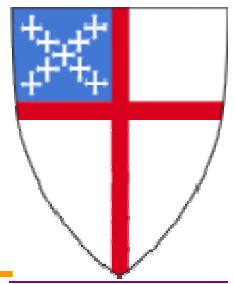


St. Luke's Episcopal Church

"Heaven in the Hills"

Newsletter—October 2009



From Father Bye... "So What About Angels?"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In the modern world it may seem like an odd thing to devote time to the consideration of Angels. There are so many other important spiritual principals and theological questions to consider. Besides which, it is so easy to see angels as similar to or even the same as mythological creatures like sphinx and gargoyles, what with pictorial images of winged angels and what not. However I was recently stimulated into consideration of Angelic beings at a recent Wednesday Holy Communion service when we celebrated the feast day of St. Michael And All Angels at St. Luke's. In the past this has been one of the most widely celebrated feast days in the greater church.

While there are numerous references to Angels in the scriptures, there are only four angels who are mentioned by name. Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and Uriel. Probably the reason that Michael is singled out for the feast day is due to the profundity of his great victory over the fallen angel Lucifer, resulting in Satan being cast out of Heaven (Rev.). This victory in heaven of course points to the earthly victory to come through Jesus Christ over sin and death by Jesus' death and resurrection.

The depictions that we see of Angels with wings simply illustrate a characteristic of swiftness as they move about creation doing the ministry that God assigns to them, just as the sword of Michel illustrates the power that God has bestowed on them to spiritually protect us against the assaults of the forces of evil that can come upon us resulting in actions driven by pride, anger, fear, resentment, etc. In the scriptures Angels commonly appear in the form of humans. Two Angels appeared as two men at the tent of Abram and Sari as they sojourned in Canaan. Also, Jacob wrestled with a man who was revealed as an angel of the Lord (Gen). Ultimately Jacob is renamed "Israel," which translates from the Hebrew as "he who has striven with God," by the Angel of the Lord or God, who he has just wrestled with. Thereby one of the ways that we understand that Angels ultimately signify the presence of God.

Probably one of the most well known visions of Angels is when Jacob is camped at Bethel and sees a ladder extending from the earth to heaven and the Angels ascending and descending. Once again we realize that Angels are a sign of God's presence as Jacob states, "surely the Lord is present in this place." The ancients understood that Holy places like Bethel (translates, the House of God) were places that God chose to come down and meet His people. The Angels ascending and descending Jacob's Ladder are also about their ministry as God's messengers delivering communications from God to us and prayers from us to God. As we see Angels as swift and powerful ministers of God, protecting us and assisting us in our communication with God, we would not forget their greatest ministry as signs of the presence of God as He chooses to meet us in Holy Places. This would be especially true for us as we enter the Holy space of St. Luke's. It is always true, but especially so when we come to worship and pray. We must never forget that we are entering a Holy place that has been provided by God as a meeting place for us and Him. Always try and come into this space quietly and reverently, listening and looking, as you pray, for the ascending and descending of God's Holy Angels at St. Luke's at Cypress Mill. Yours in Christ. - Father Bye +

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All Creatures Great And Small

On October 11 during the 10:15 service a Blessing of the Animals will be offered to commemorate St. Francis. The service will be held outside under the big oak tree. Bring your animals, large and small, to receive a blessing. All animals must be on a leash or contained to avoid any unpleasant encounters. If it rains, the Blessing of the Animals portion of the service will be canceled, and church will be inside.

Lawn Care Help Needed

Volunteers are needed to help Junior Warden David Green with the grounds maintenance. This includes mowing and weed-eating (the Church provides the equipment). Contact David Green at 830-832-5848 to kindly offer your help.

Altar Flowers

Memorial flowers, or flowers given in thanksgiving, may be donated for our worship services by calling Gail Moreman at 830-868-7559.

Important Dates

- Sundays at 9:15: Confirmation/Enquirers Class with Father Bye in the Church.
- Every Tuesday evening: ESL classes, 6:30-8:00 PM in Swope Hall.
- Every Tuesday AM: Women's Bible Study, 8 AM in Swope Hall
- October 3: Festival at our sister church, Santa Fe Episcopal church, San Antonio, TX
- October 11: Blessing of the Animals, 10:15 service →
- **October 18: Bishop Reed's visit with luncheon**
- October 19: Bishop's Committee meeting: 6 PM, Swope Hall
- October 25: Daylight Savings Time ends, set clocks back one hour
- October 31: "Women of the Church" Luncheon, 11:30-1:30 at Liz Manning's house

Looking Forward to 10/11!



Man, that was some good Mexican Food!!!!



St. Luke's Website -

A Wealth of Good Info...

The Church website can be found at <http://www.stlukes-cm.org/>. At the website you will find Daily Devotionals, this month's Church newsletter, archived newsletters, minutes from Bishop's Committee meetings, and much, much more. Check it often...

“Greeter” Schedule for Upcoming Weeks

Dates	Service	Greeter	Phone	Email address
10/4	10:15	Rick Schro- eter	830-825-2102	cypress@hillcountrytx.net
10/11	10:15	Ann Bond	830-825-3003	bond@star.net
10/18	10:15	Joe McShane	512-261-6780	Mmcsh56309@aol.com
10/25	10:15	David Greene	830-832-5848	Dwgreene1@copper.net
Substitute		Mike Kelley	830-825-3490	Mkelley5354@netzero.net
All dates	8 AM	Fielding Reiner	830-285-3335	reiner@moment.net

**"This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it."
Psalms 118:24**

Bishop Reed's Visit & Luncheon– October 18th

Bishop Reed will be visiting St. Luke's Cypress Mill on October 18th. We (St. Luke's) will host a luncheon after the 10:15 service for Bishop Reed and the Congregation. The Church will furnish the meat, and folks will be asked to bring the side dishes, desserts, etc. I will post a signup sheet on the refrigerator in Swope Hall on October 4th for you to put down what you plan to bring. If you find yourself unable to fix something that Sunday, please come anyway as we always have PLENTY of food. "The Lord Provideth"! If the Bishop is also here for the 8 A.M. service, I will ask several of you to bring a more breakfast oriented something (muffins, cinnamon rolls, etc.) to put out between the Services. I will let everyone know. -Marie McShane



M-m-m Good! Sunday Goodies

Don't forget to check the sign up board on the "fridge" to bring goodies to share on Sundays. We don't need lots, but it is nice if there is something for folks to nibble on between services and after 10:15 at the coffee hour. More than one family can get together and contribute if they like. Thanks to all of you who so faithfully bring "goodies", help clean up the kitchen, and help in general. It wouldn't be Sunday without all the Lord's willing helpers!!! - Marie McShane

St. Luke's Worship Services

Wednesday –Morning Prayer at 9 AM, Holy Eucharist at 11 AM;

Sundays - Holy Eucharist (no music) at 8 AM, Holy Eucharist w/music at 10:15 AM

Your "Yellow Card" Responses

Thanks to the entire congregation for your heart-felt and prayerful consideration of the proposal made by the Facilities Committee and unanimously supported by the Bishop's Committee to expand Swope Hall. We received approximately 35 yellow cards, emails and phone calls with almost unanimous support of the expansion. The positive response to proceed is very significant in the history of our church, as a time to "turn the page" to the next big step.

At the same time we read and heard some new ideas, some concerns about finance, and some suggestions. There were many voices suggesting that we not go into a large debt, and we are talking to resources from the diocese about what our size church can expect and can afford.

At the Bishop's Committee meeting on September 21 we decided to proceed as suggested by the guidelines from the Diocese of West Texas, which recommended we start selection process for an architect plus looking at financial options. A group from the Bishop's Committee is studying the guidelines for selection of an architect, and we are discussing the possibilities for financial support.

Nothing has been decided at this point except total support from the Bishop's Committee for the expansion, due to the positive responses we received. We also temper the excitement with serious consideration of how to support the expansion financially, how much we can afford to spend, how much we can afford to build.

Thanks again for your prayerful comments, heartfelt suggestions. We will keep you posted on this new adventure. – Liz Manning

Sing a Joyful Song unto the Lord!

St. Luke's is blessed with many talented musicians. From time to time several of you share your talents with the congregation on Sunday morning, usually when Corrie is away. People often comment that they would like to have more of this "alternative" music during the service. Not a steady diet of it; just more. So, in response to this sentiment, you are invited to be part of an effort to provide some variety to our worship. If you are musically inclined in any way, please consider sharing your gift with the congregation during the Offertory on Sunday mornings at the 10:15 service. The Offertory is a good place in the service to depart from regular hymn singing in order to feature a solo, a duet, an instrumental piece, or congregational singing accompanied by a different instrument than the organ. If you would like to take a Sunday and share your music with us during the Offertory, please talk to Betsy Stephenson to set it up. "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!" Psalm 100:1,2

Fourth Annual Women of the Church Luncheon

Saturday, October 31, 11:30 - 1:30
Liz and David Manning's House
Bring a salad, bring a friend

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have new children's Sunday school materials for the fall. There is a calendar available for each family which lists the different topics they will be studying. The children usually have materials, including artwork, to bring home each Sunday. However, these materials often don't make it out with them but are available in Swope Hall after the service.

Alejandra (photo below) is available at 9:15 to care for your children if you would like to attend one of the two adult classes offered.

Teaching Schedule

October 4 Linda Appleton & Ann Bond
October 11 Carol Cole
October 18 Sally Smith
October 25 Sue Peterson & Mae Hernlund



Those Pesky Episcopal Church Terms

In my life as an Episcopalian, I often run across "church words" that I am not certain that I fully understand. And then there are church words I hear in conversations as to which I have absolutely no idea as to their meaning. Plus I hear words that I understand but become curious as to their origin. And I never can seem to readily find my copy of "Episcopalianism for Dummies" when I need it.

For me, examples of these words include: Canon Law, collect, compline, crucifer, credence table, etc. And these are just examples of "church words" beginning with the letter "C"!!! I shudder to think of all the other church words beginning with the other 25 letters of the alphabet that I don't fully understand.

Well, if you share the same "limited church vocabulary" condition, there is a cheat sheet of sorts for you! You will find a dictionary of Episcopal terms at the web-link below. Bookmark it!

<http://www.holycross.net/index.cfm?section=1&page=52>

Related to a good vocabulary is proper use of words. I recently read that "Episcopal" is an adjective, and "Episcopalian" is a noun. I was thinking it was the other way around. Who'dve thought it? Guess their Rite. -Don Gray

"but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; They will run and not grow weary, They will walk and not be faint." -Isaiah 40:31

Important Contacts...

Vicar - Tommy Bye 817-308-5850 ; Email: byetommy@yahoo.com
Bishop's Warden - Liz Manning 512-264-8847; Email: lmanning@austin.rr.com
Church Office - 830-825-8001

MEXICAN DINNER FOR PIEDRAS NEGRAS MISSION EFFORTS

Ole! We were blessed with delightful weather, an old oak tree for our canopy, Mexican music, festive decorations in Swope Hall, along with a Sangria table, and delicious food made by the very hands of women you share a pew with on Sunday morning. Several men moved the tables out under the tree and mowed the grass for the dinner. Just gorgeous. A neighbor who had received an invitation in the mail came by the day before and left a check and two dozen eggs to auction. Liz is quite the auctioneer (talents popping out). We raised approximately \$1,500 to go towards mission projects in Piedras Negras, particularly the upcoming sewing project 10/9-10. Sewing machines have been donated, though others may be purchased in the future. We will also deliver sewing supplies, patterns and material to the sewing center. Linda Appleton will be leading two workshops demonstrating making quilted pillows. Our hope is to have quilts, pillows, and aprons to sell at diocesan events.

Santa Fe Episcopal Church, San Antonio, TX, Our Sister Church

Santa Fe church will be having a festival on Saturday, October 3, to raise money to help their children go to Camp Capers next summer. Last summer was the first time any of their children had gone to camp. They loved it and would love to go back. I understand that one of the draw at this neighborhood festival is their flautas they make. Several of our parishioners are going to the festival. This will be the first opportunity to meet parishioners from Santa Fe. If you are interested in meeting up there, contact Sally Smith (spurnellsmith@yahoo.com).

St. Luke's purchased children's Sunday school materials for the middle and high school children for the fall. They have approximately sixteen children who will be using the materials. The younger children in the church use the Godly Play program. St. Luke's will be purchasing materials for them in the spring also. The Bishop's Warden would like to express their thanks for the materials. She hopes to bring a few parishioners one Sunday in October to visit St. Luke's. They have a priest only two Sundays a month. We will pass the date on to you as soon as we have one.

Episcopal Seasonal Colors

Color plays an import part in the designation of seasons and feasts in the Episcopal Church. Each church season has a color associated with it. Advent is purple (the color of preparation and penitence) or Marian Blue (in honor of Mary), Christmas is white (the color celebration), Epiphany is green (the color of growth; growth of the gospel message from Jew to Gentile - re: the three Wise Men), Lent is purple, Easter is white, and the season after Pentecost is green (for the growth of the church). Weddings and funerals are usually occasions for white (the color of celebration) while Pentecost Sunday and ordinations are red, to signify the presence of the Holy Spirit. Black is occasionally used one day a year -- Good Friday.

Prayer Eggs

Some of us have broken hearts over our children or grandchildren; some of us have furrowed brows; and some of us have come through the worst of the struggle. Catherine Marshall in her book *Adventures in Prayer* mentions that she wrote the precise requests she made for each of her children's futures on a piece of paper the shape of an egg, which she would then leave between the pages of her Bible. There was no magic in the method. The egg shape reminded her that prayers, like eggs, do not always hatch as soon as we lay them. If a sitting hen was to be preoccupied with the appearance of her eggs, unchanged and unchanging day after day, she would be very unhappy. We, in a similar way, tend to be unhappy if, having committed to God the requests which seem to be conformed to his will, we see no change. Prayers must mature before yielding their contents, and our impatience will do nothing to help. – Howard E. Butt, Jr.

“Daily Office” Online Resources

It’s been my experience that The Daily Office contained in The Book of Common Prayer (1979) is, as we say, “not user friendly.” It is easy to become frustrated with attempting to figure out which canticle is appointed for the day, where the Collect of the Day is located or what comes next. It is no wonder that many a layperson has become less than enthusiastic about saying the Daily Office as found in the Prayer Book on a regular basis and has looked for a viable alternative. The constant flipping back and forth and trying to remember which ribbon or bookmark is which can certainly lead to a liturgical prayer experience which is less than edifying.

But there’s an easier way for those with internet access. Check out these resources...

<http://www.missionstclare.com/> (Rite I and Rite II versions)

<http://www.episcopaldailyoffice.com/> (includes Morning and Evening Prayer)

<http://www.unsogno.net/dailyoffice/> (includes Morning and Evening Prayer)

Also, the Episcopal Church in Garret County MD has a podcast of the Daily Office morning prayer available through iTunes. It's found at www.episcopalchurchingarretcounty.org/churchonthehomepage.htm

-Don Gray

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him, And he shall direct your paths."
Proverbs 3:5**

Altar Guild Schedule

Oct. 4—Gail Moreman & Sally Smith
Oct. 11—Paula Sumners & Sandi Burleson
Oct. 18 - Sandy Hodges & Sue Peterson
October 25—Rita Reiner & Connie Bye

Lay Reader/Acolyte Schedule

	Lay Reader 8 AM	Lay Reader 10:15 AM	Acolyte 10:15 AM
Oct. 4	Liz M.	Pat B.	David M.
Oct. 11	John S.	Frana K.	Joseph S.
Oct. 18	David G.	Lonnie R.	Christie S.
Oct. 25	Amy K.	Marie M.	Thomas S.
Nov. 1	Frana K.	Thomas S.	None
Nov. 8	Liz M.	Monique	David M.
Nov. 15	John S.	Mike K.	Christie
Nov. 22	David G.	Pat B.	Joseph
Nov. 29	Amy K.	Frana K.	Christie

-United Thank Offering -

The Fall ingathering of the United Thank Offering will be held on Sunday, November 1 (All Saints Day) at both Sunday services. Offering envelopes will be placed in the pews the prior Sunday. Blue Boxes for daily offerings are in Swope Hall.

Do you have your UTO Blue Box in a prominent location? Remember, thanksgiving for our blessings can make a difference in our lives and in the lives of those who receive our offerings. The United Thank Offering makes it possible to award grants to build churches and schools, make renovations, feed the hungry and clothe the poor.

The United Thank Offering is a program of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole Church, founded by and administered by women since 1889. The UTO Committee is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings and to distribute the UTO monies through grants. The Committee awards and administers these grants within the framework of the policies and procedures of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) of The Episcopal Church. Learn more at http://www.episcopalchurch.org/88381_ENG_HTM.htm. Contributions can also be made on-line at <http://www.unitedthankoffering.org/> at any time.

I encourage you to make it a habit to use your Blue Box on a daily basis as our Lord continues to bless us daily.

Yours in Thanksgiving...-Mae Hernlund

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