



The Outpost September 2010

Grace Episcopal Church
Alvin, Texas

Selling Pumpkins and Making Memories...

What is your favorite memory of the Grace Church Pumpkin Patch? The Pumpkin Patch has been part of our church long enough now that children have grown up with wonderful memories of spending fall days playing in the patch, growing strong enough to help customers carry big pumpkins to their car, playing games at the carnival, and eating meals with friends in the evenings.

A quick poll of some of our church members garnered these memories: 'Pumpkin Sunday and all of the creative, delicious pumpkin recipes!' 'The Carnival and watching all of the parents playing with their children!' 'Spending afternoons helping customers and watching parents take photos of their children in the Pumpkin Patch!'

We hope you are looking forward to this year's Pumpkin Patch. Here is a brief outline of the exciting events we're planning:

Oct. 2 – The Pumpkins Arrive! They'll be here in the morning & it's "all hands on deck". The Boy & Cub Scouts are wonderful helpers each year and as many of us as pos-

sible join them for a fun-filled morning of filling the Patch with beautiful, freshly picked pumpkins. A Hot Dog Thank You Lunch will follow, sponsored by the ECW.

Oct. 9 – Enjoy an evening of live music in the Patch; BBQ sandwiches, chips & drinks for sale

Oct. 10 – Pumpkin Sunday (watch for details on your invitation to cook a recipe using one of our pumpkins, bring it to church to share for lunch)

Oct. 16 – new this year – Pumpkin Patch Market with booth rentals for \$20 – more details to come but this will be a fun shopping day in our Pumpkin Patch!

Oct. 23 – Annual Children's Carnival, 9am-2pm

Oct. 30 – our Final Day to be open – one of the most fun days to work in the Patch! Come see why!

Jennifer Price & Lang Windsor, on behalf of the ECW, will handle the sign up sheet for work shifts. Many of us have made it a tradition to work every week on the same day. For example several families show up every Sunday afternoon each week the Patch is open. You'll also discover a few weeknights that dinner

is served as part of the deal for working that evening. (We're typically open until dusk most days. The exact schedule will be finalized in September.) We're all looking forward to another memorable October in the Pumpkin Patch.

Inside this issue:

Announcements 3-5

From the Rector's Desk 2

Parish Prayer List 6

Vestry Summary 7



From the Rector's Desk....

Rally Day: A Ministry Party – September 12

Every September we experience the launching of the new season of parish program and ministry. Come to the Parish Hall on Sunday, September 12 at 9:00 a.m. There, we will find displays describing various classes, groups, and program offerings. There will also be displays for various ways to serve.

Episcopalians know that ministry is the privilege and calling of every Christian. Bishops, priests and deacons are ordained for particular tasks of equipping the faithful and modeling service to those in need. It is lay people who make up the most critical and far reaching arm of ministry in Christ's name.

We are so grateful for those who make worship possible: the Grace Church Choir, Acolytes, Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Guild members, Ushers and Junior Ushers. They are open avenues for ministry, so please consider which of these ways you would like to offer your time and talent. You might want to help teach Sunday School, assist with Pumpkin Patch in October, help with one of the church groups or special projects. Some ways of serving are light or with a convenient start and end time. Others demand more effort and time. Come to Rally Day and think "three" this year. Find three ways you can plug in to help your church family, to grow spiritually, and to glorify God.

YO: A New Chapter in Ministry with Youth

Beginning this fall, we begin a reorganized cooperative model for youth ministry. It is conceived as a ministry open to the whole community. Pastors and leaders from Grace Episcopal Church, First Christian Church and First Presbyterian Church are working together on the exciting new enterprise. (These are the same three congregations which have cooperated together for years on successful and effective Vacation Bible School programs.)

The youth events and program itself is known to the participants and to the community as YO, standing for Youth Organization, YO guided by a newly established board of Alvin Christian Youth Programs (A.C.Y.P.). Making up the board are the pastors and two lay trustees from each of the three congregations. The mission is to provide meaningful and insightful fellowship and programs for teens in grades 6-12.

A.C.Y.P. has just named Ryan Perry as the Program Director. Ryan has served as youth minister at St. Andrew's Pearl and, and other churches in our diocese, and is dedicated to encouraging our youth to attending our Episcopal Diocesan youth events. The events and programs of YO, which began in a trial phase last spring and through the summer, are already mapped out for September and the fall season. The big, fun, regular meetings will be on Wednesday nights at 6:30, and the locations of the events will rotate to the various churches on a quarterly or bi-quarterly basis. There will also be a Sunday afternoon program. More information will come through Grace Greetings, emails and other means.

Bishop High Visits and Celebrates Baptism

On August 25th The Right Rev. Rayford B. High, Jr. Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, graciously came to visit us, and celebrated Holy Eucharist, and preached. Though some had difficulty securing the schedule to be presented, candidates prepared included: Alycia Anna Tatum, James Morse, Greg Tatum, Angela Tatum, Erin Weber, Josh Weber, Elizabeth Stokes, and Mysty Gorai (Baptized).

Let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Grace Episcopal Church

200 W Lang St, Alvin TX

gracechurchalvin@hotmail.com

www.gracechurchalvin.com

The Rev. David W. Price

davidprice56@yahoo.com

fax: 281.331.0143

office: 281.331.5657

The Outpost editor is Donna Tate. Electronic Outpost submissions may be emailed to the editor at donnas7352@att.net. Print submissions may be turned into the Outpost box in the church office during normal office hours. The Outpost deadline is printed on the monthly calendar.

Grace Guild will meet Saturday September 25 at 9am. Plans will be made for the annual Christmas boxes for the DeGeorge veterans. Please come and support this cause for our veterans. All women are welcome.

2010 Financial Update

Total July Income was \$16,050.41 (90.2% of Budget)

Total July Expenses was \$19,101.18. (89.1% of Budget)

July net income was down \$3,050.70.

Year to Date net income is down \$16,150.46.

Calling all teens and families in the Alvin/Manvel Area



Alvin Christian Youth Programs (A.C.Y.P.)

A.C.Y.P. has been established by churches in the Alvin Area who wish to provide meaningful and insightful fellowship and programs for teens in grades 6-12. Let us welcome you as we provide light refreshments for your whole family and details about what the 2010/2011 year looks like and how we want you to be a part of it. Calendars, Release Forms, and Contact Information will be distributed at this meeting, so you won't want to miss it.

What: ACYP 2010-2011 Program Meeting.

When: August 25, 2010

Where: First Presbyterian Church, 302 S. Johnson.

Time: 6:30—8 pm.

Other: Please RSVP your family's attendance by e-mail to Ryan Perry at: rper713@gmail.com

Alvin Christian Youth Programs (A.C.Y.P.)

A.C.Y.P. has been established by churches in the Alvin area who wish to provide meaningful and insightful fellowship and programs for teens in grades 6-12. Let us welcome you as we provide light refreshments for your whole family, and details about what the 2010/2011 year looks like, and how we want to be a part of it. Calendars, release forms, and contact Information will be distributed at this meeting, so you won't want to miss it.

Have a Question? These people may be able to help:

- Danny Hermann; *Parish Administrator/Treasurer:* 281.331.5657
- Glennie Hefner; *Senior Warden*
- Wayne Bell; *Junior Warden*
- Terrie Beasley, John Bergmann, Lynne Bruner, Vicki Ennis, Charles Lamb, Tommy Peebles, Donna Tate; *Vestry Members*
- Bill Wicker; *Music Director*
- S. Wayne Mathis; *Altar Guild Director*
- Donna Tate; *Outpost Editor*

Grace Episcopal Church Sunday Service Times

- 8:00 AM—Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- 9:15 AM—Christian Education for All Ages
- 10:30 AM—Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Fall Kick-Off Meeting

Saturday September 11, 2010 9am

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

Time to start planning the year ahead for programs, Pumpkin Patch and Poinsettia Plant Sale just to name a few ideas....we will start with morning prayer followed by light breakfast (bring your favorite something to share) and planning meeting. All women of the Church are invited so don't miss out!

ECW'S PRAYER

Almighty God, Heavenly Father, source of all knowledge and truth, be present with each of us meeting together as the Women of the Episcopal Church. Grant us open minds, compassionate hearts, honest words and gentle ways. Give us the grace to know your will, the courage to accept it and the strength to accomplish it. May we not forget the lessons from the past nor fear the challenges of the future. Bless us with your peace today and all the days to come, and may we ever pray, "Thy will be done". We live in your presence and pray in your Holy Name.



Amen

Can You Spare Some Change?

As I was preparing to write the article for The Outpost this month, all I could think of is change. I personally have gone through quite a bit of change in the last year and it continues to just happen. Our church has gone through many changes as well in the last year. As I prepare for the fall season I find myself as a "single parent" as my husband pursues his education at Southwest Texas Junior College. Our church family has been very supportive and even our wider Episcopalian family that we now have in Uvalde at St. Phillips.

We are constantly bombarded with change just because we are breathing. It is during these times that we must cling to our faith and our parish family. I challenge you to let your church family know what changes you are facing. It can only increase your spiritual walk as you share what is really going on with you. I also challenge you to try a little change, if you can stand more!

Volunteer for a new ministry at church, commit to attending Sunday school or just simply attend church on a regular basis. Even a little change counts!

Stewardship Program 2010

This is a brief introduction to this year's Stewardship Program at Grace Church. Tommy Peebles offered to be the chair this year. He and the Rector attended the Bishop's Conference on stewardship at Camp Allen on August 6 and 7. This year the Vestry will function as the Stewardship Committee. The Every Member Canvass is scheduled for Sunday, November 7. You will receive more information throughout September and October.

Episcopal Night with the Astros is September 10, 2010. Grace Church will not have a coordinated effort this year. Individual tickets may be purchased at www.astros.com

The September Deadline for the October Edition of The Outpost is Friday, September 24, 2010.



Are you ready?

Special Emergency Preparedness Section

Above-Average Activity Predicted for 2010 Hurricane Season

The Atlantic basin is anticipated to experience above-average activity in the 2010 hurricane season, according to an April report issued by the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University.

The study predicts 15 named tropical storms occurring throughout the season, which begins on June 1 and lasts through November 30. Eight are expected to develop into hurricanes, classified as major storms on the Saffir-Simpson scale of measurement. Major hurricanes have winds upwards of 111 miles per hour, and fall into categories three through five.

The CSU study also indicates a 44 percent probability that one of these major storms will strike the Gulf coast between the Florida panhandle and Brownsville,

TX, with a 69 percent probability that one will strike somewhere on the United States coastline.

An average Atlantic hurricane season produces 10 named storms, with six hurricanes, two of which turn into major hurricanes.

This year's above-average predictions, however, are comparable to those of 2008, in which the Texas Gulf Coast was hit by three hurricanes: Dolly, Gustav, and Ike.

Ike, the last and most devastating of the three, was a category two windstorm. However, the storm was so large in diameter that it produced a surge typical of a much stronger hurricane, flooding most of Galveston Island, Bolivar Peninsula and many towns along Galveston Bay.

Parish Emergency Planning is Essential Resources are Available

In an ideal world, emergency plans would not be necessary. Disasters would not happen, and life would be calm, day in and day out.

But we all know that this ideal is not realistic. Disasters occur and sometimes they strike in the heart of our own communities.

In the Diocese of Texas, we are at high risk for floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, fires, chemical spills and explosions, technological emergencies and many other concerns that have the potential to disrupt our lives, our homes, churches and communities.

If, and when these events strike, we need to know how to react and respond. In addition to individuals having their personal emergency plans, each and every parish should as well. The parish plan should provide the steps necessary to secure your facilities, respond to the community and continue operations. These are best when created by your

parish, for your parish, in order to meet the needs of your specific congregation and community before, during and after an emergency.

Benefits of creating and utilizing a plan help you protect existing assets, support and ensure the safety of your congregation and, in some cases, even grow your parish membership.

Whether you're clergy, a vestry member or a regular attendee, you can play a critical part in the preparedness process. Start by asking questions – find out if your parish has an emergency plan, and, if not, start planning.

Because this task can be overwhelming, Texas Episcopal Disaster Relief and Development has created "The Parish Emergency Planning Guide" and made it available for download at www.epicenter.org/preparedness.

This easy-to-use guide will assist your parish in working through the topics important to emergency planning

Diocesan Emergency Preparedness Month

We will be hosting workshops in each region throughout the diocese to present Parish Emergency Preparedness. Be sure to join us at one of these gatherings for valuable information.

Austin - St. Michael's, 1500 North Capital of Texas Highway, Austin, 78746, 512.327.1474
May 5, 12 p.m., Emergency Planning for Parish Administrators (Brown Bag Lunch)
May 8, 1:30 p.m., Parish-wide Emergency Planning 2CEUs

Houston - Emmanuel, 15015 Memorial Drive, Houston, 77079, 281.493.3161
May 13, 12 p.m., Emergency Planning for Parish Administrators (Brown Bag Lunch)
May 15, 10 a.m., Parish-wide Emergency Planning 2CEUs

East Texas - St. Cyprian's, Lufkin, 919 South John Redditt Drive, Lufkin, Texas 75904
May 20, 12 p.m., Parish Administrator's Luncheon (Lunch Provided)
May 22, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Parish-wide Emergency Planning 2CEUs

Register for a workshop, or stay updated on this upcoming event and the work of Texas Episcopal Disaster Relief & Development, by visiting online at www.epicenter.org/tedrd.

-- assessing your risks, performing an insurance inventory and contacting parishioners.

In addition, TEDRD will be hosting two workshops in each region of the diocese in May to discuss the topic and provide an opportunity to ask questions. The first of the workshops will focus on parish administrators and others in similar roles, to equip them with preparedness

tools specific to their role in the church. The second workshop is open to all, and will provide an overview of creating a parish emergency plan. Two CEU credits are available for attending clergy.

See the box on this page for the dates and times of these workshops, or to register, visit the Texas Episcopal Disaster Relief and Development website at www.epicenter.org/tedrd.

September Parish Prayer List

The Clergy:

The Rt. Rev. Katherine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop
The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle, Bishop of Texas
The Rt. Rev. Rayford B. High, Bishop Suffragan of Texas
The Rt. Rev. Dena Harrison, Bishop Suffragan of Texas
The Rev. David W. Price, Rector
The Rev. CarolAnn Mills, Deacon
The Rev. Joseph M. Mills, Deacon

Special Ministries

Vestry of Grace Church
Directors and all workers involved in Grace Church Ministries

Parish Family & Friends:

Isaiah, Allie, Andrew, Chrystal, Gabriel, Joe, Lucy, Marshall, Veronica, Bob & Oney Armstrong, Metta Barrell, Patricia Bell, Hortense Brinkley, Lynne Bruner, Nathan Buzbee, Rayna Buzbee, Anja Cadenhead, Dorothy Callan, Tabatha Chastain, Jackie Childers, Terry Constantine, Joyce Davis, Tom Denson, James Duffy, Jennifer Elliott, Robert Ellis, Teddy Esquivel, Clayton Ford, Diana Fuertes, Elizabeth Gass, Kitty Haner, Jo Hayes, Elsie Hillhouse, Melissa Hillhouse, Judy Holden, Betty Jacobson, Mary Lee, Jo Ann Linville, Carroll Maples, Irene Martinez, Christine Mats, Tom Mills, Jr. Morris, Mildred Morris, Angela Ochoa, Becky Peebles, Bob Peebles, Trey Rapp, Elizabeth Reimer, Joan Rossano, Claudia Rost, Rachel Sasan, Buster Schapper, Jack Schlegel, Emma Lou Smith, Payton Spence, Sandra Willis

For Expectant Mothers:

Crystal Bryant, Jessica Cross, Jill MaGill, Jennifer Prescott, Mary Sims, Patsy Tung

For those in the Armed Forces:

Mickey Alcantara, Scott Barrier, Scott Bean, Christian Blevins, Jason Bryan, Chase and Christina Capehart, Cody Capehart, Matthew Joshua & Michael Chebret, Ryan Cross, Clayton Crouch, Zac & Max Curtner, David Dezso, Glen Dockal, Raymond Dugan, Brandon Fletcher, Mitchell Goodnight, Matt & David Hefner, Lance Henderson, Eric Heitz, Cynthia Horan, Adam Miller, Ben Meyer, Emily Naslund, Roy Nickel, Tara Parker, Daniel Popham, Jonathan Prater, Manuel Rodriguez, Josh Sager, William Thompson, Ray Turner, Travis Ward, Steve Wilson, Clint Zgarba

For Those Celebrating Birthdays This Month: Joe Mills (1), Ivy Richardson (1), Lang Windsor (1), Cody Dennis (2), Sallye Tomberlin (2), Greg Jeter (5), Elizabeth Gass (8), Avery Ellen Smith (12), Jennifer Weaver (12), Richard Oliver (13), Sheridan Rowe (13), Olivia Price (17), Fr. David Price (19), Bo Denson (20), Heather Roy (25), Becky Peebles (26), Chris Patterson (30), Joe Rossano (30).

For Those Celebrating Anniversaries This Month: Tim & Betsy Craft (4), Danny & Kathy Hermann (4), James and Debbie Norwood (4).

August Vestry Summary

Fr. Price called the August 17, 2010 regular meeting of the Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church to order with a prayer at 7:05 PM. Those in attendance were: Terrie Beasley, Wayne Bell (Jr. Warden) John Bergmann, Glennie Hefner (Sr. Warden), Tommy Peebles, and Donna Tate. John Bergmann and Charles Lamb were appointed to the vestry to fill vacancies left by Karen Hayes and David Schlegel. The minutes from the July meeting were read and approved with a minor correction.

Peebles's presentation on the All-Member Stewardship Canvass was moved to the beginning of the meeting. Peebles told of his and Fr. Price's attendance at the Bishop's Conference on Stewardship at Camp Allen on August 6-7, 2010. As a result of this conference, he proposed and organized the Every Member Canvass. The vestry will serve as the Stewardship Committee. Every vestry member will need to recruit several canvassers, as well as be required to contact about 3 to 4 parish families. Training will be October 5 at 7:00 PM. The Canvass will take place on Sunday November 7, after the 10:30 AM Sunday Service. Discussion followed.

A quick recap of the Labor Day Parade plans was presented by Peebles. At the conclusion of his presentations, Peebles left the meeting because of another commitment.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion noted that budgeted pledged giving is down by \$1000 for July over anticipated. It was down in May by \$2000. Progress is evident, but there are still budget gaps to continue to address. Motion to accept pending audit carried.

Rector's Report: Sunday Attendance continues to be down. Janessa Tomberlin will conclude her youth ministry on August 31. We will have a celebration of her ministry on Sunday, August 22, 2010 at the 10:30 AM service. Grace will shift to a cooperative community youth ministry with 2 other local churches. Fr. Price has spoken with our youth about the transition. The Youth Minister is an Episcopalian and will encourage Diocesan programs. The governing board of this ministry (called YO!) will have 3 representatives from Grace: Terrie Beasley as a youth parent, Lynne Bruner as a vestry representative, and Fr. Price as rector. There will still be a need for Sunday morning ministry with our youth. There is no employee update on other employees at this time.

Hefner presented no formal Senior Warden Report as all items were on the Open Issues Agenda.

Junior Warden's Report: Bell reported that the kitchen sink was replaced, some side aisle lights in the church were replaced, and there is still a small leak in the large stained glass window above the choir loft. Repair of this leak is beyond the scope of parish members and will require contractor bids. The plans for the Pavilion will be signed on Wednesday, August 18, 2010. The retention drain is underway. The slab would be poured the week of August 23. All work must be completed by September 22, 2010.

Bergmann presented information on the progress of installing windows in selected interior doors in order for Grace to be in compliance with Safeguarding God's Children. Twelve windows will cost approximately \$300.00.

Visioning/Facility Committee: A builder with extensive experience with churches has walked the grounds with Hefner and parishioner Mark Patterson and offered some recommendations. Discussion followed. The motion to table the committee until after vestry elections carried.

Ministry Appreciation Banquet: Date was moved to November 14, 2010 due to scheduling conflicts.

Sunday School Coordinator: Fr. Price has spoken with Leah Jones and there is an outline of a children's program through the fall. It will be in a framework similar to that of Vacation Bible School (VBS).

Bishop High Visit: Bishop High will be at Grace on Wednesday, August 25, 2010, for a 7:00 PM Baptism and Confirmation Service. Arrangements were made for vestry members to have dinner with Bishop High at the Barbed Rose Steakhouse at 5:00 PM before the service. There are potentially 10 confirmands. Parish Administrator, Danny Hermann, will send out a call on the Phone Tree Network.

Moving Forward Conference: a parishioner contacted Fr. Price about the possibility of Grace Episcopal Church participating in an upcoming conference by being a "Conversation Partner." Discussion followed. The vestry declined the request.

SGC: Beasley has been trained as a Trainer of Trainers for Safeguarding God's Children.

Vestry Nominations Committee: A 4 person committee of Beasley, Ennis, Lamb, and Kathy Hermann was proposed. A nomination slate of 10 people will be needed. Motion to assemble the committee carried.

Rally Day: Specifics about Rally Day will be determined.

The next meeting will be September 21. The motion to adjourn carried at 9:10 PM.

Grace Episcopal Church September Outpost

Office Hours:

Monday –Friday

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

281.331.5657

The Outpost and monthly calendars can also be found online at

www.gracechurchalvin.com

Grace Episcopal Church in Alvin, Texas is a member of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas and part of the National Episcopal Church and the worldwide Anglican Communion. You can find out

more about the Episcopal Diocese of Texas at www.epicenter.org, the national church at www.episcopalchurch.org, and the worldwide Anglican Communion at www.anglicancommunion.org.



Grace Episcopal Church

200 West Lang Street

Alvin, Texas 77511