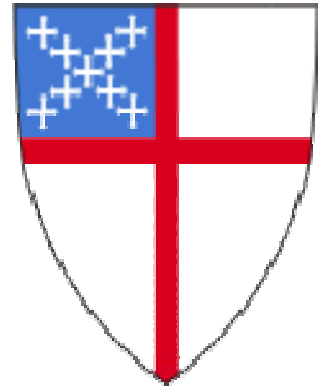


St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Cypress Mill, TX

“Heaven in the Hills”

March to Early-April 2011 Newsletter



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From Father Bye...

I had a wonderful visit with a parishioner today who was anticipating the coming Lenten season, which of course begins with our Ash Wednesday services on March 9th. Actually, I should say that he was anticipating his attendance at that service for the first time. It never ceases to surprise me when someone tells me that they are looking forward to coming services. It is really the truth of how most Christians feel about attending worship and probably should be of no surprise to hear of one's enthusiasm regarding worship. However, the fact is that it is rare to hear someone say how this is at the top of their list of upcoming events. I am sure the same is true of both Holy Week and Easter. Considering the uniqueness of the statement he made helps us appreciate what a wonderful witness this is to our Faith. It brings to mind the words of St. Paul when he proclaims, "for I am not ashamed of the Gospel." While these words of Paul are probably true for most Christians, most of us do experience a certain difficulty in finding a way to be visible and spoken witnesses to Christ.

The witness that was made to me in anticipation of the coming Ash Wednesday services was an excellent and simple way for anyone to share their faith with someone else. This is also true for all of Holy Week and Easter. Here is the opportunity for all of us to share our faith by simply inviting those around us to participate in one of the most meaningful experiences we have. It is simply a matter of sharing with others your anticipation of the coming seasons and offering them an opportunity to join you. The events during these seasons are a highly focused presentation of the Gospel message that simplifies our job of being his witnesses in the world. All we need do is share our own joy and excitement and the church as his body will do the rest.

One other thing while considering our witness for the season. Remember that each of us within this part of the body also needs encouragement and strengthening for the Lent/Easter spiritual journey. Sharing our faith with one another is also valid witness. In addition to verbally sharing our Christian witness with each other, our greatest witness is in our presence at all of the events of these most important seasons of the year. Also remember the Christian saying, "rather than asking ourselves, 'what did I get out of this?', we would ask ourselves, 'how did I do?'" -Fr. Bye +

Craft Fellowship

St. Luke's recently initiated a craft class that meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in Swope Hall. The group will meet once a month and try a new craft each time such as knitting, quilting, jewelry making, mosaic tile creations, watercolor painting, tissue art, etc. The class will meet again on March 22 at 6:30 PM for knitting and crocheting. The April 26 meeting will be flower arranging taught by Erin Curtis from Austin.

All are welcome to join the class (attend every week or on the night which features a craft of your interest). Please RSVP for each week's session to Amy Keith at akeith7@gmail.com.

Shrove Tuesday "Pancake Supper"

March 8 in Swope Hall at 6 PM. This event is one not to be missed! Mike Kelley is famous for organizing this event each year. Swope Hall

St. Luke's is on the Web...

Find the website at <http://www.stlukes-cm.org>

Our website is the place to visit for daily devotionals, photos, calendar, current and past newsletters, Bishop's Committee minutes, events at St. Luke's, driving directions, schedule of lay readers, acolytes, and greeters, etc.

Important Contacts...

Vicar - Tommy Bye ; 817-308-5850 ; Email: byetommy@yahoo.com
Church Office - 830-825-8001

Bishop's Committee Contact Information

Sandy Hodges, Senior Warden Home: 512-663-9745, Cell: 830-644-2345;
scrofts@windstream.net
Scott Dawson, Treasurer, 210-748-0238
Don Gray, Secretary, 512-496-3583
Tom Peterson, 512-264-0336
Jorn Budde, 512-695-6057
Jim Furber, 830-868-4437
Rita Reiner, 830-825-3335
John Stephenson, 830-825-3334
Christie Schroeter, 830-825-2102

Sunday Snacks

The sign up board for folks to furnish refreshments and snacks after the two Church Services is now back up on the Refrigerator. If two people want to split the furnishing of snacks, please both sign up. They don't have to be fancy refreshments.

Also, please note that when using the new stove top in the kitchen, there should be NO CAST IRON, used on the cook top and NO AMMONIA PRODUCTS used on the Granite Counter Tops!!

Thanks! - Marie McShane

Important Dates

March 8: "Shrove Tuesday" Pancake Supper, organized by Mike Kelley, will be at 6 pm. Swope Hall

March 9: Ash Wednesday services are at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Wednesday Evenings, March 9 through April 20: Evening devotionals at 6:15 p.m. followed by a supper and then class from 7 to 8 p.m.

March 12: Baby Shower for Leigh Craig, 2-4 PM in Swope Hall

March 12: Move your clocks forward one hour when you go to bed on Saturday night.

Good Friday: April 22 at noon

April 24: Easter Sunday (Services at 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM)

St. Luke's Services & Events

Sundays

8:00 AM: Holy Eucharist (no music)
9:15 AM: Adult Christian Education (in Parish Hall beginning mid-December)
9:15 AM: Child care while parents attend Adult Education (white Sunday School building)
10:00 AM: Children Sunday School (assemble in Parish Hall)
10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist (with music)
10:15 Children's education (white Sunday School building)
11:15 AM: Coffee and snacks (in Parish Hall beginning mid-December)

Other Days

Monday 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer
Tuesday 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer
Tuesday 9:30 AM: Women's Bible Study (Hill House until the Parish Hall is opened for use)
Tuesday 6:30 PM: English as a Second Language Class
Wednesday 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer
Wednesday 11:00 AM: Holy Eucharist
Wednesday noon: Women's Small Group (Cursillo Reunion)
Wednesday 12:30 PM: Men's Small Group at Casa Mesa restaurant, on Hwy 620 near Hwy 71, in front of Home Depot

Schedule of Lay Readers, Acolytes, and Greeters

Find the schedule at St. Luke's web-site, <http://www.stlukes-cm.org>. It provides the schedule for several months in advance and will be updated every month or so.

Baby Shower for Leigh Craig

The women of the church are hosting a baby shower for Leigh Craig from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, March 12, in the parish hall. All women connected with St. Luke's are invited to attend! Sweets and veggies are still needed. If you would like to help with the shower or could bring these or other items, please contact Liz Manning. Leigh is registered at Buy Buy Baby and Target. You can shop in-store or online.

Reminder: Change Your Clocks Soon

Forward your clocks one hour as you go to bed on Saturday, March 12. Daylight Savings time returns at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 13.

Changes to St. Luke's "Email Blasts"

In her role as the Vicar's assistant, Beth Preston will be taking over for Don Gray in sending out email blasts to parishioners. If you have a topic to be shared with parishioners, send it to Beth at **office@stlukes-cm.org** and ask her to share it.

Email blasts are an important form of communication, so make sure that Beth has your email address. The Email blasts provide for quick and immediate news to reach you, especially important when plans change at the last minute or when urgent information develops. If you haven't been receiving emails from Don Gray or from the church, please provide your address to Beth.

Children's Sunday School

We are settling into our beautiful new Sunday school rooms now and are pleased with the easy and welcome transition from the Hill house to our new home in Swope Hall.

The list of our rotation of teachers is posted on our bulletin board so parents can be aware of "who's on" each week. Anyone interested in this ministry is always welcome.

We have our core compliment of faithful children and our curriculum which is "Living the Good News" from Morehouse education resources.

Ms. Christie Schroeter also incorporates her puppet show into her teaching Sunday.

As required by the Diocese, our volunteers who work with children are required to attend a training program for the prevention of sexual abuse of children and youth. The program provides participants in formation they need to protect the children they know and care for in their personal lives and in the ministries in which they serve. If every adult can protect just one child, they will forever change one life.

-Blessings, Doreen Budde

The Season of Lent

Lent is the fourth season of the church year. Lent starts on Ash Wednesday (March 9 this year) and prepares us for [Easter](#) (April 24 this year), offering us lots of time – upwards of two months – for self-examination.

Some people take on additional study during Lent, while others deny themselves something as an ongoing reminder of the season. That practice can be helpful, but Lent is not a time for punishment, just reflection. Many people turn inward during Lent, writing Lenten reflections that help them bridge their spiritual quest to loved ones, to their community, to their faith in God.

The color purple, or lavender, is the palette of the season, sometimes supplanted by plain, unbleached cloth.

OUR "MISSION" MINISTRY

Piedras Negras - Sewing Mission

The women from the sewing group displayed their handiwork at the Bishop's Council thanks to Sally Smith who invited us to sell things in her "Angel Booth." They sold a quilt, bags and denim shirts with tapestries on the back made by women from Uganda. This was our first joint project with the Threads of Blessings from Bishop Jones Center who provided the shirts and tapestries. The mission team who left for Piedras on 2/23 (Linda Appleton, Elizabeth Clark, Nancy and Chuck Kinzler, and Connie Bye), will be took \$320 to the El Buen Pastor sewing group. Three individual women were paid \$10 each for their work on the denim shirts. Sally will also present Father Miguel \$170 for his discretionary fund from her angel sales. The mission team also took additional chairs for the sewing tables and completing more shelving. What a joy to deliver profits to these sweet Christian women.....may be time for a celebration!

Piedras Negras – Home Construction

Plans have been made to lay a foundation in the very near future for a two bedroom home. Father Miguel selected the first family to have a new home built and they will help participate in the construction. The foundation will be laid this month for a single family from El Buen Pastor. This is the first large construction project for our St. Luke's team. Donations for this home came from outside of the St. Luke's community but we are hoping to support the completion of it with man power and possible future donations. We hope this will be the first of other homes for families from the church.

Piedras Negras - Future Mission Trip

Dates for another mission trip either in March or first part of April are in discussion. An email will be sent to the community once this has finalized.

Piedras Negras - Future "Medical" Mission Trip

Our group of interested medical people are still in the planning stages of a medical mission. They have considered and looked at locations to consider and are leaning towards one at El Buen Pastor. More information will be forthcoming.

Mission - Miscellaneous

Thanks to Joseph Stephenson who donated \$30 from his sale of crosses at the Bishop's Council to the Santa Fe church in San Antonio. He requested it go towards their Camp Caper's scholarships for their children. He and his crosses were a hit at the Council.

Peace and Mercy Preston also sold some bookmarks they made to go towards their Alaska Mission trip.

Our diocese is busy about the world participating in various types of mission projects. The diocesan website (dwtx.org) will provide information and upcoming opportunities for you. Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of a mission team in the future.

The World Mission Motto: Be One, Pray for One, Support One

-Connie Bye

From Our Senior Warden...

Week before last was Church Council and I was glad I could attend for a couple of days. I learned many things I think might be useful at our St. Luke's. It was great to see so many St. Luke's at council as well. St. Luke's was well represented. So many churches are doing unbelievable things to help in their communities and world mission. We too have much to contribute as we work hard to meet the needs of others. The council theme was "A Sower Goes Out To Sow". I think we are trying to do that here at St. Luke's.

Developing and Expanding the Church Ministries....

Now that we have our wonderful Swope Hall, it is time to really concentrate on expanding our church ministries. If you have not signed up to participate on a ministry team now is the time. Following is a list of ministries to choose from if you have not yet done so....Evangelism, Outreach, Mission, Worship, Fellowship/Hospitality, Facilities/Grounds, Youth, Communications, Finance, and Education. I hope everyone plans to join a ministry team as they all need your help to succeed. We hope to develop goals, objectives and action plans for each ministry this year. Ideas are welcome. Stay tuned for more information.

Altar Guild continues to be in good hands.... Sandi Burleson has agreed to assume the leadership role for the Altar Guild. Gail Moreman who has faithfully served this church in the leadership capacity for so many years has decided to transfer the torch. Gail has been working with Sandi to ensure a smooth transition of leadership. Gail has done an outstanding job and we appreciate all she has done. The good news is that she will not be far away if (when) we need her. Thanks Gail for your dedication to the Altar Guild Ministry and thank you Sandi for taking it on. Sandi had a training Monday evening for all the guild members. It was wonderful... beginning with a sermon from Father Bye. Delicious food provided by Paula Sumners, Rita Reiner and Sandi really hit the spot. There was great fellowship and a very informational training. Thanks Sandi for you did to bring us together.

Women's Bible Study continues to grow...As I have said before if you have never attended St. Luke's Women's Bible Study you should give it a try. It is such an enjoyable learning experience and time of prayer and concern for others. Each instructor brings their own methods of sharing the Word. It is fun, informative, inspirational and with Bitsy there very humorous at times.

The new **crafts ministry class** is meeting on Wednesday nights at 6:30 in Swope Hall. Many thanks to Liz and Amy for getting this fellowship activity moving. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Please come, bring a friend or relative and learn a craft and connect with others. It is expected the outgrowth of this ministry will be the creation of Prayer Shawls for the elderly. Sue Peterson will educate us about the Prayer Shawl ministry.

Several members of the congregation have recently traveled to **Piedras Negras** for mission work. This is a critical ministry to the people of Mexico. We pray all members of this mission team will remain safe and we are grateful for their work. Truly this is a Christ led ministry.

As you can see, much is taking place at St. Luke's and there will be more to come. **We are Sowers and we do go out and Sow.**

Faithfully, Sandy Hodges

The Wedding Supper of the Lamb

I scarce can breathe;
My heart is pounding.
In my ears the bell is sounding.
Heed the call!
The Great I AM
Invites us all
To the wedding of the Lamb.

But wash your hands
Before you enter.
Kneel and pray; be still and center.
The kiss of peace
He'll give you then:
The soul's release.
Amen! Amen!

Then lift your hearts;
Come up, come in
And leave behind this world of sin.
We're standing now
Around His throne,
So let us bow
To Him alone.

With saints and angels
We are praising,
Holy hands and voices raising.
They know His will
And do it gladly.
We know, and still
We do it badly

And yet, He loves us perfectly
And desires that we will be
One with Him in charity.
He lifts His cup
And gives a toast,
So drink Him up,
Your heavenly Host.

Then let Him feed you
Wedding cake,
The flesh He offered for your sake.
He lifts the veil;
Receive His kiss.
He took your nail;
Now know His bliss.

And now – oh joy!
My heavenly Groom
Carries me to His own room
Where on throughout eternity
And dancing face to face,
I'll live with Him in ecstasy
Within His warm embrace.

In the arms of my Beloved,
Beth Preston

Changes to St. Luke's Newsletter

I recently met with Father Bye about the newsletter and we came up with some changes as to the release dates and a few other small changes.

It will no longer be a "monthly" newsletter per se. Rather it will more closely follow the seasons of the church calendar. This will result in fewer releases and in each newsletter covering a longer time period.

Here's the tentative schedule for newsletters scheduled for 2011 and a bit beyond, reflecting the period of time that the newsletter is to cover...

Early March through April 11

Mid-April to the end of May

June, July and the first half of August

Last half of August to mid-November

Mid-November to January 6, 2012

January 6 to the end of February 2012

Since some news may not be available by the release date of each newsletter, it appears there will be an increased amount of immediate news shared by email. There, please share your email address with Beth Preston at the church office if your email address is not on file with the church. Doing so will help you stay informed.

-Don Gray

DIOCESAN COUNCIL UPDATE

The Action Summary from the 107th Diocesan Council, provided by the Rev. David Read, has been posted on the Council website, <http://council-dwtx.org/>. On the Council website you will also find numerous news reports from the gathering, audio reports, and documents in pdf format. Included in the audio files is Bishop Lillibridge's annual address and Bishop Reed's sermon from the Eucharist service on Thursday evening.

Please visit the Council website at <http://council-dwtx.org/> and visit the Council Live page for files.

The 107th Diocesan Council was hosted by St. Stephen's, Wimberley, and held at the Embassy Hotel and Conference Center in San Marcos. We are grateful for the hospitality of St. Stephen's during another successful annual gathering.

