



# THE CURATE



November 2011

## Rector's Corner

### Presidential Religion - Enough, Already!

By Charles Colson October 17, 2011

A few days ago I was on the air with Los Angeles's outstanding drive-time host, Frank Pastore — a keen worldview thinker, himself. Frank told me his phone lines have been burning up over the comments made by a prominent evangelical pastor who said that presidential candidate Mitt Romney belongs to a cult.

Should Christians vote for a Mormon? Is Mormonism a cult? Let me say right off: These questions are an enormous distraction in an important presidential campaign. The secular media is using the pastor's comments to paint evangelicals as bigots. The *Chicago Tribune* is calling this "hate speech."

I want to say this to every Christian listening to my voice: Let's stop criticizing candidates for their religious convictions.

And let me make a few things, as my former boss used to say, perfectly clear.

First, there is no religious test for public office. If you don't believe me, check out the Constitution of the United States, Article VI, Paragraph 3. The public statements of some evangelicals that they wouldn't vote for Romney because of his Mormonism would cause the Founding Fathers to spin in their graves.

Second, as voters we are to choose the most competent people to be God's magistrates to do justice, restrain evil, and preserve order. That's what the Bible calls for. And in our country, where we have the precious liberty of choosing our leaders, we are responsible for picking competent men and women. See Jethro's advice to Moses in Exodus 18. While choosing men to help him judge the people, Moses was to select first of all competent men. Those men were also to be godly — that is, men of good moral

standing and character.

Third, let me answer the question that is causing so much angst. Is the Mormon faith Christian? No. It is not. There are significant and un-reconciled doctrinal differences between Mormonism and Christianity, like the sole sufficiency of Christ and the exclusivity of the Bible.

For me to say there are such differences in not "hate speech." To deny that there are differences would be disrespectful of the truth claims made by Mormons and degrades my own truth claims. No one in good conscience can do that.

Having said that, there may be *no other* group of people I appreciate more as co-belligerents than the Mormons. They are stalwarts on life, traditional marriage, and religious liberty issues.

To sum up, I'm with Luther, who reportedly said that he would rather be governed by a competent Turk than an incompetent Christian.

Now I've never publicly endorsed a candidate, and I'm not doing it now. But I would personally vote for a competent nonbeliever who would protect life, liberty, and marriage, *before* I would vote for an incompetent Christian--or even a competent one--who would not stand for those overriding moral issues.

Our ultimate decision has to be based on what Augustine taught. We must live obediently in the City of Man as the best of citizens, doing our civic duty, which includes voting responsibly, as a reflection of our primary citizenship in the [City of God](#).

Where does this leave us? Come on: Stop talking about the candidates' religion. It's distracting and it marginalizes Christianity in the public debate. Let's continue instead to work to advance the Kingdom of God and pick, to the best of our ability, a candidate of competence and sound character who will preserve order and promote justice in our land.



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### St. Philip's Episcopal Church

106 East Crawford



**Rector's Corner Continued**

### Ten Excellent Qualities of the Dog, Which a Good Servant of God Should Possess

This is from the magazine *First Things*, November 2011 issue. This is from a translation of a medieval Syriac text done by Yale doctoral student Liza Anderson.

- First:** Is that he is always full of enthusiasm. This is the mark of the devout and virtuous.
- Second:** Is that he does not have a fixed place to sleep. This is the condition of wanderers who rely on God.
- Third:** Is that he does not sleep all night long, except only for a moment, but spends the night awake in order to guard his master. This is the mark of the loving and merciful.
- Fourth:** Is that he leaves absolutely nothing when he dies. This is the characteristic of the poor and the destitute.
- Fifth:** Is that he does not forsake his master. Even if he beats him, he does not abandon him. This is a symbol of those who love and cherish their Master.
- Sixth:** Is that he accepts a humble place and remains there. This is a symbol of those who accept sufferings and adversity.
- Seventh:** Is that, even if he laments his position, he perseveres and does not abandon it. This is a symbol of the upright, the humble, and the wise.
- Eighth:** Is that if one chases him and hits him, and immediately afterwards calls him and offers him a scrap of food, he comes and accepts it without a grudge. This is a sign of the straightforward and the simple.
- Ninth:** Is that he remains at a distance and does not allow himself to approach when food is being prepared. This is the attitude of those who have control over themselves and who have received grace.
- Tenth:** Is that, when he leaves his place, he does not bring anything with him. This is a symbol of the ascetics and anchorites

### Annual Stewardship Campaign

The St. Philip's vestry will meet early this month to approve the Church's annual operating budget. I don't anticipate a large increase from last year. You will be receiving a letter from the Senior Warden outlining the details and asking for your pledge. Please respond to the Senior Warden's letter with a pledge to support the ministry at St. Philip's for 2012

Blessings in Christ,  
Ted +

## Cursillo

Martha Polasek

Cursillo group meetings are now every  
Tuesday afternoon at 5:30 p.m. in the parlour.  
The men's group continues to meet  
at 8 a.m. on Friday mornings  
at the Subs and Dogs.

## St. Mary's Guild

Marian Raney

St Marys Guild will meet Nov 21st  
6pm in the parish hall (no Alpha)  
regular business meeting  
Please Join us

## Altar Guild

Beverly Beck

The Altar Guild looks forward  
to its Fall service.  
Please keep the members in your prayers.

## Treasurer's Report

Norwood Brenneke

	September 2011	Year-to-Date
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	53,879.28	39,944.82
<b>Total Income</b>	16,955.40	181,148.14
<b>Total Expenses</b>	19,320.42	169,995.70
<b>Ending Balance</b>	51,097.26	51,097.26



**The Prayer Shawl Ministry**

There is a good supply of prayer shawls available.  
They are available through the church office!



*Kathleen Smith*

DOK will meet on Thursday, November 17th  
at 5:30 p.m. in the parlor.



*Katherin Wardlaw  
President*

**Happy Autumn  
from the Episcopal Church Women!**

We had a well-attended meeting on October 11,  
with Celia Smith as our speaker on  
"The Flowers of the Holy Land".

The program included beautiful Power Point  
pictures of not only flowers from the Holy Land  
trip, but other flowers Celia had researched.

Father Ted manned the computer,  
and the program flowed beautifully  
as Celia gave valuable information.

Thank you, Celia and Father Ted  
for such a delightful presentation!

Merry Blackwell was our gracious hostess,  
with a pretty table and delicious treats.

Thank you, Merry!

Members were asked to give  
their current contact information,  
and were given an opportunity  
to volunteer for any offices  
or jobs they would like.

The nominating committee  
will be using these forms  
to propose a slate of new officers  
for the election

at the November meeting on November 8th.

Beverly Beck will chair this election meeting,  
as Katherin will be out of town.

Also on November 8th,  
the program will be musical selections  
by Dorenda Smith, soloist,  
and Clarissa Delaney, pianist.

Our hostesses for the November meeting will be  
Kathy Stites and Joann Zartler.

On December 13, 2011,  
Ann Welty will hostess our Christmas Party  
in the Parish Hall, at 9:30 a.m.

All women of the church  
are invited to attend and bring a friend.

Our new officers will begin their service  
on January 1, 2012.

We look forward to giving our support  
to these ladies!

**SEE YOU NOVEMBER 8TH!!!**

Here are a few pictures from the October ECW meeting.



Celia Smith and Inez Smith



Celia Smith presents a program on flowers of the Bible



Katherin Wardlaw, Celia Smith and Beverly Beck



Joann Evans and Jackie T's doily



Merry Blackwell and June Hatfield

**Editor's Corner:**

I want to wish everyone a very  
Happy thanksgiving !!

And I wish to remind everyone  
as we head into the Christmas season

**Jesus Christ**

is the reason for the season.

# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10a Bible Study <b>5:30p Euch/Heal</b> 6:30p Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Christian Ed 10a Euch Rite II	<b>7</b> <b>6 pm Alpha</b>	<b>8</b> <b>9:30 am ECW</b> 5:30 pm Womens Cursillo Group	<b>9</b> <b>6:15p Vestry Mtg</b> 10a Bible Study <b>5:30p Euch/Heal</b> 6:30p Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8:00am Men's Cursillo Group  Office Closed <b>Veterans Day</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Christian Ed 10a Euch Rite II	<b>14</b> <b>6 pm Alpha</b>	<b>15</b> 5:30 pm Womens Cursillo Group	<b>16</b> 10a Bible Study <b>5:30p Euch/Heal</b> 6:30p Choir	<b>17</b> <b>5:30 pm DOK</b>	<b>18</b> 8:00am Men's Cursillo Group	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Christian Ed 10a Euch Rite II	<b>21</b> <b>6 pm St Mary's</b>	<b>22</b> 5:30 pm Womens Cursillo Group	<b>23</b> 10a Bible Study <b>5:30p Euch/Heal</b> 6:30p Choir	<b>24</b>  <b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>25</b> 8:00am Men's Cursillo Group  Office Closed	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 7:30a Euch Rite I 8:45a Christian Ed 10a Euch Rite II	<b>28</b> <b>6 pm Alpha</b>	<b>29</b> 5:30 pm Womens Cursillo Group	<b>30</b> 10a Bible Study <b>5:30p Euch/Heal</b> 6:30p Choir			

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

## Anniversaries

- 3 Willie & Louise Buhl
- 21 Cad & Francis Williams
- 30 Chris & Mary Kolstad

## Birthdays

- 3 Jack William Rogers
- 4 Martha Lou Mitchell
- 4 Stacy Paul
- 6 Peggy Louise Beye
- 7 Sam Mettauer
- 7 Jon Brown
- 10 Sara Beth Myers
- 11 Ian Nicholson
- 11 Scott Mettauer
- 13 Charlie Nichols

- 13 Fr Ted Welty
- 14 Sharon Gouras
- 16 James Boone
- 16 Don Derby
- 20 Ann Royall Maffitt
- 22 Terry Thorn

- 23 Burnie Patterson
- 23 Francis Williams
- 23 Helen Elliott
- 26 Janet Cornwall
- 27 Kelly Blackwell
- 28 Aiden Nicholson

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

# CHURCH INFORMATION

## St. Philip's Staff

## Parish Office Hours

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

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

**Rector:** [twelty4235@aol.com](mailto:twelty4235@aol.com)  
**Church:** [kelan@stphilipepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:kelan@stphilipepiscopalchurch.org)  
**Website:** [stphilipepiscopalchurch.org](http://stphilipepiscopalchurch.org)  
**Curate:** [tomprater@yahoo.com](mailto:tomprater@yahoo.com)

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

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