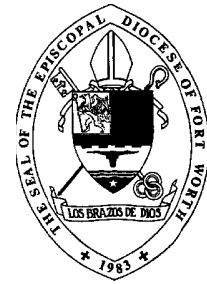


The Epistle



A PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY APOSTLES

CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANYTIDE A.D. 2010

From the Rector:



BELOVED in Christ,

Here we are turning another calendar page on another decade. I am not sure who said it, but, whoever did, they were correct - "The only thing constant is change." Another way of putting it is to say - "The only thing you can be sure of is that things will not stay the same."

THE turn of the calendar year is traditionally the time to take personal stock and resolve to make worthy changes. Too frequently those resolutions end up having to do primarily with reducing the size of our waistline. That is probably because we have overindulged during the revelling of December. (Which is yet another argument for keeping a taut Advent!) Resolving is a laudable exercise if it goes beyond the superficial.

JANUARY in the parish is marked by the Annual Parish Meeting. It is our opportunity to take stock of where we are collectively. The date for this year's meeting is Sunday, January 24th. There will be one service that day at 9:30 AM followed by the meeting. This meeting is where new vestry members are elected as well as delegates to represent the parish at the diocesan level. The budget for the coming year is presented and reports of the past year's parish activity are made by the Senior Warden and the Rector. We like to have written reports from all parish guilds and organizations printed in a packet and distributed at the meeting. If you have charge of such a group, now is the time to get your report to Leslie in the office.

ANY confirmed communicant in good standing, at least 16 years old, is eligible to vote in the parish elections. Confirmed communicants in good standing are those members of the parish who have been faithful in their corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the kingdom of God, including being financial contributors of record to the parish.



HOPEFULLY, everyone is home safe and sound from all of the holiday travelling. We had a good turnout on Advent IV to decorate the Church. And because of the inclement weather reduced numbers at both of the services on Christmas Eve. I want

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*The purpose of the Church of the Holy Apostles
is to glorify God through worship, discipleship, stewardship, fellowship, and love.*

AROUND THE PARISH

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN:

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Christmas in spite of the bad weather, and I wish you all the Happiest of New Years!

This will be my last letter as Senior Warden as my term expires in January. I want everyone to know that it has been a pleasure working with such a wonderful Vestry and such a caring, hard-working and dedicated Priest as Father Chris. We are extremely fortunate to have had such a great Vestry and a dedicated Junior Warden in Jim Owens. Michael Pinnau and Tony Hiller whose terms are expiring have been a great source of knowledge and have done a great job... thanks to you all.

I have been extremely honored to have such great support from our Vestry but also from our Parish family. We have grown in numbers over the last few years, but mostly we have grown as a Parish who welcomes everyone into our family with open arms. I think as we move forward through the changes that are taking place, if we stick together, continue to grow as we have in the past, and continue to care for one another, Holy Apostles will continue to prosper.

Please keep in mind that we can only grow if we get as much participation as possible from all our family members. So if you get the chance, join a committee, pitch in and help on a project, or volunteer to teach Sunday School. Anything you do will make us better.

Most importantly we will have three seats on the Vestry that we will be selecting new folks for at the Annual Meeting on the 24th. I urge you to consider running and dedicating your energy to the leadership of our Church. I know this is an important decision, but I guarantee you will be rewarded if you serve on the Vestry; that reward is knowing that you have helped Holy Apostles.

Father Chris, thank you for allowing me to be part of Holy Apostles, it has been an honor. More importantly it has helped me grow working with you and our Church family.... You are not only an outstanding Priest and Leader, but a dear and valued friend.

Please remember, welcome our guests, and as always ...wear your nametags.

Peace

Collin Andrus

CONGRATULATIONS: to Lynn and Sandy Ross who are now officially members of Holy Apostles. The Rosses have transferred to us from All Saints' Fort Worth.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

January 1st Friday **The Most Holy Name Of Our Lord Jesus Christ** 11 AM Mass

January 4th Monday
7:00 PM Stephen Ministers training resumes;
Vestry Budget Meeting in the Library

January 6th Wednesday 7:00 PM Mass **The Epiphany**

January 9th Saturday, 11:00 AM - **Take Down and Put Away the Christmas Decorations** - come one, come all - bring snacks to share - there may even be some of the eggnog we missed Christmas Eve.

January 11th Monday 7:00 PM Evening Prayer/Regular Vestry Meeting

January 13th Wednesday 6:45 pm Evening Prayer; 7:00 pm HAY and Basic Christianity classes resume on Wednesdays

January 18th Monday **The Confession Of Saint Peter The Apostle** 6:30 PM Mass. 7:00 PM Stephen Ministers

January 24th Sunday **Annual Parish Meeting one service at 9:30 AM.** Parish Meeting at 10:30 AM

January 25th - January 28th Monday - Thursday, Father Chris at Diocesan Clergy Retreat

MANY THANKS:

To **Karen Gauntt** for helping fold the weekly Bulletins!

To **Jim McClellan** for keeping things stocked up and refilled!

To **Tim Gauntt** for his tremendous help with running new phone lines and other help with the recent renovations.

To **Leah Lancaster** for gathering up the poinsettias and to everyone else who turned out on December 20th to decorate the Church.

To **Everyone** (acolytes and singers - Tony Kroll) who braved the elements on Christmas Eve to enable us to keep the festival!



FROM THE RECTOR, *continued.*

to express my thanks to all those who helped make our celebrations wonderful. Thanks are especially due to Kelly Henry, Mary Beth Nicholson, Tim Gauntt, and Tony Kroll for the music for our Christmas services.

CHRISTMAS season does last for twelve days. On Wednesday, January 6th, the Feast of the Epiphany, we will celebrate the Eucharist at 7:00 PM. And then, on Saturday the 9th at 11:00 AM we will proceed to take down and stow our Christmas decorations away for another year. Please plan to come and help. Bring a snack to share. Many hands will make light work of it.

SUNDAY School will be in full swing again on Sunday the 10th. The Adult class meets in the library at 9:15 - We are currently studying the Epistle to the Ephesians; the Tweens class (*3rd - 5th Grade*) meets in the parish hall (*for now - a new building soon!*) at 9:00. The Godly Play Class (*2nd grade and under*) meets during the 10:00 AM Mass.

JANUARY 25th, the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, will mark the official thirteenth anniversary of my institution as rector of our parish (I actually started the previous November!). Just a few short weeks later, February 13th will mark the 24th anniversary of my ordination to the Sacred Priesthood. Wow! What a blessing you all are. What a privilege it is to be here with you. My prayer is that in the days ahead we may live more and more fully into our purpose of glorifying God in all that we do.

KAREN and I wish to express our gratitude to you all for the expressions of love and support that you have made to us as we come to terms with Karen's cancer diagnosis. The challenges of the days ahead for us, I know, will be eased by that same love and support. As I write this, we are still waiting to hear of the date for her next surgery. Most especially we are placing our confidence and hope in the love and mercy of Almighty God. Please join us in that prayer. The generous Christmas purse Collin presented to us on your behalf at the Church decorating event, as well as the other goodies, are also most appreciated. Thank You.

GOD bless you all - we love you,

Father Chris +

PLEASE contact the office if any of your e-mail addresses, phone numbers or addresses change. We have received several pieces of returned mail lately! Thank you in advance for assisting in keeping costs down on something preventable with a little forethought.

YOUTH NEWS:

EYC (a.k.a. HAY = Holy Apostles' Youth) is open to all students in 7th through 12th grades. We meet on Wednesday evenings immediately after evening prayer at 6:45. Please join us for fun, fellowship, prayer, and study.

The tentative event schedule for the school year is as follows:

1/10/2010	Bishop's Ball (exact date TBD)
2/14/2010	Valentine's Dinner & Dance
3/14/2010	Lenten Event
4/11/2010	Ice Skating
5/9/2010	Baseball Game?
6/13-19/2010	Saint Michael's Conference

OTHER opportunities for young people to develop their faith and Christian relationship are weekend retreats put on by the Episcopal Renewal Center. New Beginnings weekends are for students in 7th - 9th grades. Happenings are for 10th - 12th graders. Further information is available at www.episcopal-renewalcenter.org.

3/5 - 3/7 Happening

We look forward to having a great year.

Jim Stubblefield

PARISH OUTREACH:

OUR present project is to help supply the food pantry run by **Iglesia San Miguel**, our Hispanic mission on the southeast side of Fort Worth. We are collecting non-perishable food items & canned goods. Place them in the basket in the narthex

PLEASE remember that green box sitting on the table in the narthex. It costs about \$100 a month to support a priest in Northern Malawi. Please be generous.

BASIC CRITERIA

FOR VESTRY NOMINATION:

1. Does the nominee meet or exceed the canonical requirements of Communicant status in this Church?
2. Is the nominee a consistent, concerned steward? Does he/she make a pledge each year and pay that pledge?
3. Does the basic lifestyle of the nominee conform to Christian expectations and is it consistent with his/her evaluation by the community and parish?
4. What lay ministry have they performed?
5. Is the nominee hopeful about the life of the parish, the Christian faith, and life in general?
6. Can the rector work with the nominee?



ANNIVERSARIES:

January
 8 The McClellans
 9 The Marchands
 27 The Farris's
 The Thompsons



BIRTHDAYS:

January
 6 Tim Gauntt
 7 David Huebner
 11 Mary B. Jones
 15 Sharon Trahey
 16 Bruce Trahey
 18 Mike Sands
 19 Cassidy Trahey
 25 Charra Wright
 27 Sabrina Caudill
 28 Todd Marchand

YOUR VESTRY:

Collin Andrus, Sr. Warden	817 598-0676
Jim Owens, Jr. Warden	817 560-1744
Charra Wright, Treasurer	817 244-2397
Nikki Wilson, Clerk	817 568-2357
Tony Hiller	817 367-7633
Michael Pinnau	817 249-6464
Todd Marchand	817 444-3811
Debbie Reddick	817 236-9874
Paul Simpson	817 594-0379


The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at announced times and by appointment.
 Holy Day Services are as announced.
 A Nursery is provided 9:30 - 11:30 on Sundays.
 The Parish Office is open 9:00 AM.- 4:00 PM. Monday - Friday

How to contact us:

Office: (817) 560-7187
 Rectory: (817) 560-2199
 Fax: (817) 560-1518
 Web: www.holyapostlesfortworth.org
 E-mail: hapostles@swbell.net

Sunday
 8:00 AM. Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
 9:00 AM. Sunday School
 9:30 AM. Choir Practice
 10:00 AM. Holy Eucharist (Rite I)
 11:15 AM. Coffee Hour

Mon-Thursday 8:30 AM Morning Prayer
Tuesday 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist
Wednesday 10:00 AM Healing Mass
 6:45 PM Evening Prayer
Friday Rector's Day Off



CHURCH *of the*
HOLY APOSTLES
 3900 Longvue Avenue
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