

St. Mary's Messenger

Volume 1, Number 10

October, 2011



HAPPY HALLOWE'EN!



This month's newsletter will include some **tricks** - as well as **treats**! (We will leave it up to you to decide which is which!) There is a movie review of "Dolphin Tale", a letter from Senior Warden Bill Adams, a stewardship update from Tulisha, a great article on TRUST by Jan Denson (it was so good I tagged along with a few quotes of my own). Father Reid raises some really thought-provoking questions about the role we play in our church community. We included an EASY chili relleno recipe (really good with flour tortillas and a green salad!!). We have a great poem about that makes you compare the "St Mary's stone" to "St Mary's people". Pictures and updates - we've got it all. So take a minute to slow down and check out what is going on with your St. Mary's family!



Well the wait is over! All of the hand-crafted stained glass windows have been installed in the parish hall by the artisans from Black's Art Glass Studio in San Antonio. If you haven't been by in person to see them, then you must do so, because a photo just can't do justice for how beautiful they are! The windows feature the Lord's Supper, The Stations of the Cross and The Resurrection. They were given by members of the congregation in memory or honor of friends and/or loved ones.

....Tulisha



From the Rector

What does it mean to live in community with one another? I suppose that if I had the answer I could “write my own ticket” as the saying goes. But I don’t and neither does anyone else really. I have some thoughts that I am going to share with you.

The idea of community is what the Christian Church is really about. Even as I write this I am fully aware that there are those who push against that idea. They do that by proclaiming that they are “right” and everyone else is wrong. “They” have the correct “understanding” of salvation and of God. I wish them well in their understanding as I remember that they are a part of the “body of Christ” just as I and the church that I am serving are. But what does this mean for the local congregation, what does that mean for us here at St. Mary’s in Lampasas?

I think for us to know that answer we have to remember Paul’s metaphor of the body as representing the assembly and the assembly’s life together. Paul reminds us in 1st Corinthians 12 that nothing in the body is useless especially if we decide that it is. We are reminded that our unity of purpose is for the glory of God and the furthering of God’s Kingdom. And that it is through the entire body that that purpose is realized.

So look around at the body of Christ that we call St. Mary’s. Is something missing? Do you look for a particular part and fail to see it? Why do you think that is? It could be for any number of reasons – some good, and some not so good. Maybe it’s time to pray about our missing parts, and act on what God is telling us. Maybe it’s time to listen to God when we are pointed to one that has not been a part of this “body” before but now it is time for them to be.

Paul goes on to remind us in chapter 13 that it is through the exercise of love that we are made whole and complete as a worshipping community. He says that love. “...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” Difficult words much of the time. But they are words that bring freedom, joy and peace. They are words of stewardship and words of life. They are words that we are called to life by and they are words that echo our Baptismal Covenant.

May our lives be blessed as we live into the reality of being the Body of Christ.

Peace, *Fr. Reid*

St. Mary's "St. Mary's Day..."

Boy, we couldn't have wished for a nicer day to celebrate St. Mary's day!!

Today's weather was lovely, the fellowship was wonderful, and the food was too good to be true. Sharon and Bill Adams happily announced the birth of their newest grandson, and Libby Bluntzer provided some GREAT news about Will Mezger. (Will, we expect you and your family to be at St. Mary's next year to celebrate with us!).



Tom and Mary were thrilled to have Camille and Jeremiah - Camille made us all laugh with her pink sparkly high heel - and her fancy ankle boot (she sprained her ankle during a recent trip to the zoo). Jeremiah ate an AMAZING amount of food.

9/11 - Ten Years Later...

Many parishioners the 10am service on reflection and a prayerful balloons that contained was pretty amazing to up and over the trees.



gathered together after September 11. After quiet blessing, we released prayers and wishes. It see these balloons float

We may not all have been 2001, but we all have lived horrible day. A decade still remembers those who honor the many heroes acts of courage that took days that followed.



in NYC on September 11, with the effects of that later, our St Mary's family lost their lives as well as who unthinkingly exhibited place on that day - and the

(Have we heard back from any of these balloons??)

One of your St. Mary's sisters asked that this poem be included in this month's newsletter. After reading it, We knew it was a keeper. I'm sure you will too! It was written by Kevin Yates. Is this how you think of St Mary's? We sure do!

my

*church
is not this
brick and mortar,
this sacred attempt
to house our God.*

it's

*the sincere
and facewide
smiles of
glad to see you
and
glad to be seen*

it's

*chilled wine
and warm dinners
the comfort of hugs
meant for friend
and family*

it's

*my church
and my blessing
and the Host
and the Blood
and a river of Faith
from Before to After*

it's

*soft spoken memories
and tales often told
and gently
nodding heads
of understanding*

it's

*that air,
of rare,
and eternal*

it's

*tradition,
this expectation
of sameness
and still,
welcoming arms
open to new*

it's

*my church
and my home
my stronghold
when needed
and soft arms
when I heed them.*

it's

*the two of us
gather in His Name,
and your kind gesture
from which
I will never be the same.*



TRUST

When Mary asked me to write an article about “trust” I readily agreed thinking that would not be a difficult topic at all. And then came narrowing down the topic and the realization that “trust” is actually a very broad term. Ranging from banking to legal issues, and, of course, spiritual and personal relationships. I pulled up some “trust quotes” from the internet that I find interesting:

To be trusted is a greater compliment than to be loved.

I'm not upset that you lied to me; I'm upset that from now on I can't believe you.

Trust is like a vase..once it's broken, though you can fix it the vase will never be the same again.

We're never so vulnerable than when we trust someone..but paradoxically, if we cannot trust, neither can we find love or joy.

I KNOW GOD WILL NOT GIVE ME ANYTHING I CAN'T HANDLE. I JUST WISH HE DIDN'T TRUST ME SO MUCH.

Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do.

I like all of these. I'm going to focus, though, on the last one. “Trust yourself. You know more than you think you do.” That kind of goes with my philosophy of “listening to your gut feel”. Seems like the times that I have made the poorest choices are the times I didn't listen to “my gut”. You know what I mean.....no concrete way to describe the feeling; it just is there.



Often times, I find that people really, really want to believe in someone or something to the extent they let themselves go into a fantasy world even though the facts might show something different. This can be seen in relationships as well as financial scams. And, it is seen in all age groups and all socioeconomic brackets. Just look at the very wealthy folks who were caught in the Bernie Madoff scandals. And, we all know of people who get emotionally hurt and sometimes financially ruined due to trusting a relationship that turned out to be based on lies.

So, just how do we decide who to trust, when to trust, and when to ask more questions. In business dealings, become educated, ask questions, get references, and talk to other people. A friend of mine in Dallas recently lost over \$1,000 on a scam for new windows. She readily admits she has no one but herself to blame because she did not check it out to the extent she should have; it sounded too good to be true, and it was.

In today's world of personal relationships through online “meetings” people can't be too careful. Check out what you are being told, insist on meeting the person's family and friends. If this doesn't happen, better start listening closely to your “gut feel”.

It boils down to personal responsibility. It is not that we need to avoid trusting. As the fourth quote above says, “We're never so vulnerable than when we trust someone..but paradoxically, if we cannot trust, neither can we find love or joy.” The ability to trust is formed very early in childhood, usually by age two. Children then have to begin the process of knowing who is to be trusted and who is not to be trusted. It is a process that continues throughout a lifetime.

Jan Denson

Some of Mary's favorite quotes on Trust:

Just how fast we learn to trust depends on our ability to relinquish control, a control we actually did not have in the first place....As our behaviors and attitudes change, we may meet resistance. It can be difficult to trust ourselves. We need to learn not only to trust God, ourselves, and our coworkers, friends and family, but also know we deserve to be trusted.

I can trust God to lead me through this day so that I will be prepared for the future when it arrives and be able to work with whatever it brings. *(Courage to Change)*

If we delegate a task to someone, we also need to give them the authority to do their best without our constant interference. This requires trusting that the other person is fully capable.

Cursillo..

...Tulisha Carson is attending Cursillo from November 3-6 and Fr. Reid will accompany her as Spiritual Advisor. If you're like us, you've probably heard the word "Cursillo" but never really knew what it entailed. After snooping around, we found some websites (links below). We summarized the info below - but the whole she-bang is worth a gander. If you are interested in learning more about Cursillo, click on this live link: <http://www.nationalepiscopalcursillo.org/> or the Texas Cursillo link: <http://www.episcopalcursillotexas.org/>

What is the National Episcopal Cursillo?

What is Cursillo? Cursillo helps those in the church understand their individual callings to be Christian Leaders. The leadership may be exercised in work situations, in the family and social life, in leisure activities, and within the Church environment. Leadership, in Cursillo, does not mean power over others, but influence on others; all of us need to be aware that we can exert a positive influence on those around us.

What is the Goal of Cursillo? The goal of Cursillo is the goal of the Church: to bring all to Christ.

What does Cursillo do? It renews and deepens Christian commitment. Cursillo is just one renewal movement.

What is the Cursillo Movement About? Cursillo is patterned on Jesus' own example. He searched out and called a small group of potential leaders (pre-Cursillo); He trained them by word and example and inspired them with a vision (Three-Day Weekend); He linked them together and sent them out into the world to bring the world to Him (Fourth Day).

The Three-Day Weekend: These three days Episcopalians to share the richness of many appreciation for our Church. Lay people with two or three members of the clergy

The weekend begins Thursday evening spent discussions. Then blessed silence is kept until breakfast participants are assigned to table groups for the weekend. The three days are filled with talks and



bring together a diverse group of modes of worship and to broaden each one's (Tulisha and Cheryl Ann) conduct the weekend functioning as spiritual advisors (Fr. Reid). in the Chapel with meditations and after the worship on Friday morning. After

group discussions with emphasis on the doctrine of Grace, the Sacraments, and the great Cursillo tripod: Piety, Study, and Action. Plus there is fellowship, singing, good food, and time for privacy, meditation, prayer, and walks. Eucharist is celebrated each day.



Senior Warden's Message...

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I recently outlined our financial challenges in our "Messenger" newsletter. We have begun our Stewardship Drive for next year's pledges and a Capital Campaign Drive (see enclosures). We missed you at the special meeting of the Parish on September 18th where we discussed these important actions. I would ask that you take time to think and pray on both these actions for the future of our church. The church I reference is not the physical structure, but the body of members that make up Saint Mary's.

As Father Reid discussed at the beginning of the year, the Vestry approved an annual budget with a deficit of approximately \$26,000. We truly believed that through your generosity and prayer this deficit would melt away. It did not and we had to take \$10,000 from our cash reserves to offset the deficit and pay our bills to keep the church programs going to which we all have become accustomed. We anticipate finishing the year in a positive way but it will be very close. If giving trends for 2011 continue, then we estimate a 2012 deficit of approximately \$34,000. Finances are tough for everyone right now and we, the Vestry, understand that. I ask your consideration of your church's needs as you pray about offering your pledge, or if you have never offered a pledge, I ask to you to do so beginning this year.

With regards to the Capital Campaign, the Vestry understands that we reversed the normal process. Usually a capital drive begins by determining what the project will cost and then collecting the money to accomplish it. In this case, we were faced with foundation problems on the Southeast corner that needed immediate attention. We have used the remaining balance that was in our Capital Campaign fund and have taken a loan from our cash reserves of \$100,000 to begin the work to accomplish this critical task. We may have to borrow some of the remaining reserves of \$26,000 to complete the work. Our Capital Campaign goal is to raise \$150,000 which will repay the loan and establish a building fund for church maintenance and repairs. An anonymous donor has generously challenged us to raise \$35,000 (cash in hand) by 15 December and the donor will match it up to \$35,000. This would give us \$70,000 by the end of 2011. Again, I ask you to pray as you think about what you will give. There are several options in the brochure for individual members to meet their personal goal over three years with a 10% down payment, but our immediate goal is \$35,000 by 15 December.

Finally, invite someone to church. If we are going to continue with the mission that Jesus charged us with then we must not be afraid to invite others to join us!

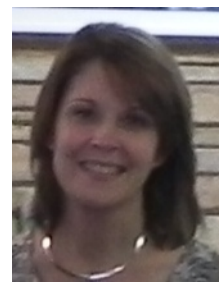
Your Brother in Christ,

Bill Adams

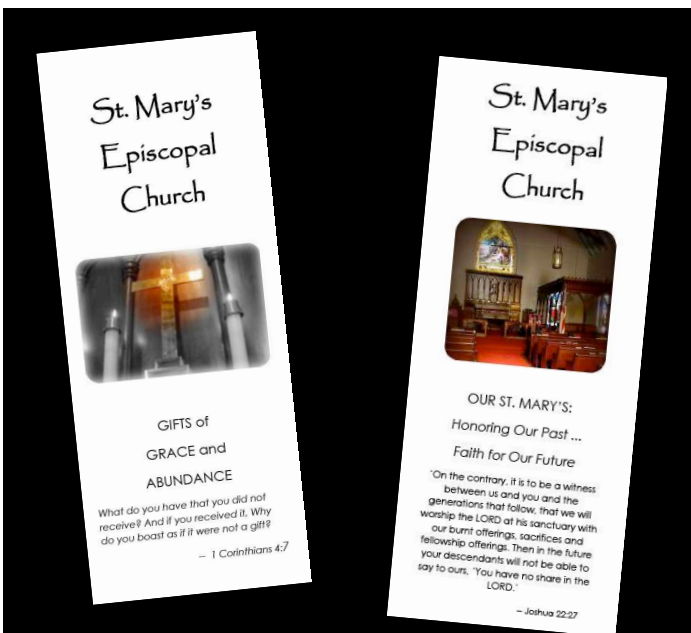
FROM THE TREASURER...

The Stewardship Campaign has begun at St. Mary's for 2012, as well as a three year Capital Campaign to raise funds to replace the money we borrowed from our reserves for necessary church foundation repairs. Thank you to everyone who attended the important Parish Meeting on September 18th. If you were unable to attend, you should have received a letter from Senior Warden Bill Adams this past week outlining details on both, along with copies of the pledge brochures. (If you did not receive them please let us know right away and we will send them again).

I am happy to report that I have begun receiving completed pledge cards back from parishioners for both campaigns. I would like to ask to have Pledge cards returned by November 6th which is All Saints Day. (I think this is such an appropriate day, as we remember those loved ones who are no longer here with us, we can be thankful for those who are, and remember that all that we have comes from God.) You can put your pledge cards in the offering plate on a Sunday morning or you can mail them to me in the envelope that was provided, or you can drop them by the church office. I will keep all financial information in strict confidence.



Please keep in mind that we do have a challenge going for the Capital Campaign Drive and an anonymous donor has agreed to contribute matching funds for up to \$35,000 raised by December 15th! Time is of the essence on this challenge and it is for cash-in-hand (not pledges received). If we can raise \$35,000 cash by December 15th, it will instantly become \$70,000!! This is almost half of our total campaign and would be wonderful, so please continue to pray about how you can help us meet this challenge!



In closing, I would remind you that through stewardship, we acknowledge that the many gifts we have been given are from God. Stewardship call us to give back to God by offering our time & talent and by making a financial commitment to our church.

"Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord." --2 Peter 1:2

Sincerely,

Tulisha Carson, Treasurer

EYG Update

The EYG Youth Group is in full swing again. The group meets each Wednesday night during the school year (September thru May) in the Hirst House. This year our meetings are structured slightly different. We gather at 5:30 p.m. for an hour of homework time, then at 6:30 we eat dinner. On the 1st, 3rd & 5th weeks we have Bible Study after dinner, followed by praise music. On the 2nd week we have game night after dinner. On the 4th Wednesday's we do something a little different. The kids decided that they wanted to do something for others, so this year they will be visiting the Lampasas Nursing & Rehab Center from 5:30-6:30 to visit with residents, sing songs for them, play games and just get to know them. After our visit, we go out to eat and then go back to the Hirst House for homework time. All EYG evenings end at 8 p.m.

This coming Wednesday, October 5th, the youth group will be attending Fields of Faith, which is sponsored by The Fellowship of Christian Students. "Fields of Faith" is an opportunity for local students to come together with adults in our community and pray for concerns and have a neutral site (High School Track Field) to worship as one group of people. The event is sponsored by FCS, The QB Club, local churches & youth groups. There will be hot dogs, praise teams and plenty of fun.

We are having a wonderful time together at St. Mary's Youth Group. We are a small group, but it isn't the numbers that matter. We are entrusted to help our young people grow into disciples of the living Christ, and God's presence is something we can count on each week!



Tulisha and Marie



Mary is irreverent - and gives a religious explanation of the Drought!

On Thursday night the thunderstorm we all enjoyed was cracking and lighting up the sky (*that's one reason why this newsletter is late - we had to turn off the computer and unplug everything*). Water was coming

down in buckets! Anyway, the storm got Mary talking about the first reading from last Sunday. She told me that it was from Exodus and said: *"...but there was no water for the people to drink....The people thirsted there for water, and the people complained...so Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with these people?...The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead...take in your hand the staff...strike the rock and water will come out of it so that the people may drink. Moses did so..."*

WELL! Mary was SURE that Fr. Reid had been out and about, pounding the rocks and stones with Charlotte Haynie's golf clubs. (Reid should have kept up the ruckus! We could use a week of storm like we had that night!! Charlotte - do you have an extra wood?)

ARE You HUNGRY??

The Annual ECW Fall Luncheon is coming up on Friday, November 4th. There is a signup sheet in the parish hall to make soup, cornbread, help work during the luncheon or make a cash donation to purchase supplies. Pick-up your tickets to sell from the church office or an ECW member. The tickets are \$7.50 each and the lunch includes Taco Soup, Cornbread Muffin, Chips, Dessert and a drink. Remember -- the proceeds from the ECW fundraisers help local charities that the group supports, as well as an annual donation to the St. Mary's Operating Fund. Check out the flyer.



GO SEE DOLPHIN TALE!

Our granddaughter, Camille, took us to see this movie. It was REALLY good (okay, Mary DID miss the last 15 minutes because baby Jeremiah had to crawl around out in the lobby). The story is nice with no gratuitous sex or cussing. The dolphin really was "Winter" - who lost his tail. I kept waiting for Harry Connick to start singing - but he didn't. Morgan Freeman is as good as ever.



NEWS FLASH - CELEBRITIES

SPOTTED: **Sue Faulkner** and **Jane McMillin** are famous - did you see their picture in the Lampasas Dispatch Record? They are members of the local Pierian Club. In case you missed it - here it is (maybe they will autograph it for you??) **YOU GO GIRLS!!**

CHILI RELLENO CASSEROLE

(This is my mother's recipe - and it is REALLY easy...AND good!). Hope you like it as much as we do. I always serve it with flour tortillas and a crisp green salad.

Ingredients:

3 cans of whole Ortega chilies (split them open, take out any seeds, rinse, and pat dry)
3+ cups of shredded cheese (mixture of cheddar, monterey jack, and pepper jack)
2 eggs (use 3 of you want - it's okay)
1 can evaporated milk
2 T flour
1/2 cup milk
1 can tomato sauce

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350. Spray a casserole dish. Layer chile and cheese (cheese is top layer). Mix eggs, evap milk, flour, milk and pour over the top. Bake for 25 minutes. Pour tomato sauce over top and decorate with a few last grated cheese bits. Bake another 15 minutes. YUM!

OUR FAVORITE RED EAGLE REPORTER....*Mary Halvorson*

ECW Fall Luncheon

It is that time again! On Nov 4, 2011, the ECW will hold its Fall (Taco Soup) Luncheon. The tickets will be distributed on 4 Oct – St. Mary's Annual Celebration – at our 9:00 A.M. meeting. Price this year is \$7.50 per ticket. Sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall. We need cooks to make the soup, people to serve, people to clean up, people to make corn muffins and our famous Chocolate Cake.

There will be a meeting on Thursday, 3 Nov, at 4:00 to assemble To-go bags, etc. We won't have Tulisha to help in the kitchen this year, and Reid will be away also,....so, please let Mary Halvorson know if you can help in the kitchen or deliver meals. It is always a good time so come join us.

Bake and Craft Sale

At this year's Fall Luncheon the ECW is also holding a Bake Sale along with a small Craft sale. Those of you who are willing are asked to donate baked goods, pies, breads, rolls, cakes, etc., for this event. There will be plenty of room in the kitchen to drop off your baked goods starting on Wednesday, 2 Nov. Please let Faye Mullins know if you are going to donate.

In conjunction with the Bake Sale there will be a small craft sale. If you are a crafter and are willing to donate your handiwork, call Faye Mullins to let her know.

Please support these efforts so that we can make this year our biggest ever! Monies collected from the Fall Luncheon, Bake Sale and Craft Sale all go to local charities supported by St. Mary's Episcopal Church Women.

Red Eagle 9th Annual Pasture Picnic

(This is Mary...sorry #1 - not all the photos copied.. :())



On September 9, 10, and 11, 2011, Jim and Mary Halvorson hosted their 9th Annual Pasture Picnic at the Red Eagle Ranch, near Goldthwaite. This year's theme was "An All American Backyard BBQ and Barn Dance."

Guests were greeted by an avenue of American Flags and Yellow Ribbons. Mary's Nephew, John Harold Eads

began the festivities by singing

the National Anthem – wonderfully done. Tatum Kierce (grand-daughter) and Taitlyn led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. All attendees were photographed next to a



wooden Statue of Liberty. Mary Hart and Suzanne Tooley won a plaque for winning the Horse shoe tournament. Don Owens and the Backroads Band played for everyone's listening and dancing enjoyment. We all had a great time and ate more than we should have. Featured dessert was "St. Mary's Chocolate Cake" with Blue Bell Ice Cream. If you missed it, there is always next year. 2012 theme is "Race Day", so get your remote control cars ready!



THE LAST LAUGH...

Did you know there are websites dedicated to Episcopalian jokes? Here is one...

Three men of the cloth, a Catholic, a Jew and an Episcopalian were on an airplane trip together. They ran into the worst turbulence in the history of aviation on the whole flight.

When the plane finally landed, a reporter is there and starts interviewing people. The first one is the Catholic and when asked was he afraid, he answered, "I am Catholic my son and yes, I was afraid but I prayed to my God and I knew he would see me through it."

The reporter said thank you and went up to the next man of the cloth and asked was he afraid, he answered, "I am Jewish my son and yes, I was afraid but I prayed to my God and I knew he would see me through it."

The reporter said thank you and went up to the third man of the cloth whose clothes were all messed up, wet streaks down his pants and chunks on his chest. He was asked the same questions and replied, "I'm an Ecopalian".

The reporter says, "Ecopalian, what is an Ecopalian?"

And the man of the cloth said, "That's an Episcopalian with the piss scared out of him!"

You might be an Episcopalian...

...if you watch Star Wars and when they say "May the force be with you," you automatically reply "And also with you."

...if you have totally memorized Rite I, Rite II and the first three episodes of The Vicar of Dibley.

...if the sight of a woman in a clerical collar doesn't make you cringe.

...if you catch yourself genuflecting or bowing as you enter a row of seats in a theater.

...if you know the best way to quiet a room full of them: "The Lord be with you!"

...if when visiting a Catholic Church, you are the only "Ah-men" amongst a sea of "A-men"s.

...IF YOUR COVERED DISH FOR THE POTLUCK DINNER IS ESCARGOT IN PUFF SHELLS.

...if you don't think Agnus Dei is a woman.

...IF YOU KNOW HOW TO FINISH THE PHRASE "AND I WILL RAAAAISE THEM UP, AND I WILL RAAAAISE THEM UP..."

...if your priest has ever said during the sermon, "and he's got the whole world in his hands. That means all the nasty people too: tyrants, terrorists, and Rush Limbaugh."



WELL...THAT'S ALL FOLKS!

SEE YOU ON SUNDAY