



THE CURATE



Rector's Corner

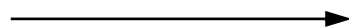
WARNING: THIS ARTICLE CONTAINS SOME MATERIAL THAT MAY BE OFFENSIVE TO SOME PEOPLE.

Just in case you may be too busy to read this entire article, let me get right to the bottom line. You need to be in church every Sunday. I know that there are many reasons not to be present in church on Sunday, and I have heard most of them. "I can worship God most effectively while sitting on the lake in my fishing boat communing with nature." "I can worship most effectively while sitting at home quietly reading the Bible." "God is present with me on the golf course." My personal favorite that I often used prior to my coming to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ was, "Sunday is the only day of the week for my family to have down time. We have great family time on Sunday morning while having a leisurely breakfast together." All of the above are worthwhile activities but not good reasons for missing church. Father Blankenship once said that the only good reasons for not being in church on Sunday are serious illness or necessary travel. Regular church attendance is serious business.

Remember the words of our Lord Jesus Christ when asked which of all the commandments was most important. Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" The noted Anglican theologian and pastor, John Stott once said that there are two main spheres in which the Christian is meant to grow. The first is in understanding and the second is in holiness. Certainly

this involves individual activity such as Bible study, solemn meditation, self-examination, and prayer. Stott also says, "Church attendance on Sundays is a definite Christian duty, and nearly every branch of the Christian Church agrees that the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion is the central service of the Church, for in it we commemorate our Savior's death in fellowship with one another." Church is the place where we can get serious about loving God and loving our neighbor.

At St. Philip's we are blessed with the opportunity to participate in a timeless liturgical tradition whose foundations are found in the early church. In the second century one of the church fathers, Justin Martyr described a church service in Rome: And on the day called Sunday, all who live in the cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally instructs, and exhorts to the imitation of these good things. Then we all rise together and pray, and, as we before said, when our prayer is ended, bread and wine and water are brought, and the president in like manner offers prayers and thanksgivings, according to his ability, and the people assent, saying Amen; and there is a distribution to each, and a participation of that over which thanks have been given. This liturgy has endured over the ages with its shape remaining virtually unchanged: the reading and preaching of the Word, corporate prayer, confession, and Holy Communion. On Sunday, this liturgy takes us out of the culture of our day and into the presence of God. This is a place where we meet God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The liturgy guides us into worship that helps us, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."



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A friend of mine, Dr. Allen Ross, Professor of Old Testament at Beeson Seminary, has written, "It should be clear by now that true worship leads to a life of faith and obedience. It is the purpose of worship, on the human side, to inspire faith and devotion to the Lord, not just for an hour, but for the whole week and for the whole life.

This was the emphasis of the preaching of the prophets and the teaching of Jesus and the apostles; and this emphasis was based on the significance of worship as a covenant renewal, a ritual that not only celebrated the blessings that God has bestowed on his people through Christ but also reminded the people of their own covenant responsibilities."

In summary then, meditation on the lake or golf course and quality family time are all valuable and important, but in addition, you need to be in church every Sunday. Again from John Stott, "The Christian life is a family affair, in which the children enjoy fellowship with their Father and with each other." See you in church!

Installation:

Thank you to everyone who helped with my installation service on Wednesday, November 18. It was the highlight of my ordained ministry. Thank you to Jay Dietz and Sparky Kolstad for serving as lay ministers and to all of the people who made presentations. Thank you to Leif, Bennett, and Roxanne for taking time out of their busy schedules to serve as acolytes. Thanks to Leo Mizell and all of the ushers who did a fabulous job of crowd control. Thank you to Joann Evans and the Episcopal Church Women for the wonderful reception. Thank you to Clarissa and the choir for the music. Thank you to Kelan for his hard work and attention to detail. Thank you to Chris for working late to clean up the kitchen. Thank you to everyone who attended. We had 184 people in attendance. Our friends from Tyler were thoroughly impressed with the hospitality and the new parish hall, particularly the kitchen.

Stewardship Campaign:

Just a gentle reminder that Consecration Sunday is coming up on December 6, when we will gather all of the pledge cards and offer them to the Lord. Pledges are very important in planning our ministry for the coming year. Please prayerfully consider your financial contribution to St. Philip's for 2010 and either submit your pledge card to the Church Office or bring it with you to Consecration Sunday. If you have already submitted your pledge, thank you.

Wednesday, December 16, 5:30:

Please join us for an opportunity for worship, fellowship, dinner, and a movie. St. Mary's Guild will provide the food and gratefully accept donations. The movie is *The Ultimate Gift*, starring James Garner, Brian Dennehy, and Abigail Breslin. I think that you will really like this movie. Please call the Church Office to make reservations.

Fund for the Poor:

As I have said before, I don't have a discretionary fund; I use the money that would come into my discretionary fund as money for the poor. We began the Fund for the Poor on August 24, 2009 and have helped 63 people so far, mostly with utility bills. This fund is completely separate from the General Operating Fund. Since August, we have dispersed \$2,550 with an average of \$40 per person. We are in tough financial times, and I believe that it is good for us to reach out to the less fortunate in our community. We are keeping good records and managing the Fund carefully. Thank you for the contributions.

Sr. Warden's Report

Everyone felt the presence of God as we at St. Philip's (and many visitors) celebrated Fr. Ted's Institution. Our Church building was filled to capacity when friends and family along with visitors from out of town came to support Fr. Ted and Ann as they start their new ministry here in Palestine. As Fr. Ted so appropriately reminded us, we are the church militant, and as Christians, we shall "...Go Marching as to War, with the cross of Jesus going on before...we are one in His Spirit."

Treasurer's Report

	October	Year-to-Date	Budget
Beginning Balance	16,192.41	33,859.92	225,000.00
Total Income	16,061.30	160,782.70	
Total Disbursements	16,897.49	179,268.60	
Ending Balance	15,374.22	15,374.22	



Jr. Warden's Report

The Vestry and Fr. Ted have approved the establishment of a "House Committee" to provide oversight and usage coordination of St. Philip's facilities. Mary Kolstad has graciously accepted the leadership responsibility of the committee.

Graffiti Abatement Meeting at City Hall, November 5, 2009: The meeting was called by Andrea Baird, chairperson of *Keep Palestine Beautiful (KPB)*. Ms. Baird is also a member of Palestine's City Council. District Attorney Doug Lowe, Mayor Bob Herrington, Police Chief Larry Coutorie, City Manager Dale Brown, and other interested parties were also present. *Keep Palestine Beautiful* has established a "Fast Response Team" of volunteers to take over in support of the City's commitment to cover graffiti as soon as possible. When fully staffed, the team will consist of 20-30 volunteers who are fully trained in the graffiti abatement process. Additional volunteers are needed.

An outside dusk 'til dawn light has been installed over the old kitchen exit, as a replacement for an existing broken fixture.

A professional landscaping service has been approved by the Vestry. This service will begin January 1, 2010.

St. Mary's Guild

St. Mary's Guild Annual Christmas Party

St. Mary's Guild will celebrate Christmas with their annual Christmas dinner on Monday, December 14. Members and their guests are invited.

On Wednesday, December 16, St. Mary's Guild will sponsor a Spaghetti dinner after the Wednesday evening service. Everyone is welcome! Donations accepted. The menu will be spaghetti, salad, bread, and dessert. A Christmas movie entitled *The Ultimate Gift* will follow dinner.

Mardi Gras

We now have the tickets for Mardi Gras. "A big thank you" goes to Rollin and Kathleen Smith for using their artistic time and talent as a contribution for the Mardi Gras tickets.

Saturday, January 9, we will cook Jambalaya in the parish hall kitchen; bring your ingredients and well-done cooked chicken.

We know you will want to participate, so call Chairman Mary Kolstad or a board member Beverly Beck, Betty Holmes, Jane McConnell, Lottie Jonas, Francis Williams, or Katherin Wardlaw.

Our festivities will be on **Wednesday, January 27 serving 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. dine in or take out lunch and dinner.** With much success last year, our menu will be Jambalaya, garden salad, French bread, dessert, and drinks again for only \$7. Tickets may be purchased starting in November from St. Philip's ECW or at the door on Wednesday, January 27.

ECW

The November ECW meeting featured Johnnie Keeling, former Superintendent of the EISD. But, though he is retired, he is a very busy man, volunteering in a number of different directions. He is with Gideon International and spoke to the ECW about the wonderful work Gideon does.

Mary Kolstad and Kaki Rogers treated us to numerous treats. Linda Walton brought a clipping and information about the room St. Philip's sponsors at the Safe House.

Watch for an announcement of what Maxine has planned for ECW in December. The hostesses will be Marilee Rogers and Kathleen Smith.

Have you chosen your niche in the Mardi Gras celebration? Mary Kolstad, chairman, promises another good time for all involved. There are a number of opportunities to serve. Do talk to Mary.

There is excitement and joy in the air as ECW plans for the reception following the Service of Installation for Fr. Ted Welty.

Altar Guild



The Altar Guild happily welcomes Joy Rhodes and Cathy Summers into our midst. As the outdoor seasons change, so do the Church seasons. We are nearing Advent. This is the first season of the Church year. It is a season of expectation, and it leads us to the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ...Christmas! Your Altar Guild will be very active through all this season. We welcome any and all who would like to participate.



ECW meeting featured Johnnie Keeling presenting a program on Gideon International

Joann Evans with Mr. Keeling



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 10 visits in November to celebrate Holy Communion with them.





Institution and Induction of Father Ted Welty as Rector

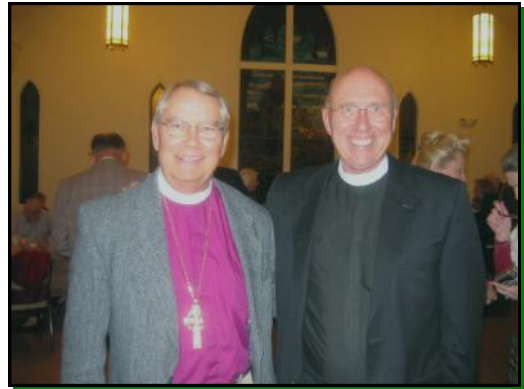


joyful St Philip's celebrated the Institution and Induction of Father Ted Welty as Rector on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 with Suffragan Bishop Rayford High celebrating, assisted by Deacon Stephen Stine of Tyler. The church overflowed with parishioners, dear friends from Christ Church, Tyler, Palestine friends and family, and The Reverend Jack Russell of Tyler, The Reverend and Mrs. David Price of Alvin, and The Reverend Jack Chase of Crockett.

You could feel God's presence when the Bishop presented Father Ted and Ann to the congregation (who expressed their approval with applause); we are so blessed to have Father Ted and Ann back in our lives.

The music was glorious, thanks to the St Philip's choir and organist Clarissa Delany. We are grateful for acolytes Bennett Gierkey, Roxanne Davis, and Lief Knippers as they served with gladness. We appreciate Jay Dietz and Sparky Kolstad for their service in the Liturgy. Thank you Altar Guild for your dedicated service. Our thanks to ushers David Sullivan, Mark Davis, Curt Winkler, and Leo Mizell for a job well done, also a special thanks to Kelan for all the extra work he did with the organization, invitations, and service bulletins.

Ladies, what a beautiful reception! The decorations, food, and drinks were exceptional and expressed the love and time you gave. Thank you Joann Evans, Kaki Rogers, Muriel Mizell, Nancy Waggoner, Martha Styner, and everyone who prepared food and drink. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship. Thanks to God and our Lord Jesus Christ who makes The Body of Christ at St. Philip's Episcopal Church a family!



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More Pictures on Next Page





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.

2009 Christmas Altar Flower Memorials and Thanksgivings

To join in the tradition of adorning St. Philip's Episcopal Church with greens and Poinsettias during the Christmas season, please 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.

2009 Christmas Offering

Your Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
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 Church, 106 E. Crawford, Palestine, TX 75801.

Please return form by December 14, 2009.



DOK

Daughters of the King will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 14, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the parlor.

The Order of the Daughters of the King has a prayer request box in the Narthex. Forms may be found in some pew racks, or you may use any piece of paper available. Please note that these requests are not added to the general parish list. Prayers will be offered for two months confidentially in the daily intercessory prayers of the Daughters of the King. Emergency requests may be phoned to the church office or to any Daughter of the King.



News from Godly Play



We just finished studying the story of “The Great Family”, and that we are members of that great family. We wondered about God... how we talk to God and how God talks to us. We wondered about where God was. This story brought some fascinating questions.

Now that Advent is here, we will venture into the stories of Advent, studying the meaning behind each of the candles on the Advent Wreath and so much more. Christmas Eve the children and our youth will present a prelude to the 6 p.m. service with their offering to Our Savior’s birth. It will be a glorious gift!

Parents, I need to know exactly who will be attending this Christmas Eve service and who is willing to make this the most wonderful gift of the year. I would like to meet with those interested on the second Sunday of Advent, December 6 after Sunday school. I’ve got some great ideas, but I will need the youth and children to stand up to the call and contact me at (903) 922-0117. That means you guys in Ted’s class too! Also call me if you have any suggestions or questions.

Cursillo

The N.E. Convocation is hosting Cursillo #228 at beautiful Camp Allen in Navasota on June 17-20. St. Philip’s own Bob and Mary Blackwell will be serving on this team made up of fellow Christians (who have already made a Cursillo)

from Longview, Tyler, Jacksonville, Henderson, Crockett, and Palestine. This will be the second team on which Mary and Bob have served.

Jim Warren from St. Francis, Tyler will serve as Rector, Reverend Susan Tubbs from St. Francis, Tyler will serve as Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Jack Chase from All Saints, Crockett, and Patsy Barham from St Matthews, Henderson will be the Assistant Spiritual Advisors on Cursillo #228.

Cursillo helps to renew and deepen Christian commitment. It provides an important learning experience and helps Christians to understand their individual callings to be Christian Leaders. At the three-day Cursillo weekend, participants are taught a method of how to live the Christian life more effectively. Mary and Bob would like to encourage anyone who wants to deepen their relationship with Christ to attend this weekend. You can contact Bob at (903) 391-2445 and Mary at (903) 922-0117.



*St. Philip’s ECW
Is Invited*

To a

*Christmas Party
Hosted*

By

*The Episcopal Women of Christ
Church*

Tyler, Texas

Monday, December 7, 2009

4:00 until 6:00 p.m.

*At the home of
Betsy Ellis*

801 Troup Highway

Valet Parking

Provided



See pictures in color on website www.stphilipepiscopalchurch.org



DECEMBER 2009



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:30 p Tai Chi 6 p Girl Scouts	2 10 a Bible Study 5:30 p Euch/ Healing 6:30 p Choir	3	4 8:30a Men's Cursillo Group	5
6 Consecration Sunday 7:30 a Euch Rite I 9 a Bible Study 10 a Euch Rite II	7 5:30p Women's Cursillo Group	8 <i>9:30 a ECW</i> 6 p Vestry Mtg. 6 p Girl Scouts	9 10 a Bible Study 5:30 p Euch/ Healing 6:30 p Choir	10 <i>5:30 p DOK</i>	11 8:30a Men's Cursillo Group	12
13 7:30 a Euch Rite I 9 a Bible Study 10 a Euch Rite II	14 5:30p Women's Cursillo Grp <i>6 p St. Mary's Guild Christmas dinner</i>	15	16 10 a Bible Study 5:30 p Euch/Heal 6:30 p Choir 6:15 p Spaghetti Dinner	17	18 8:30a Men's Cursillo Group	19
20 7:30 a Euch Rite I 9 a Bible Study 10 a Euch Rite II	21 Women's Cursillo Group 5:30p	22	23 5:30 p Euch/Heal	24 Christmas Eve 6 p Eucharist 10 p Eucharist Office Closed	25 Christmas Day 10 a Eucharist Office Closed	
27 7:30 a Euch Rite I 9 a Bible Study 10 a Euch Rite II	28 Women's Cursillo Group 5:30p	29	30 5:30 p Euch/Heal	31 New Year's Eve Office Closed		

November 2009						
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					

January 2010						
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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						



Advent

Birthdays

- 1 Braden Minton
- 2 Michael Gorby
- 6 Jo Ann Leggett
- 7 Rose Nemer
- 9 Tome Nell Gregg
- 11 John Boone
- 11 Ian Nicholson
- 14 Bill Fraser
- 15 Linda Paul
- 17 Julie Law



- 19 Jim Boone
- 21 Billy Minton
- 22 Frank Polasek
- 23 Charlie Dietz
- 23 John Norton
- 24 Jimmy Blackwell
- 25 Nancy Warrington

Anniversaries

- 24 Bart & Cathy Norton
- 26 Charlie & Jay Dietz
- 29 Ken & Jane McConnell



CHURCH INFORMATION

ST. PHILIP'S STAFF

Rector	Ted Welty
Church Administrator	Kelan Eckerman
Organist/Choirmaster	Clarissa Delany
Sexton	Chris Rogers
Sparky Kolstad	(Senior Warden)
Sid Walton	(Junior Warden)
Norwood Brenneke	(Treasurer)
Mark Davis	(Vestry Clerk)
Bob Blackwell	Kay Chapman
Joann Evans	Jerry Fagalde
Ann Royall Maffitt	Leo Mizell
Charlie Nichols	David Sullivan

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday -Thursday 9a-5p

Friday 9a-12p

Closed Federal Holidays

Phone: 903-729-4214

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Church Office email:

Priest: twelty4235@aol.com

Church kelan@stphilipepiscopalchurch.org

Administrator: stphilipspalestine@embarqmail.com

Website: stphilipepiscopalchurch.org

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

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