



Church of the Heavenly Rest, Episcopal

The Lay Reader

October 2009

Stewardship Corner

Stewardship indicates our distinctive Christian identity—*who* we are and *whose* we are. Through faith in Jesus Christ, we become “children of God” and thus “joint heirs with Christ” (Rom. 8:17). As members of God’s household, we are called and empowered to participate in God’s redemptive mission in the world. Stewardship is responsible living.

During the month of October you will be given an opportunity to make your 2010 stewardship pledge. We hope you will respond generously and faithfully.

Treasure the words of Jesus in the 12th chapter of Luke: “Do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father *knows* that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Do not be afraid, little flock, for *it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.*” What a promise of having everything we really need — forever.

Please join with other members from Heavenly Rest on Sunday, October 11th for a Festive Meal at St. John’s Episcopal School. The adult choir will be entertaining us with a special performance of “My Fair Layperson.” Come relaxed and ready to enjoy one another’s company for a fun evening of fellowship. If you have not already indicated your attendance plans to a table host, please RSVP to the Church office at 677-2091 by Thursday, October 8th.

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E-Mail

chrepis@sbcglobal.net

Web Page

chrabilene.com

1883



Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m. to noon
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Friday
9:00 a.m. to noon

**Second Sunday Concert Series
Music for English Horn and Organ**

Susetta Rockett, English Horn

Wes Gomer, Organ

Assisted by

Mark Wilcox, Trumpet



*Sunday, October 11, 2009
3:00 o'clock in the afternoon*

Church of the Heavenly Rest
602 Meander

Susie Rockett is a member of the Abilene Philharmonic, as well as adjunct professor of oboe and English horn for all three universities in Abilene. She holds a Master of Music degree in oboe from the Longy School of Music, Cambridge, MA.

Works by Copland, Sowerby, Vaughan Williams, and Hampton will be performed.

(This will make a nice prelude to your attendance of the stewardship dinner that evening at St. John's School)

ADULT CHOIR REHEARSALS each Wednesday 7:45 -9:15 p.m. Child Care by reservation only.

Important Event for Adult Choir is Sunday, October 11 - MY FAIR LAYPERSON 4:00 p.m. Dress Rehearsal at St. John's Episcopal School in Auditorium, 1600 Sherman and program at 6:35 p.m. followed by Stewardship Dinner.

The Canterbury Bells (Adult Selected) will rehearse at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel on Sunday, October 11 and play at the 10:45 a.m. service.



The Junior Choir (Grades 1-5), directed by Nancy Rangel CONTINUES TO LOOK FOR MEMBERS for the 10:30 a.m. rehearsal each Sunday. The choir will return to worship at the Peace. The Junior Choir will not sing during October.

The Westminster Bells (Grade 6-12) directed by Wes Gomer will rehearse in the Chapel at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, October 4 and play at the 10:45 service. Robe after rehearsal.

CHOIR SCHEDULE 2009-2010

WEDNESDAYS

6:45-7:30pm

7:45-9:15pm

Canterbury Bells (Selected Adults)

Adult Choir **child care by reservations only.

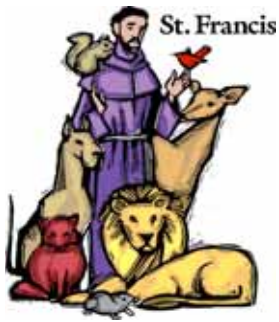
SUNDAYS

10:30am

4:15-5:00pm

Junior Choir (Grades 1-5) return to worship at the Peace.

Westminster Bells (Grades 6-12)



One of the goals of our Christian Education Committee is to develop creative and formative events, which celebrate and teach the Christian tradition. Sunday, October 4th at 6:30 pm we will continue such a tradition with the ***Blessing of the Animals*** on **St. Francis Day**. Please join us and invite all your friends (especially the fuzzy, furry, and/or feathery ones) to this wonderful opportunity of fun and fellowship. Pet Smart will be holding a raffle with the prize of a free pet-groom & wash, Rescue the Animals of Abilene will be bringing some pets who need a home, Wylie FFA students will be showing their animals, a free dog wash station will be provided, and of course we will hold the *Blessing of the Animals* to wrap it all up. Proceeds for the raffle tickets will

go to benefit Rescue the Animals of Abilene. If you have any questions or would like to be involved please do not hesitate to contact Jared Houze, Directory of Christian Education.

Hallow's Eve "Trunk or Treat"

The Young Adults group is in the process of planning and coordinating a Hallow's Eve festival. The plan is to have a "Trunk or Treat", which is where different departments and members of the parish decorate their car (which will be parked in the Heavenly Rest parking lot), and pass out candy to all the children. There will be games for the kids and youth, and of course a contest for the best trunk and costumes. This is also a wonderful opportunity for Heavenly Rest to invite the surrounding community to join us in the fun! However, the Young Adults group could always use some help and your ideas to make this a wonderful experience in the life of our parish and community. Join us around 6:00 p.m. October 31. Even if you are unable to attend we will soon be taking candy donations so feel free to drop a bag or two in the outreach baskets. If you have any questions or would like to be involved please contact Young Adults.



Trunk or Treat

Team CHR BOBS needs a sixth team! Join us for two hours on Monday morning (5:30 – 7:30) once every six weeks to serve hot breakfasts and sack lunches to our guests, making a difference in the lives of God's people and being an example of God's love and grace. Call Gail Kaiser today...home 698-7117 or work 672-8544 or email gekaiser@yahoo.com. It's worth the early hour.

LAY READER ON-LINE starting in January

The LAY READER, our monthly newsletter will only be available on-line at www.chrabilene.com starting in January 2010 (You can actually see it now by visiting our web page.) You can read all the information and schedules on-line, see photos in color, and print yourself a colored copy of the pages you need. The LAY READER will still be mailed to those who do not have computer access or who like to have a hard copy. Call the parish office and let us know if you still wish to receive the newsletter by mail. Please be sure that we have your current email address in the Parish Office contacting r2deulen@sbcglobal.net or cbatton27@sbcglobal.net. Thanks you for helping us with the transition.

Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest Rector Search Committee

The members of the Rector Search Committee have been selected: Nancy Estes, Chair, Jackie Batjer, Vice Chair, Nolan Kelley, Senior Warden, Vestry, Annabel House, Vestry, Steve Strain, Vestry, Tommy Bartlett, Youth, Yvonne Batts, Sam Cutbirth, Mike Denny, Emma Ellis, Blake Fulenwider, Robert Partin, Suzie Ramsey, John Stowe.

The Rector Search Committee represents a diversity in age, service areas of the church, families with children, and marital status. More information about the Rector Search Process will follow at a later date.

Visitors from Bethlehem

On Sunday, October 4th we will have visitors from Bethlehem. Suh Uhail and Seham Hannona are Palestinian Christians (Roman Catholic) from Bethlehem. They have visited several parishes in the diocese and have told about life in Bethlehem and about experiences in the Holy Land. They are merchants and will bring items from their Holy Land Handicrafts for purchase. All Adult Sunday School classes will be in the Parish Hall from 9:30 a.m. until 10:20 for their presentation and to see their wares. We are also asking them to remain after the 10:45 a.m. service so that people who are interested in their items for sale can visit with them. We hope you can join us.

Visiting Scholar Series

Our new “**Visiting Scholar Series**” will begin Monday, October 5th at 7:00pm in the Bishop Garrett room. Dr. Doug Thomas, professor of psychology at Hardin-Simmons University, will be teaching a four week series on “human nature”. The class will examine and discuss the following subjects:

Week 1: The Quest for Truth and the Struggle of Faith.

Week 2: The Nature of Human Nature

Week 3: Sin, Freedom and Human Motivation

Week 4: Sex, Love and Community

Join us Monday evenings.

Message from the Search Committee

The online survey was recently completed. 624 persons were sent a letter inviting them to participate. Of these, 217 persons responded. A response from every member is not required to provide valid results. For a complete readout, a copy of the Vital Signs report will be available soon in the church office and the library. We are grateful to those of you who helped in this process.

On Saturday, September 19, the Search Committee and Vestry members met with Russ Crabtree consultant with Holy Cow! Consulting. Russ presented information on demographics that will help potential rectors know who we are collectively. The survey resulted in a look at Heavenly Rest’s vital signs—our goals, performance indices for hospitality, morale, governance, spiritual vitality, worship and music, educational engagement to name a few. These survey results, together with the parish history, will form the foundation of the parish profile.

The Search Committee is committed to keep you informed of the process and the progress the committee is making. You will have monthly updates in the LayReader and have access to progress on the Heavenly Rest website. All members of the Committee are available to you. So, please don’t hesitate to reach out to any one of us if you have a question or would like more information.

Remember, our survey is just the beginning of the Search process. Please continue to pray for our search for a new rector. On behalf of the Search Committee, we are thankful for the opportunity to serve our Parish in this important ministry.

From the Parish Records July - September 2009

Weddings

Alexandra Lee Henson and John Minor Alexander
Sarah Elizabeth Capra and Jim Bob Steen II

Transferred Out

David and Susan Wright to Christ Church,
Greenville, SC
Adam Blake Stockstill to Christ Church,
Charlotte, NC

Baptism

Adeline Elizabeth White

Deaths

Ann Eldridge Hall
George “Pete” Vletas
Kenneth C. Terry
Jackie Gaertner
James D. “Jim” Strong, Jr.
Michael Engle
Albert “Jiggs” Kelley
Charles McGill
Vernon Lovvorn
Nelo Tucker
Charles Considine
Jim Nixon
James Dalton Strong



Sunday, October 4 will be the **United Thank Offering Sunday** at the Church of the Heavenly Rest. The Mission of the UTO is to invite people to offer daily prayers of thanksgiving to God. Remember the UTO allows us to be missionaries throughout the world without leaving our homes. **One of the things you can do to honor this season is to talk about thankfulness as a way of life**, especially in your own life. **Start a thanksgiving list and share your own stories** of living thankfully with others. Thankfulness can become contagious both at home and in your community! UTO is a ministry of the Episcopal Church that provides support and services to programs worldwide. **Be sure to bring the enclosed UTO envelope to one of the services Sunday, October 4.**

A Note of Thanksgiving
from **Sister Mary Francis, OSB**

Just about a month ago, a flyer entitled "*Episcopal Community Needs Our Help!*" was included in the Sunday pewsheets at Heavenly Rest. I hope you won't mind that I repeat some of that information here:

A year ago in August, the Companions of St. Luke completed construction of three Retreat Houses on the Abbey of St. Benedict's grounds in Donnellson, Iowa. It was at the time when the Mississippi River flooded from Wisconsin to Missouri. Since our property was not in the flood zone, the Companions were able to assist families in neighboring towns. A trailer home was given to a family who lost everything and we opened the new Retreat Houses to workers and families in need of food and a place to stay during recovery at no cost.

Friday, August 27, 2009, five inches of rain fell in about an hour at the Abbey of St. Benedict. In a most unusual rain event, a small nearby creek burst its banks and swept through the property. We lost the dining room, kitchen, and gift shop. The three new guest houses sustained significant water damage at ground level; the propane tank was washed away spewing gas into the air; two cars floated 50 feet away (one honking), and the Abbot's home was flooded. Fortunately, the Chapel was safe.

The insurance will not cover most of this damage, so I made an appeal asking that you send what you can to help restore the Abbey back to its welcoming Episcopal presence. Local response has been amazing. Our vestry approved \$1000 from the Foundation and Parishioners also contributed about \$1000. I am so grateful for your support and prayers.

Thus far, the Companions of St. Luke have received donations from Episcopal churches around the country in excess of \$20,000. The Retreat Houses are once again in new condition. With the auto insurance and the help of a friend in the auto-resale market, we were able to go to an auction and replace the old vehicles with "new" old vehicles. While there is work still to be done, and monies to be raised, we are certainly far from where we were four weeks ago. God has been good to us in so many ways. We consider you a part of His blessing and we are grateful for your prayers and assistance,

The Companions of St. Luke, OSB website is www.holythoughts.org

Christene Cooper is Thankful for her
New Great Granddaughter Lila Claire and Lila's Two-year Old Sister Ava



St. John's Students celebrate first Holy Eucharist of the year



Fifth Grade Acolytes



Mother Meg

St. John's Episcopal Students and staff celebrated the first Holy Eucharist of the year on September 2, 2009. Mother Meg presided over the chapel service and Eucharist. Preschoolers through fifth grade participated in either a blessing or taking of Eucharist and many of the fifth graders were Acolytes. The next Eucharist at St. John's will be held October 12th in the Chapel at St. John's at 8:10 a.m. Heavenly Rest members are invited to attend.

October brings our Blessing of the Animals on Monday, October 5th at 8:05 a.m. on the front lawn at the school. Students and their families are encouraged to bring a family pet or stuffed animal for a blessing. Members of Heavenly Rest are also invited to this yearly event at St. John's.





October 1

Casper Dury
Neil McCracken
John Stowe

October 2

Mary Ellen Boone
Gregory Duck
Patricia Smith
Kristin Staples
Tyler Rodda

October 3

Cynthia Akin
Jennifer Nichols
Keston Rodda
Zachary Vaughn

October 4

Marcus McCarty

October 5

Courtney Balch
Mike Denny
Gary Heath
Daylee Robertson

October 6

Mary Brassell
Carl Collum
Wilma Glasscock
Lib Hope

October 7

Michael Perry
David Wright

October 8

Mark Garoutte

October 9

Sonny Bentley
Barbara Edwards

October 10

Dixie Bassett

October 11

Jacob Herman

October 12

Katherine Morris
Michael Anne Morris

October 13

Barbradon Brooks
Mary Koss
Elsie Norwood

October 14

Herschel McCormick

October 15

Debbie Sherman

October 16

Robert Davis
Shelly Reed
Ruth Rios

October 17

Monica Sherman
Benjamin Heath
Retha Wittie

October 18

Jeanie Jennings

October 19

Mozelle Gray
Teresia Taylor

October 20

Tommy Langham

October 21

Len Charpentier
Joel Wells

October 22

Sophie Edwards

October 23

Susan Crowder
Judy Godfrey

October 24

Candy Scarborough

October 25

Isabel Brock
Martha Magee

October 26

Jesse Holloway
Allison McCoy
Andrew Storie

October 27

Mary Crymes
Meghan Martin

October 28

Randy Stockstill

October 29

Weezie Fitzhugh
Melanie Puckett

October 31

J. Barrow

October 1

Sydney & Brennan Underwood

October 2

Ray & Ariel Boggess

October 4

Jim & Kim Snyder

October 7

Ronald & Carol Johnson

October 9

Jerry & Kay Arther

October 13

John & Nancy Nichols

October 15

Russell & Cathy Dickerson
Josh & Diane Stearns

October 17

David & Kathleen Coleman

October 28

Billy & Barbara Edwards

If your birthday or anniversary
is not listed, please contact
Conrad.

Birthday Blessing is Sunday,
October 4 at any service.

Anniversary Blessing is on
Sunday, October 11 at any
service.



Morning Prayer is said
each weekday at 8:00 a.m.
in the Chapel

Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist*
- 9:30 a.m. Christian Education*
- 10:20 a.m. Choir Warm-up*
- 10:20 a.m. Coffee Time*
- 10:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist*

Tuesday Morning

- 6:30 a.m. Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Wednesday Evening

- 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Healing

Thursday Noon

- 12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist

***Child Care Available**

VISION STATEMENT

The Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest is a Christian community of faith rooted in the Anglican tradition. Empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, we seek to know the reconciling love of God and to share that love with others.

MISSION STATEMENT

As a community of faith centered in God through liturgy and Christian practice, the Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest exists to:

- CARE** for members of all ages and stages of life.
- SHARE** God's inclusive and healing love with all people.
- CREATE** opportunities to grow in Christ.
- SERVE** the church, the community and the world.

- The Rev. Dr. William B. Wright Interim Rector
- The Rev. Mary E. Glover.....Associate Rector
- The Rev. Jennifer Rowley.....Deacon
- The Rev. Art GoolsbeeDeacon
- Conrad Bratton.....Choirmaster & Parish Administrator
- Jared Houze Director of Christian Education
- Dru Hall.....Director of Youth Ministry
- Sister Mary Francis, OSB Communication Secretary
- Mary Renfro.....Financial Secretary
- Dr. Wes Gomer.....Parish Organist/Associate Choirmaster
- Arnold Guerra.....Sexton
- Dorothy Guerra.....Housekeeper

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