



# The Spirit

July 2023

# From the Rector

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THE REV. ROB HARRIS

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John Wesley, the Anglican priest and founder of the Methodist movement, was born today, the 28th of June, in 1703.

His father Samuel was a priest, as well. He was also a poet, and probably unconnected to that fact, poorly managed the family's finances, and was twice imprisoned for debt. John's mother, Susanna, was the anchor of the family. Samuel and Susana had nineteen children together, nine of which lived to adulthood.

John attended Oxford, after which he was invited to teach. However, he felt a call into ministry, and was ordered a deacon in 1725, and priested in 1728. He was an amazing preacher. But also, controversial.

On May 24, 1738, John Wesley recorded in his journal, "I felt my heart strangely warmed...I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death." Earlier that day, Wesley had had been rejected and down cast by fellow believers. His message for the day had been shot down. Reluctantly he went to a society meeting at Aldersgate Street in London. I'm not sure what he hoped to find there that night and it seems he just wanted to get away, but what he found seems to have been a surprise.

Wesley was overcome with a renewed relationship in Jesus Christ. It's been said that is the day he finally joined the human race. He finally received what Jesus had been trying to give him all along. John Wesley to that point had never really felt worthy of forgiveness and felt that he would never do enough to earn God's favor. He had not been able to live in the joy of living for God.

Wesley's heart warmed and it melted the unforgiveness letting the light of Christ come in. He realized that he was like everyone else, one for whom Christ had died. Now he was finally able to accept it for himself. It's a different turn when you are used to offering forgiveness, teaching and preaching forgiveness to really accept forgiveness for yourself. When you do, you can't help but for your heart to be warmed and a renewed sense of vigor for God and who God is through Jesus Christ to invade your being.

The thing is that Wesley knew all these things about Christ. This was the day he let it travel from his head to his heart. He allowed the transformation that comes from true salvation to enter his heart.

Wesley changed on May 24 and that possibility lays before each of us, every day. Invite the Holy Spirit to come into your heart to renew, transform, and give a new spiritual heartbeat that longs to bring hope to others in the knowledge that your sins have been clean in the Blood of the Lamb. May this be a season of revival among us. May we all celebrate that John Wesley had that moment in time and may we all remember when our hearts were "strangely warmed...and we trusted in Christ." Now that's a celebration!!!

**ST. CHRISTOPHER'S**

**75<sup>TH</sup>**

**ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION**

**July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Worship begins at 10:30 a.m. with a  
Celebration Luncheon to follow.

# Server Schedules

8:30 a.m.

DATE	LECTOR	LITANIST	CHALICE
2	Terry P.	Terry P.	Terry P.
9	Bill D.	Bill D.	
16	Terry P.	Terry P.	Terry P.
23	Bill D.	Bill D.	
30	Terry P.	Terry P.	Terry P.

10:30 a.m.

DATE	LECTOR	LITANIST	CHALICE
2	Denis C.	David C.	David C.
9	Mary Beth W.	Don W.	Don W.
16	Milam B.	Sandra H.	Sandra H.
23	Carol L.	Tom L.	Tom L.
30	Denise C.	David C.	David C.

## Birthdays

4: Karen Lee

7: Carol Lee

16: Boone Verstufyt

## Anniversaries

22: Charles and Lisa Rowett

*“Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”*

*The Book of Common Prayer, pg. 830*

# What's Coming Up

## July

- 2: 11:30 a.m.  
Patriotic Pie Auction
- 8: 11:00 a.m.  
Bishop's Consecration
- 23: 10:30 a.m.  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

## Outreach News

The Outreach Committee met on Tuesday, June 27 30 at 10:30am in the Parish Hall. Two motions were passed to fund nonprofit organizations which serve Bandera County: Helping Hand Fan Program (\$100) and Snac Pac 4 Kids (\$700).

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 \$7,650.00 to eleven organizations or programs by 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.

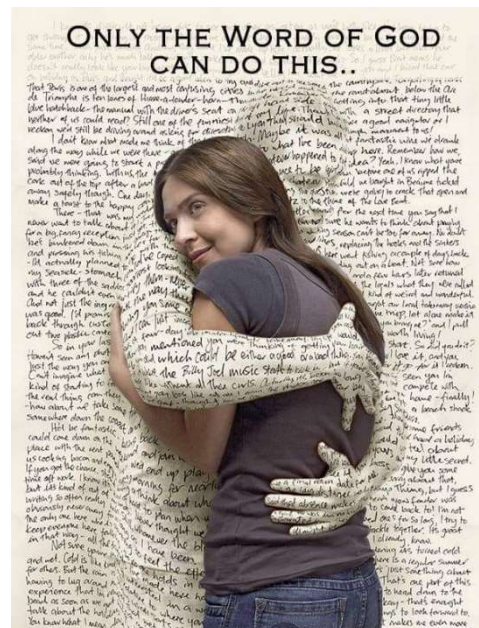
## Outreach Spotlight

### SNACK PAK 4 KIDS®

Kids can't learn if they're hungry

Weekends can be scary and unpredictable for a student experiencing food insecurity. While meals may be provided at school during the week, many students have limited access to meals during the weekend. Snack Pak 4 Kids® works with our schools, as a resource for our educators, so students are ready to learn on Monday.

We provide bags of brand name, brand new food for our students, with the **dignity** and **respect** they need and deserve.



## Patriotic Pie Auction Raises Money for Youth Ministry

This year's Patriotic Pie Auction raised \$\_\_\_\_\_ for our Youth Ministry at St. Christopher's Church. Pies ranged from classic Buttermilk to Cranberry-apple, Cherry, and Pecan.

We had a delicious lunch of fried chicken, potato salad, and baked beans. A wonderful time was had by all.

If you didn't make it this year, be sure to join us in 2024!



## Summer Parish Social a Big Hit

Several members of the parish met at Charles, Lisa, and Scott Rowett's home on June 11 for fun, fellowship, and some great food.

Charles fixed up some great burgers and hot dogs while Lisa did the baking and shared some great desserts.

This was the first initiative offered through our Invite, Welcome, Connect ministry. Look for many more in the future!

# Liturgical Trivia!

I am often asked, “Why do we do that?” Long-time Episcopalians and newcomers often do not understand why we do things the way we do them in The Episcopal Church. So, by popular demand, I have introduced Liturgical Trivia as part of our regular announcements on Sunday mornings.

So far, we have covered:

## **How and why do we cross ourselves?**

We cross ourselves to remind us we are saved by Jesus through baptism in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The “correct” way to cross yourself is by touching the thumb, index, and middle finger together and marking yourself head to chest, left to right. The three fingers together symbolize the three Persons of the Trinity. The thumb and index finger together symbolize the dual nature of Christ.

## **Why is our carpet red as well as our church doors?**

The red carpet symbolizes the blood of the martyrs on which the church was built. As Tertullain said, “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.”

Our red doors symbolize that the Blood of Christ is within. It also

denotes the presence of the Holy Spirit.

## **What does the white sheet on top of the Altar symbolize?**

The white sheet that is laid on top of the Altar (the fair linen) symbolizes the burial shroud of Christ. The Altar has several meanings. It recalls the Old Testament Altars of which Christ perfected. It also symbolizes the Throne of God. Early Christians who had to worship in secret often worshipped in the catacombs and their Altars were tombs. Thus, the Altar takes on this symbol as well, the tomb of Christ. Often relics are placed inside of Altars for this reason.

## **What does the liturgical color green mean?**

Green is used during the season of Ordinary Time. During this season we hear the many teachings of Christ. It is a season of growth in our discipleship. Therefore, green is appropriate.

All of that said, as Episcopalians it is always said:

“All may. Some should. None must.”

# Convocational Gathering

Northern Convocation churches are invited to a "Gathering of Welcome and Celebration" on Wednesday, July 26, at St. Peter's Church in Kerrville. We will welcome our new mission, St. Martin's Church in Mason, our new clergy, the Rev. Curt Norman and the Rev. Christopher Roque, and our new Bishop Coadjutor, the Rev. Dr. David Read and his wife, Jacqui. A Eucharist Service will begin at 5:00 p.m., followed by covered dish supper and informal program.

St. Christopher's has been asking to bring sides if possible.

## Around the Diocese

**In 2003 Mustang Island Conference Center held its first Family Camp on the Gulf of Mexico beach near Port Aransas.** Construction on the conference center was still in progress when Family Camp began that first year, presenting plenty of adventures for the staff and guests to navigate. That didn't deter families from signing up for the next summer or the summer after that, and soon many Family Camp sessions had waiting lists, forcing us to turn guests away.



And so, it is very fitting that for Summer 2023, on our 20th anniversary, we begin the season with a new, 10-room lodge, that can accommodate up to 60 people. Construction finished in the middle of the 2022 summer sessions, and the lodges quickly filled for the rest of the season. This summer is the first year we can book the building all summer long!

And on this special anniversary, Family Camp guests get to worship in the new Chapel of the Holy Family for the first time. Consecrated on October 30, 2022 by Bishop David M. Reed, the beautiful wooden, open-air chapel was carefully constructed atop and amongst the dunes, in order to complement the natural landscape and weather future storms. It seats up to 180 people and boasts panoramic views of the beach and ocean. Families can feel the coastal breezes and hear the majestic surf while singing glorious hymns to God.

## **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 this 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.

## **Monthly Caregiver Support Group: July 12**

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.

Contact Lillian Morris, co-leader of the group, for more information.

## **"Claiming My Now" with the Wisdom Years Ministry: July 15**

Join the Wisdom Years Ministry for "Claiming My Now," a one-day workshop on July 15 navigating the joys and challenges of the later years in

life. Each season of life brings new revelations, new challenges, new blessings. During the "wisdom years" – the last third of life – while the body diminishes, the spiritual longing for a deeper relationship with God increases. In-person and Zoom participation options are available.

## **Immigration Ministries: Plaza de Paz**

The Plaza de Paz Respite Center and diocesan Immigration & Refugee Ministries has issued an urgent request for shelf-stable food items, new clothes, and volunteers to help individuals and families en route to sponsors and family members throughout the country. Needed items may be purchased through their Amazon List and Walmart List. Click [here](#) to contact Flor Saldivar, Director of Immigration Ministries, for more information and to volunteer.