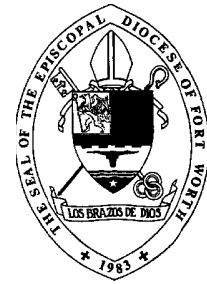


# The Epistle



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

ADVENT & CHRISTMASTIDE A.D. 2009

## From the Rector:



**B**ELOVED in Christ,

THE December issue of the Epistle always confronts me with a dilemma. Here it is the beginning of Advent, so should I write about that, or should I write

about Christmas?

WELL, why should I be immune from the problem that confronts us all annually? The marketing people want us all to begin the "holidays" now. Thanksgiving marks the beginning of the secular holiday season and New Year's Day ends it. I solemnly declare that I am now beginning my annual rebellion.

WELL, sort of. You see, I really do like this time of year. Who wouldn't? What a great problem to have - finding the right gift to give someone else! Or figuring out how to schedule things so that you can celebrate with everyone you want to celebrate with. Celebrating, giving, these are good things, right? - So what's the problem.

THERE is not a problem ... really. My concern as your pastor is that we keep things in their proper perspective. I am glad that our part of the world has a "holiday season." I want the Christian part of our world to remember why that is, so we can share the Good News. And I want us to be about our celebrating and our giving in a way that communicates our gratitude to God for what he has given us - nothing less than His only-begotten Son.

HOW to do that? Keep Advent. Don't be in a huge hurry to put up all the Christmas decorations all at once. Do it in stages. Start with an Advent Wreath. Put it where you eat. Use it - daily if you can. We've got a booklet here at the Church that will guide you through the season. Over the course of the next three

weeks, if you just have to, put up the decorations, but do it a little bit at a time. If your neighbors ask you what you are doing, they are presenting you with the perfect opportunity to invite them to come to Church at Christmas. I know, the Advent purists among us are going to jump all over me for caving in. I am not. Advent is a season of preparation - so be intentional about it.

MAKE sure that in addition to the outward preparing that you are making some inward preparation as well. Are you living your life as you ought to? How prepared is your spiritual house? Is it fit for a king? The King? I am always available to hear confessions by appointment. I will be in the Church on Saturday the 12th from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. for confessions. If you would just like to talk about the state of your soul, I'm always glad to do that too. Give me a call at 817 560-7187.

THE Basic Christianity Class will be taking a break from classes for the holidays beginning on Wednesday the 16th through January 6th.

WE WILL do our decorating at the Church on the afternoon of the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the 20th. We'll meet at 4:00 p.m. for our annual Potluck Chili Supper and Decorating Party. Come prepared to lend a hand with the decorating and stay for the Chili. We ask everyone

to bring either a pot of Chili or some of whatever is good with it. Will you make plans to be with us? Guests are definitely welcome. If you can't handle heavy lifting, don't worry - tree ornaments don't weigh that much. This is a chance for us all to get together. So make some room in your schedule. The more the merrier.

CHRISTMAS Eve falls on Thursday this year. We will have two services that night. The first, at 7:00 p.m., will be a Sung Mass without Incense. And then at 10:30 p.m., we will have Lessons & Carols followed by a Solemn Mass (Incense & the works)

*Continued on page 3.*

*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 SR. WARDEN:

**T**IS the season and the weather is starting to reflect a wonderful winter attitude. I hope everyone is getting into the Christmas spirit as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Please plan on spending Sunday afternoon the 20th with our Parish family decorating the church, and sharing a bowl of chili that afternoon. This is one of my favorite gatherings as we put up the tree and hang lights, everyone always seems to have a lot of fun, I know you will also. Bring a friend.

**I**WOULD like to thank Karen Hiller, Tony Hiller, Margaret Pinnau, Lydia Cantrell and all the Sunday School kids for the great snacks they provided the Sunday before Thanksgiving; forgive me if I left someone out.

**I**ALSO want to thank everyone for being patient with the construction, and helping move things around. This has been a wonderful gift to our church please keep the generous benefactor in your prayers.

**T**HANKS to Tim Gauntt for hanging our new exit signs... they look great!

**T**HROUGHOUT the year there are dozens of folks who dedicate their time for all of us and never get formal recognition. During this joyous season, please try and go out of your way to seek out folks and tell them you appreciate their efforts, (Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Hospitality, HAGs, HAMs, etc..). I know I need to be more diligent in recognizing everyone, if I have missed you please take this as a heartfelt thank you.

**T**HERE is one person we take for granted many times and fail to properly thank, our Beloved Pastor. Please remember to let Father Chris know how much we appreciate his leadership and caring. I can tell you first hand, none of us want to put in the hours he dedicates to us and to Holy Apostles. Please let he and his family know we care.

**L**ASTLY, I wish you all the Merriest of Christmas's as we celebrate the birth of Christ, please be safe in your travels, and as always wear your nametags.

PEACE on Earth, Goodwill towards Men

*Collin Andrus*

**Please Note:** There will be no Basic Christianity classes or HAY (Holy Apostles' Youth) on December 16th, 23rd, 30th or January 6th.

### FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

December 6<sup>th</sup> All acolyte and servers meeting following the 10:00 service

December 7<sup>th</sup> Monday 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting

December 10<sup>th</sup> Thursday 7:00 PM HAGs Meeting

December 12<sup>th</sup> Saturday 9:00 AM - 10:00 am Confessions  
4:00 PM Acolyte Training  
5:00 PM HAY Advent Event

December 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday 11:30 AM Parish Meeting

December 14<sup>th</sup> Monday 7:00 PM Evening Prayer/Vestry Meeting

December 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday 4:00 PM Church Decorating & Potluck Chili Supper.

December 21<sup>st</sup> Monday **St. Thomas the Apostle** 6:30 PM Mass

December 24<sup>th</sup> Thursday **Christmas Eve** 7:00 pm Mass, 10:30 pm Carols and 11:00 PM Midnight Mass

December 25<sup>th</sup> Friday **Christmas Day** 11:00 AM Mass

December 26<sup>th</sup> Saturday **Saint Stephen** 9:00 AM Mass

December 28<sup>th</sup> Monday **Saint John** 6:30 PM Mass

December 29<sup>th</sup> Tuesday **Holy Innocents** 9:00 AM Mass

### MANY THANKS:

To All of you who gave to the **Feeding of the 500** - We fed 932 - Good Job!!

To the **Crowd of folks** who turned out to move the furniture from the Nursery and classrooms.

To Tony & Oliver Hiller & Tim Gauntt for helping to move the Godly Play/ Nursery back.

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

To **Tim Gauntt** for installing our new Exit lights.

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



## FROM THE RECTOR, *continued.*

at 11:00 p.m. On Christmas morning, Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. More so than at probably any other time during the year, your friends and neighbors might just be open to accepting an invitation to come to church with you. But it just will not happen if you hold back.

**T**HE three days following Christmas Day are major feast days in their own right, Saint Stephen's Day, Saint John's Day, and the feast of the Holy Innocents'. With Sunday intervening, we will keep these days as they come, starting on Saturday. Saturday we will remember Saint Stephen at 9:00 AM; On Monday, Saint John will be commemorated at a 6:30 pm Mass, and then at our usual 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday we will recall the Holy Ones of Bethlehem. Will you join us?

**I**KNOW there is so much to get done in the next few weeks. But it is a really good sort of busy-ness. We still have the parish offices to put back together next week!

**Y**OU and I are charged with communicating through our actions that what we celebrate is something of incalculable worth, the incarnation of the Son of God. I want to encourage you to first, reflect on what that fact means to you, and then ask God to give you the opportunity to let someone else know about it. Come, let us adore Him!

**O**N BEHALF of your Vestry, our sincere thanks to everyone who has pledged us their financial support for the coming year. In spite of many of us increasing our commitment, we are still short of where we need to be to maintain the status quo. If you have not made a pledge for 2010, please consider doing so. We really do need the help and support of every member of the parish.

**L**ATE breaking News: Fr Zeke Rogers has just been named the Interim Priest in Charge at St. Gregory's Church in Mansfield. Our prayers go with the Rogers as they transition into this new field of ministry for them. Fr. Zeke, we will miss you among us. Fr. Joshua Whitfield, who was rector there, recently resigned in order to become a Roman Catholic priest under the new Apostolic Constitution.

Have a Blessed Advent, and a Holy and Happy Christmas!

God bless you all,

*Father Chris +*

## YOUTH NEWS:

**E**YC (now HAY = Holy Apostles' Youth) is open to all students in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> 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:

12/12/2009	5:00 PM Advent Event
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

**O**THER 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 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> grades. Happenings are for 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. Further information is available at [www.episcopal-renewalcenter.org](http://www.episcopal-renewalcenter.org).

3/5 - 3/7 Happening

We look forward to having a great year.

*Jim Stubblefield*

---

## PARISH OUTREACH:

**O**UR 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

**P**LEASE 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.

---

**P**LEASE 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.

---

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



## ANNIVERSARIES:

December

5 Jim & Donna Stubblefield  
 20 Will & Ann Wilson  
 29 Wayne & Pat Hendon

## BIRTHDAYS:

December

3 Charles Bradley  
 6 Jim Stubblefield  
 9 Asa Culpepper  
 11 Cindy Bartlett  
 Scott Hollis  
 12 Alice Hanson  
 Tony Hiller  
 20 Carole Huebner  
 21 Lauren Hollis  
 Chris Upward  
 22 Maudi Fleming  
 24 Janet McClellan  
 25 Joanna White  
 26 Lisa Self  
 Spencer Stubblefield  
 27 Richard Lancaster  
 29 Madison Childress  
 Pam Hedges  
 Connor Upward  
 30 Gomer W. Jones  
 31 Kylie Upward



### YOUR VESTRY:

<b>Collin Andrus, Sr. Warden</b>	817 598-0676
<b>Jim Owens, Jr. Warden</b>	817 560-1744
<b>Charra Wright, Treasurer</b>	817 244-2397
<b>Nikki Wilson, Clerk</b>	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](http://www.holyapostlesfortworth.org)  
 E-mail: [hapostles@swbell.net](mailto: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  
 Fort Worth, Texas 76126-9500

**NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76126**  
**PERMIT NO. 484**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**