	18	19 9a Staff Mtg. 10a Bible Study 5:30p Euch/Heal 6:30p Choir	20	21 8:00a Men's Cursillo Group 10a Let's Make Chili	22 10a Let's Make Chili
23 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Christian Ed Study 10a Euch Rite II	24 6p OT Study	25	26 5:30p Euch/Heal	27	28 8:00a Men's Cursillo Group	29
30 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Christian Ed Study 10a Euch Rite II	31					

December 2010						
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	

February 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					

Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Pam Denson | 20 Kathleen Smith |
| 1 Birdie Sue Holmes | 20 Kristi Mitchell |
| 2 Tyler Paul | 21 Shirley Rogers |
| 3 Louise Buhl | 22 Lief Knippers |
| 8 Donna Hart | 23 Jane Nickel |
| 9 Nancy Laumen | 25 Chauncey Boone (Young) |
| 15 Linda Walton | 26 Rachel Sullivan |
| 16 Martha Polasek | 26 John Fulton |
| 17 Carrie Jane Sidebotham | 27 Randall King |
| 18 Toni Rogers | 28 Emalyn Nicholson |
| 19 Becky Myers | 31 Roxanne Davis |
| 20 Pat Derby | 31 David Long |

Anniversaries

- 4 John & Becky Myers
- 29 Duke & Nancy Waggoner

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 Sparky Kolstad
 Ann Royall Maffitt Martha Styner
 Charlie Nichols Albert Holmes

Parish Office Hours

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

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



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