

# St. Cyprian's Clarion

ST. CYPRIAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
LUFKIN, TEXAS

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Dear Friends in Christ,

One afternoon recently, I was chatting with a friend who attends a different church in the area and, somewhat unexpectedly, our conversation turned to church stewardship. "It's canvas time at the Church," I offered. I can't quite remember the prompt. "Pledge cards are going out, and I find myself talking about church finances more than I'm comfortable."

"That's interesting," my friend responded, "my church has never sent out a single pledge card as long as anyone can remember."

Needless to say, I was dumbfounded. No pledge cards!? How do they budget? How do they plan? What do they talk about during October and November? Every church I've ever been associated with has done a canvass. My whole understanding of how churches run - from a financial point of view - is based on the notion of "pledge and plate."

Sensing my anxiety, my friend went on to describe how his parish was very conservative in its budgeting, how it published the income and expenses of the church in every week's bulletin, and how it used trends in past giving to project future incomes. "It's kind of a 'faith' exercise," he concluded. I must say it was a humbling witness.

The more I've thought about it, however, the less I agree with my friend. Our tradition teaches that radical faith of the type that was "reckoned to Abraham as righteousness," is nothing more or less than a relationship of trust with the one true God of the Universe. Relationships are two-way

streets and involve the active participation of both members in order to achieve their full potential. Faith in God demands that we both trust God to provide for our needs, and become evermore trustworthy in the sight of God, fulfilling, as we are able, the terms of his covenant with us.

The disciplines of stewardship as we practice them here at St. Cyprian's are doubly effective when it comes to forming our life of faith. Principally, they serve as a partial fulfillment of the commitment made in our baptismal covenant to "continue in the apostles teaching and fellowship." As the apostles and the early followers of "The Way" gave of what they had for the ministry of the Church and the relief of the poor, we too are called to give. But just as importantly, the practice of pledging and fulfilling our pledge, gives us practice in the dynamics of trust/trustworthiness that are the foundation of our faith.

Grace and Peace,  
Art+

## VESTRY AND DELEGATE ELECTION RESULTS

The following members of St. Cyprian's were elected on Sunday, October 25, to serve three year terms on the Vestry: Sally Alvis, Tom McLaurin, Loy Mack O'Neal, and Pat Ronaghan. Sam Griffin, Jr. was elected to serve as Council Delegate. The other Delegates attending Council in February will be Alys and Billy Ray and next year's Senior Warden. We give thanks to God for those Vestry Members completing their three year terms this year: Bill Eckmann, Bernard Hylands, Mark Picou, and Laura Squiers.

**FALL BACK ONE HOUR ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1,  
FOR DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME GOES OFF...  
OR GET TO CHURCH REAL EARLY.**

## EVERY MEMBER COMMITMENT

### CANVASS - NOVEMBER 1

Have you turned in your pledge card?

If the church office has not received your pledge card

by Sunday morning, November 1 a canvass worker will call on you.

**STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:** 73 families have pledged a total of \$326,970.

## A NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY IS IN THE WORKS!

Beginning Sunday, November 1st, we'll be taking photos for our new pictorial directory--and we want to include YOU! Jennifer McCall has graciously volunteered to be our on-site photographer. Photos will be taken outdoors, weather permitting, through mid-December on most Sundays and some Wednesdays. No need to schedule a time. Just look for Jennifer in the courtyard from 8:15 - 9:00 a.m. and again after the 10:00 a.m. service. Jennifer will be available on the following Sundays: November 1, 22 and 29 and on the first Wednesday, Nov. 4 Your new directory will be ready in January 2010.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING NOVEMBER EVENTS

### HOLY BAPTISM CELEBRATED ON ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Next date for Baptism will be Sunday, January 10.  
Please contact the office.

## CHURCH YARD WORK DAY SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 - 8:00 AM

## COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE/SALVATION ARMY First Wednesday, November 4 6:15 p.m. Spaghetti Supper



**The Community Food Drive** is rapidly approaching. St. Cyprian's will again be working with the Rev. Bettie Kennedy and many churches, ministers, companies, and individuals to provide Thanksgiving Food Baskets for needy families in the East Texas area. This Outreach project for St. Cyprian's has grown significantly over the years. In 1999, approximately 50 families were fed. In the following years, the effort has grown to approximately 1,500 families in 2008. This year, we are again targeting approximately 1,500 families.

If you can make this event, I am sure you will find it a rewarding experience. People from all walks of life work the event to lend a helping hand to families in need. We do need volunteers who can help call the list of families. **If you have time to spend a few hours calling folks to verify names and that they will be home on the 21st, please call me at 631-3110.**

We will assemble and deliver the baskets on November 21st, the Saturday before Thanksgiving. We will have an organized list, directions, and maps of where to deliver the baskets. We will have all 1,500 baskets assembled and out for delivery by noon. Attending Saturday can be as short as an hour, and should not be more than 3 hours. You may come and go as you like.

We will be meeting at the Brookshire Brothers Warehouse (the old

Whites Warehouse) at 8:30 AM on the inside of the loop between Hwy 94 West and Hwy 103 West. Just come in the main gate, and look for the open door on the dock.

If you know of a needy family, we have set up a direct voicemail box where you can leave a message at 936-631-3176. Please leave the Family Name, Address, Detailed Directions to the House, Home Phone Or Cell Phone Number, Number of People at the Home, and a Contact Person at the Home. -Bruce Love

**The Salvation Army**, as stated in its mission statement, is "an international movement, and is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination". Captain Luis Melendez, will highlight the ministries offered to our community by the local chapter with an emphasis on the Christmas Red Kettle Campaign.

## ECW BAKE SALE



The ECW will again sponsor a holiday bake sale on **Sunday, November 22**. We will offer a wide variety of food items to compliment your Thanksgiving meal. A full listing of those items is included in this *Clarion*.

Please call **Karen Peterson** beginning Wednesday, November 18 at **632-9329** to place your order ASAP. You may leave a message on the answering machine. All items must be picked up in the Parish Hall no later than noon on **Sunday, November 22**. There will be a few items to purchase on the day of the Bake Sale.



## UNITED THANK OFFERING

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Have you been collecting your change as you count your blessings? The ECW will hold their semi-annual United Thank Offering on Sunday, November 22. Monies collected help various missions worldwide. UTO envelopes will be provided in the leaflet for those wishing to give.



**ADVENT EVENT - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22** - Join us at 9:00 a.m. for an inter-generational event. Father Art will talk about the meaning of the Advent season and the symbols we use. We will have all the supplies to make our annual Advent wreaths. Lots of fun for all ages. Please, one per family.

## THANKSGIVING SERVICE

**Celebrate Thanksgiving Day - 10:00 a.m. - November 26**

**Before there was Thanksgiving** . . . there was thanksgiving. As our thoughts turn to turkey, cranberries and pilgrims (perhaps the first group to split from the Anglican Communion), let us recall that giving thanks to God for his grace and favor has been the central act of Christian worship since the very beginning. In fact, the word *Eucharist* means "Thanksgiving" in Greek. That means that every time we break the bread and share the cup, we are having a mini Thanksgiving feast. Join us, therefore, for a special service of *Eucharist and Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.*



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Attention ladies! Mark your calendars for future Women's Fellowship dates! The November gathering will be held on Monday, November 30 at 6:00 p.m. at Laura Squiers' house, 103 Suntory Way. Bring food or beverages to share. All women of our congregation as well as female friends and family are welcome! Call Laura Squiers at 936-634-0164 for more info. Please note that there will

be no Women's Fellowship in December due to the holidays, however, we will gather again on Monday, January 25. Come Join us!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS



**FIRST WEDNESDAY** - State School Choir, Wednesday, December 2, 6:15 p.m. - Hamburger Supper.



**ALL ST. CYPRIAN'S WOMEN INVITED TO CHRISTMAS BRUNCH - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6** Harriot Whiddon has graciously opened her home at 202 Deerfield Drive (in Crown Colony) to all women of St. Cyprian's for brunch following the 10:00 a.m. service. The food will be heavenly and conversation lively! If you're interested in making or bringing something to share, please call Marsha Miller at 639-1253 or email office@stcyprianschurch.org. No need to RSVP for the brunch . . . Just come!



**ANGEL FAMILIES - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 - Angel Families reception after the 10 o'clock service.** Cookies and punch will be served. Volunteers are needed to help with the reception and furnish cookies. This year we will, again, work with Children's Protective Services (CPS) to purchase gifts for children in Angelina County. A sign-up table will be available in the Narthex soon. Gifts will be gathered at the reception on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

## NEWS OF ST. CYPRIAN'S

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** dates have been changed to July 18 through 23. The kickoff dinner will be on Sunday, July 18.

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**FALL FESTIVAL TRUNK OR TREAT** - We celebrated our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Trunk or Treat Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Families enjoyed the various booths set up by parishioners and the blow-up games throughout the evening. A meal of hot dogs and frito pies topped off the fun evening.

Thanks to all the people who were willing to set up an activity for the children and for those who helped in other areas and prepared the meal. Special thanks to Teri Sanders for chairing the event again this year and doing such a great job of organizing the games and prizes.