



THE CURATE



May 2011



Rector's Corner

Holy Week

This past Holy Week was one of the best I have ever experienced thanks to all of you. The attendance at the services was outstanding, and I really appreciate that. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to those who made it possible. First of all, I thank God, who sent His only-begotten Son to die for us and to rise again. Next, many thanks to the Altar Guild led by Beverly Beck. I think that Beverly practically lived at St. Philip's during Holy Week. Who could ever forget the way our Church looked on Easter morning. Thank you to Francis Williams and her crew for the spectacular decorations. Junior Warden Curt Winkler faithfully attended to the physical plant during the week including getting the Easter fire going on Saturday evening. Thank you to Melissa Winkler for organizing the Flowering of the Cross. What a blessing it was to have all of those beautiful children in Church on Easter Morning. Thanks to Mary and Chris Kolstad for yeoman's duty as lay ministers during the week. Again, I thank all of you, and I thank God for a blessed Holy Week.

Rector's Schedule

I think that most of you know that Ann and I will be leading the St. Philip's trip to the Holy Land beginning on May 2. I will not be back in the office until May 16. I was not able to find a supply priest for Sunday, May 8, so there will be Morning Prayer that day. Sunday, May 15, The Rev. Suzanne Tubbs, former rector of St. Francis in Tyler, will be the celebrant at both services. The Wednesdays when I am gone will be Evening Prayer.

The following is an article from The Christian Century April 15, 2011 edition:

Turmoil in Tripoli

Libya's Christian community

Apr 15, 2011 by Paul-Gordon Chandler

With the sound of NATO bombs in the background, the priest of the Anglican Church of Christ the King in Tripoli, Hamdy Daoud, explained that most Christians have fled the city in search of safety, but that he and other ministers had remained. "Even though the majority of our community has evacuated, I am still here to serve those who are not able to leave or who have chosen to remain. It is important that we retain a Christian presence here at this critical time," he said. None of the church buildings in Tripoli and Benghazi had suffered any damage, he reported.

Prior to the outbreak of violence, more Christians resided in the Libyan cities of Tripoli and Benghazi than in the other countries of the Maghreb, the western region of North Africa that includes Morocco, Western Sahara, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania. While Libya does not have the illustrious Christian heritage of Tunisia and Algeria, the home of church fathers such as Tertullian, Cyprian and Augustine, Libya has had a significant role in recent Christian history of the region, serving a significant Christian population.

Libya can claim the very first North African follower of Christ, Simon of Cyrene. (What was once Cyrene is now the town of Shahhat, in northeastern Libya, not far east of Benghazi.) According to the Gospel accounts, Simon was forced by the Roman authorities to assist Jesus by carrying his cross to the place of crucifixion. A follower of the Jewish faith, Simon probably came to Jerusalem for the annual Passover festival. While little is known about Simon, the book of Acts says that individuals from "those parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene" were present at Pentecost—offering a glimpse of how the Christian faith could have spread to Libya.

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St. Philip's Episcopal Church

106 East Crawford



Rector's Corner Continued

The churches in Muslim Libya exist to serve the expatriates who live in the country. The Christian residents are Europeans, West Africans, Filipinos, Egyptians and South Asians. Caritas International estimates that 1.5 million sub-Saharan immigrants were living in Libya before the recent conflict. The Egyptian community is also large—over 1 million before the fighting started.

Unlike Egypt, Libya has no historically indigenous Christian presence. The range of churches serving expatriates includes Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Coptic Orthodox, Anglican and the interdenominational Union Church of Tripoli.

The Anglican Church of Christ the King lost its original Garrison Church when Muammar Qaddafi took power 40 years ago. It now meets in what was once an unused Catholic church—given to the Anglicans by Qaddafi's government. Prior to the current conflict, Christ the King averaged over 200 worshipers each weekend at its English and Arabic services. Now only 34 congregants remain, mostly Nigerians, with a few Pakistanis and Egyptians.

The evangelical Union Church of Tripoli, led by a Ghanaian pastor, previously had well over 1,000 in attendance at its services, which met in four languages (English, Eritrean, Arabic, French). Now there are just under 200 left in the community. The numbers at the Greek Orthodox Church have dropped from 50 to 7. According to some estimates, in recent weeks up to 800,000 Egyptians have returned to Egypt, greatly lowering the numbers at the Coptic Orthodox Church in Tripoli.

The Roman Catholic Church in Libya is led by an Italian bishop who grew up in Libya. With more than 80,000 congregants, the Catholics account for a little over half of the total number of Christians in Libya. Most of the Catholics are African, Filipino, Maltese, Italian and French. The church offers masses in over a dozen languages.

Catholics are free to worship in churches in Tripoli and Benghazi. Most other church properties were seized by the government when Qaddafi came to power. The Roman Catholic cathedral of Tripoli was made into a mosque in 1970, and the cathedral in Benghazi was closed.

The Catholic Church's 16 priests and 65 religious sisters (from 15 religious orders) offer social services to the immigrant population. Many of the nuns are working in hospitals and health centers, including in the eastern coastal region, where they are treating those wounded in conflict. Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity, the order founded by Mother Teresa, work in various social centers in Tripoli.

In Benghazi, unlike in Tripoli, where each denominational church has its own property, the different church communities all hold worship services at different times in the Roman Catholic building.

"There is a certain normality in Tripoli during the day, but no one goes out at night in concern for safety," said Hamdy, who is from Egypt. "Some feel uncomfortable coming outside their homes, especially in the evenings. We do all our errands and shopping during the day and are all home by 6 p.m. And the only Westerners left, it seems, are the few journalists that are here." His church and other churches have switched service times so the services can conclude before sundown.

"We are standing in prayer and in solidarity with those who are left here," said Hamdy. "Those who are left here often think that they have been forgotten. We try to help them in any way we can."

In the midst of tensions, a remarkable church unity exists. Hamdy said that the Anglican church hosts a monthly ecumenical lunch, attended by the ministers of all the local churches. "There is a special spirit of oneness at this time," he said. Hamdy sees "tremendous potential" for the churches when the fighting ends. For now, "We keep on keeping on, with our eyes on the Author and Perfecter of our faith."

We should hold up our Libyan brothers and sister in Christ in prayer, as well as those other persecuted Christians all over the world.

Yours in Christ,

Ted +

Treasurer's Report

Norwood Brenneke

	<i>April</i>	<i>Year-to-Date</i>
Beginning Balance	46,233.38	39,944.82
Total Income	16,433.85	68,529.75
Total Expenses	18,588.31	61,809.69
Ending Balance	44,947.77	44,947.77

Altar Guild

Beverly Beck

"The Altar Guild is in hibernation, not to surface until May 1. All Altar Guild members during Lent, Holy Week and Easter are the Lord's good and faithful servants.

May God bless you all! "



ECW

Katherin Wardlaw



The meeting on April 12, 2011 was called to order at 9:40 a.m. with 15 members and Father Ted Welty present. During the meeting, the proposed budget for 2011 was approved. Martha Hudson moved that the budget be accepted, and Ann Welty seconded the motion. The budget was passed as presented. Katherin Wardlaw read the minutes of the March 8, 2011 meeting in the absence of secretary Linda Walton. There were two corrections to the minutes. Fiesta Board members will now serve two-year terms instead of the previous three-year term. The members noted for providing matching stemware glasses for the parrish house kitchen were Marian Rainey, Ann Welty, Mary Kolstad, and Cynthia Dickey. Thank you, ladies, for your generous donation. The minutes were then approved as corrected. Treasurer Joann Evans reported that \$8,007 would be budgeted for the 2011-2012 year. All of the Fiesta bills have been paid. We thank Joann for her careful management of ECW money to date.

The 2011 ECW brochure was completed by Muriel Mizel, Jeanette George, and Martha Styner. It is printed on lovely ivory paper, and includes much information about our work in the church. These brochures are available in the church office or the narthex. We appreciate the hours of detailed work that these ladies have contributed to ECW.

Dr. Dan Gold gave a Power Point presentation of his recent medical missionary trip to Ethiopia. As he explained each slide, he applied the situation to our Christian principles. He discussed the contrast between our loving God, and radical Islam. Dr. Gold's team completed many eye operations that changed the lives of many Ethiopians. He explained that his team had to take all of their own equipment, as the facilities in Ethiopia were primitive. They slept under mosquito nets to avoid being exposed to malaria. His entire presentation was a spirit-filled testimony as to what can be done by a small group of people over a short period of time to share the news of Jesus Christ. Dr. Gold also commented that his team will be going to western China in August. We thank Dr. Gold for his wonderful presentation, and wish him and his team safe travels as they continue to do God's healing around the world. After the presentation, refreshments were hosted by Barbara Kolstad and Martha Hudson from a beautifully decorated Easter table.

Thank you Barbara and Martha for your gracious hospitality.

Our next meeting will be May 10, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. in the Parrish Hall, with Barbara Stewart as our speaker. She will discuss "Art and World View". Beverly Beck will conduct the main meeting, as president Katherin Wardlaw will be on the trip to Israel. The hostesses for the next meeting are Pam Denson and Maxine Barnett. The meeting was adjourned with the ECW charge at 11:50.

Here are some pictures from the meeting.





St. Mary's Guild

Marian Raney

St. Mary's will have their salad dinner at 6:00 pm on May 16th in the parish hall. This will be our last meeting until September 19th. Everyone is welcome to come, visit and learn about our guild.

Hope to see you! Marian Raney



DOK

Kathleen Smith

DOK will meet on Thursday, May 12, at 5:30 pm in the Parlor. Kathleen Smith is handling the prayer list until the end of May. Please send requests and updates to her.



Cursillo

Cursillo group meetings at St. Philip's have changed. The women's group is now meeting 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.

Thanks, Martha Polasek



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

Congratulations to Roxanne Davis and Jack Rogers!

By Jenny Cunningham

The Palestine High School State Champion Indoor Drumline won the 2011 State Championship in the Open Class TCGC Indoor Drumline Competition. They also placed first in five other competitions this year.

Mr. Richard Kearns, PHS Percussion Director, said that he looks up to each of the students for their accomplishments and is very proud of them.

Our very own Roxanne Davis and Jack Rogers are among these outstanding students.

Experience what the whole state is talking about by doing a Google search for Palestine High School Indoor Drumline Performance.

We are proud of you Roxanne and Jack!



Altar Flowers

Thank you to all who make donations to the Altar Guild Flower fund.

To designate flowers on a particular date, please call:

Francis Williams at 903.729.5743

or the church office.

Please make your check to:

St. Philip's Altar Flowers

and mail to:

106 E. Crawford, Palestine, TX 75801.

Special appreciation and thanks to all who helped to decorate the altar and the church for Easter.

It looked beautiful!

UTO Ingathering will be on May 29th



These are pictures from Easter 2010

May 2011

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

April 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

June 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		

Birthdays

Anniversaries

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 Ron Strominger | 15 Sid Walton | 25 Kristen Knippers |
| 5 Chris Gouras | 18 Ann Skelton | 26 Alec Law |
| 13 Jill Kolstad | 24 Merry Blackwell | 28 June Rotter |
| 14 Mary Knowles | | 31 William "Duke" Waggoner |

- | |
|-------------------------------|
| 14 Curt & Melissa Winkler |
| 20 Rollin & Kathleen Smith |
| 20 David & Stephanie Sullivan |
| 24 Charles & Rosalyn Bennett |

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

Rector: twelty4235@aol.com

Church: kelan@stphilipepiscopalchurch.org

Website: stphilipepiscopalchurch.org

Curate: tomprater@yahoo.com

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

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