



The

Spirit

June 2023 (Pentecost)



From the Rector

THE REV'D ROB HARRIS

The Sunday following the Feast of Pentecost is always Trinity Sunday and it makes sense once you examine the readings for both. On Pentecost the disciples receive the Holy Spirit and their name changes from “disciples” (students) to “apostles” (sent ones). On Trinity Sunday the Gospel reading is the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20). These students who have followed Jesus for his three-year ministry graduate on Pentecost and “GO” into the world to use what they have learned to bring others into the divine classroom of grace.

I remember two teachers that had substantive impacts on my life: Mrs. Kirkpatrick and Mrs. Edwards.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick was my first-grade teacher. She was a very calm, quiet woman who had an evident love of her students. She was also my mother’s best friend. Mrs. Kirkpatrick’s room even shared a bathroom with my mother’s classroom which was next door. Entering a new school often produces some anxiety and for me that was the case ascending from kindergarten to “big school.” I was comforted that my mom was next door and I figured that if things got rough, I could just sneak next door, and everything would be okay. But I never needed to. Mrs. Kirkpatrick with her peaceful, loving demeanor immediately let me know I was okay. That being said, just because she was my mother’s friend and a nice woman, that didn’t mean she didn’t challenge me. There were times I acted out and I was disciplined. There were times I needed help and she did. There were times I wanted to slack off, but she encouraged me. That’s what a good teacher does.

Mrs. Edwards was my sixth-grade history and social studies teacher, and she was something else! She had almost the exact opposite temperament of Mrs. Kirkpatrick. She was loud and dramatic. She would teach the class with her arms waving dramatically. She would call us out at the drop of a hat if someone was misbehaving (and we often did). She was inspiring and made history come alive for us. Every year she would even take the class on a field trip to Washington, D.C. (what a sacrificial lamb)!

These two teachers taught me that good teachers lay down their lives for their students. Good teachers listen, they care, they nurture, they discipline, they inspire, and they work to form us into the people the world needs for tomorrow.

That’s what the Teacher did for his twelve students and that’s the Spirit’s mission among us still. We who now Christ and have received him are also called to be teachers. As Matthew 28 says: “...Go therefore and make disciples (students) of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and TEACHING them to obey everything that I have commanded you.”

As the church we should all be student teachers. There is always so much more to learn may we take up the work of continuing to learn the mysteries and Word of God and teach that faithfully in word and deed that others may be sent as well for “the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” (Matthew 9:35-38)

Calendar of Events

- June 3: 11:00 a.m. Community Prayer on Courthouse Lawn
- June 4: 11:30 a.m. Potluck
- June 6: 5:30 p.m. Men's Group
- June 25: 11:45 a.m. Vestry

Regularly Scheduled Events

Sundays

- 8:30 a.m. Rite One Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Study
- 10:30 a.m. Rite Two Worship

Tuesdays

- 9:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study:

Thursdays

- 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, Rite Two

Servant Schedules

8:30 a.m. Rite One

	LECTOR	LITANIST	CHALICE
06/04	Terry P.	Terry P.	Terry P.
06/11	Bill D.	Bill D.	
06/18	Terry P.	Terry P.	Terry P.
06/25	Bill D.	Bill D.	

10:30 a.m. Rite Two

	LECTOR	LITANIST	CHALICE
06/04	Sandra H.	Sandra H.	Bob V.
06/11	Mary Beth W.	Don W.	Don W.
06/18	Carol L.	Tom L.	Tom L.
06/25	Milam B.	Milam B.	Margaret V.

Outreach Committee Report

The committee met on Tuesday, May 30 at 10:30am in the Parish Hall. Three motions were passed to fund nonprofit organizations which serve Bandera County: Hill Country CASA (\$1,000); Boys & Girls Clubs of Bandera County (\$750); and The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas - Immigration Ministry (\$300).

The 2023 parish budget allocated \$13,000.00 as the total for the Outreach Committee to donate. As of June 1, 2023, the committee has distributed \$6,850.00 to ten organizations or programs by organizations. Members of St. Christopher's serving on the committee: Carol Antill, Katie Bussineau, Bill Davidson, Mike Mulherin (chair), and Bunny Bond (clerk). The Rector, Rev. Rob Harris, is an ex-officio member of the committee.



Our Resurrection Cross was on fire with Pentecostal flame on Pentecost Sunday.

Outreach Spotlight: Hill Country CASA

Hill Country CASA is a non-profit organization which provides trained, court appointed volunteer Guardians Ad Litem (GAL) to serve children who are victims of abuse and neglect in Bandera, Gillespie, Kendall and Kerr Counties. These volunteers work with the courts to advocate for the overall well-being of these children.

CASA is part of a national volunteer movement that began in 1977 when Judge David Soukup in Seattle decided he needed to know more about the children whose lives were in his hands. His solution was to ask community volunteers to act as a "voice in court" for abused and neglected children. These Court Appointed Special Advocates® (CASAs) provided him with the detailed information he needed to safeguard the children's best interests and ensure that they were placed in safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible. The program was so successful that it was copied around the nation. Hill Country CASA has continued to serve abused and neglected children in Texas by providing trained community volunteers for every child who was assigned to the program through the court. Hill Country CASA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization governed by a volunteer board of directors. Hill Country CASA was established in 1989 and is a member of the National and Texas CASA Associations. There are over 1,000 CASA programs nationwide and 72 CASA programs in the state of Texas.

As Child Protective Service Agencies become more and more privatized in Texas and services decline it is more and more vital to serve organizations such as CASA where reuniting families and providing substantive services to those in need is a priority,

A Movement of the Spirit: Invite, Welcome, Connect

For many of us talking about our faith and our church is one of the most difficult things we can do. But what if there was a way to learn and practice in a supportive, non-threatening environment? This is what Invite, Welcome, Connect does. It helps congregations understand the importance of personal invitation, welcoming folks, hearing their story, recognizing their gifts, and then connecting them to ministry, This is the essence of living into our Baptismal Covenant!

Invite, Welcome, Connect is not a program, but a ministry based in Scripture, theology, and experience. It is an ethos, a way of being. It is comprehensive and incredibly well thought out, but perhaps most importantly, it's exciting! This ministry encourages intentional listening by both the congregation and its individual members. It invites us to hear the story that each person carries, and in listening, acknowledge a deeper bond with Christ and each other.

I firmly believe that every visitor who crosses the threshold of our church does so by the invitation of the Holy Spirit. In talking with visitors to our church, I have been told many stories about how that person "just felt like she should come to our church" or "I drove by your church every day for five years and never noticed it, but then I just saw it and felt I should come visit." We have a responsibility to honor these holy invitations by welcoming, inviting and connecting each person to the body of Christ, the church.

But this doesn't happen by accident. It happens by cultivating an ethos of Invite, Welcome, Connect through teaching, prayers, and preaching. It requires training and having parishioners poised and ready with systems in place.

I hope you will join us in this work of the Spirit. If you haven't yet joined an Invite, Welcome, Connect team please contact Father Rob.



**JOIN US FOR A
POTLUCK
LUNCHEON
JUNE 4, 11:30 A.M.
IN THE PARISH
HALL**

Monday, June 8: The Anniversary of The First Book of Common Prayer, 1549

In 1549, the second year of the reign of King Edward VI, the first Book of Common Prayer began its service to Anglicans. Through subsequent editions and revisions, the Book of Common Prayer continues to serve the Anglican Communion. The book was prepared by a commission, comprising learned priests and bishops, but Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury (1533-1556), stamped the book in style, substance, and format. Bishops and priests compiled service books, Greek liturgies, ancient Gallican rites, and vernacular German forms. The English "Great Bible" (authorized by King Henry VII in 1539) supplied the Psalter, and the Litany came from the English form going back to 1544.

First and foremost was the Sarum Rite, or the Latin liturgy developed in Salisbury in the thirteenth century, and widely used in England. Two other influences were a reformed Roman Breviary of the Spanish Cardinal Quiñones, and a book on doctrine and liturgy by Hermann von Wied, Archbishop of Cologne.

This prayer book was in use only for three years, until the extensive revision of 1552. However, much of its tradition and language remains in the prayer books of today, as may be seen by even a cursory examination of the text.



In the News

Scholarship Night Ceremony for 2023 Bandera High School Graduating Seniors Held on Thursday, May 18

The Rev. Rob Harris, Rector of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, presented the Richard E. Gnade Trust Scholarships to four male students; Ben Hevenor (BHS '11) presented Bandera County A&M Club Scholarships to two students; and Milam Boyle (BHS '14) presented the Boyle Family St. Edwards scholarship to one student.

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An Invitation to Give to the St. Francis Chapel Fund In Thanksgiving for Bishop David M. and Patti Reed

A Letter from Judy Quisenberry and the Bishops' Transition Committee

Dear Friends,

Since the start of the year, the Bishops' Transition Committee has been thinking about how best to honor Bishop David M. Reed and his wife Patti, in his retirement as Bishop of West Texas. We are so grateful for the gifts and sacrifices both have given during his time as a bishop and a parish priest all over the Diocese!

The Committee believes supporting Bishop Reed's plan to renovate St. Francis Chapel at Camp Capers is a wonderful way to honor the

Reeds. Bishop Reed has served Camp Capers in many different roles since he was a teenager. For more than thirty years, he and Patti have led and attended camp sessions and retreats for children, youth, and adults there. They know firsthand the life-giving friendships and the "God moments" found there.

My husband, Greg, is serving on the Camp Capers Master Planning Committee which began its work in 2022 and presented its first recommendations at the Camp Capers 75th Reunion weekend last October. Greg and I first met David at Camp Capers in the mid-eighties, when he was a newly ordained priest serving as a dean and we were counselors. Many years later, we were blessed to call him our Rector when he served at St. Alban's Church in Harlingen for 12 years. Over the years of knowing him, he has been a dear friend, a counselor, a terrific pastor, spiritual director, and so much more. Though it was hard to see him leave St. Alban's when he was elected Bishop Suffragan, we knew his ministry would benefit the whole Diocese in a new way.

Bishop David has known since he was a boy that one of the things that makes our Diocese really special is its spiritual heart, Camp Capers - or as Bishop Jim Folts is credited to say, "the cathedral of our Diocese". So much spiritual growth and fellowship happens there. Most people familiar with the place and its ministries, including summer camp and year-round retreats, agree that additional space in the chapel is needed. But, discussing the chapel renovation has been difficult, as the chapel holds such deep memories for so many.

If you know Bishop David, you know that he is nostalgic, loves tradition and does not run immediately to the newest, latest or most technologically advanced shiny thing. He has even been known to keep mementos like the old plastic dining room food trays from Camp Capers! Given his love for history and tradition,

it may have been surprising to some that he agreed the chapel renovation is necessary to continue to minister to the people who use Camp Capers. We are grateful that the chapel is bursting at the seams, that says we are expanding our reach at this special place!

Bishop David included the Camp Capers chapel renovation in his address to the Diocese during this year's annual Diocesan Council; here is a snippet:

*St. Francis Chapel - It may truly be the most beloved spot in that beloved place... The beautiful, simple, open-air chapel has served for 75 years; it fits camp perfectly; and it's badly in need of repair. As our summer camp capacity has grown, the chapel has become cramped and overcrowded – a problem we wish all our churches had, right? Built to seat about 120 people, the chapel now might have as many as 200 crammed in, with counselors and staff members sitting on the floor or ground outside. So, I changed my mind. Now is the perfect time to renovate St. Francis Chapel, and I believe the heart of camp is precisely the starting point we need for the new master plan, as we launch into the next season of Camp Capers' mission **and** prepare to welcome a new bishop.*

During his address, David mentioned that he and Patti pledged the first donation towards this project. Based on his request, Greg and I are honored to make a gift towards the chapel renovation too, and we would love for you to join us. Information about how to give is included below. We think it's a fitting gift to honor David's legacy of ministry, especially as the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas, and especially now.

Ways to Give to the St. Francis Chapel Renovation Fund

There are three ways for congregations and individuals to give to the St. Francis Chapel Renovation in gratitude for the Rt. Rev. David M. and Patti Reed:

1. Online, at dwtx.org/give.
2. Text "Chapel" to [\(210\) 796-6805](tel:2107966805).
3. Mail a check to the diocesan office*, made out to "DWTX" and labeled "St. Francis Chapel Gift."

*Episcopal Diocese of West Texas
Attn: St. Francis Chapel Gift
P.O. Box 6885
San Antonio, TX 78209



“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

-Matthew 28:16-20

Diocesan Events

An Evening with the Rt. Rev. Jonathan Folts of South Dakota: June 7 and 8

In celebration of the Year of World Mission, join Bishop Jonathan Folts for two special evening presentations about the ongoing partnership between the Dioceses of West Texas and South Dakota – Wednesday, June 7 at the Bishop Jones Center in San Antonio and Thursday, June 8 at Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi. Both nights, Bishop Folts will speak about opportunities to join in the ongoing mission partnerships as well as opportunities to grow

Diocesan Episcopal Church Women Reunion Program and Luncheon: June 10

The Diocesan Episcopal Church Women (ECW) invites all women of the diocese to a reunion program and gifted luncheon on June 10 at the Bishop Jones Center from 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. In addition to fellowship and a shared meal, Sam Gilliam will present, "Eve in the Garden with God: Her side of the Story." Seating is limited, RSVP by June 1.

Monthly Caregiver Support Group: June 14

Are you caring for a loved one in a time of illness or crisis? Being with others who are, or who have been, in a similar situation can be comforting and helpful. The Caregiver Support Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Mission Room of the Bishop Jones Center and is open to all.

Ordination and Consecration of the 11th Bishop of West Texas: July 8

The Right Reverend David M. Reed, D.D. and the Standing Committee request the honor of your presence at the Ordination and Consecration Service of the Rev. Dr. David G. Read on Saturday, July 8 at 11:00 a.m. at All Saints Chapel, TMI Episcopal.

Registration is not required to attend the Consecration Service, and the service will be viewable online, via livestream.

CONSECRATION OF THE BISHOP COADJUTOR

Saturday, July 8, 11:00 a.m.

TMI EPISCOPAL

Presiding Bishop Hospitalized. Prayers Requested

By Kirk Petersen

Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry has been released from a North Carolina hospital after experiencing internal bleeding and treatment for a heart condition, the Office of Public Affairs announced on May 30.

Curry, who turned 70 in March, is being monitored and treated for atrial fibrillation (AFib), which was detected at an annual physical, the announcement said. Public Affairs Officer Amanda Skofstad later said the annual physical was in December.

AFib “is the most common type of treated heart arrhythmia. An arrhythmia is when the heart beats too slowly, too fast, or in an irregular way,” according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The condition is associated with a fivefold increase in an individual’s risk for stroke, and AFib-related strokes “tend to be more severe than strokes with other underlying causes,” the CDC website states.

“While in the hospital, Curry experienced two other episodes of irregular heartbeat, and he will wear a heart monitor to determine what further treatment is necessary. Until he is cleared for air travel by his medical team, Curry will remain in Raleigh, resting and working from home on a reduced schedule,” the Office of Public Affairs said. Curry was Bishop of

North Carolina before becoming presiding bishop, and lives in Raleigh.

This is the third time Curry has been hospitalized since becoming presiding bishop in 2015. The first was in December 2015, barely a month after his installation, when he underwent emergency brain surgery to relieve a subdural hematoma, [TLC reported at the time](#). A subdural hematoma is a pooling of blood beside the brain, and is most commonly caused by a head injury, according to the Cleveland Clinic.

In 2018, Curry underwent surgery to remove his prostate, after being diagnosed with prostate cancer.

News of the most recent hospitalization was posted on the presiding bishop’s Facebook page at about 9 a.m. May 30, touching off a flood of prayers and well-wishes. By late afternoon, more than 1,600 people had “liked” or acknowledged the post, and more than 400 people had left comments.

Curry’s tenure in office will end on October 31, 2024, and his successor will be elected at the General Convention in June 2024. Presiding bishops serve a nine-year term, and are not eligible for reelection. The position involves extensive travel, as the presiding bishop is canonically required to visit every diocese of the church, of which there are more than 100 – mostly in the United States, but also in countries as far-flung as Taiwan and South America. As primate of the Episcopal Church – one of the 42 autonomous provinces of the global Anglican Communion – the presiding bishop also travels throughout the world.
