

SAINT AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

...where people come together...

JANUARY 2010 ✦ CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY ✦ VOLUME II ✦ NUMBER 2

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FROM OUR VICAR THE REV. JUSTIN LINDSTROM



HAPPY NEW YEAR: EPIPHANY AND ORDINATION

Can you believe it? It is 2010! The start of a new decade. The beginning of the second decade of the new millennium. So, the tradition at the New Year is to set resolutions. This year, not only can you set resolutions for 2010 but you can also set them for the next decade. Wow, that's intense! Have you thought about that? Where do you want to be in ten years? What do you want to be doing? What will your life look like? How deep will your faith be?

So if you're overwhelmed, you are not alone. Most people break their resolutions within the first three weeks of the New Year. We want immediate results. We want things to happen right away. If it takes 21 days to create a habit, it takes at least twice as long, if not three times as long, to not just break that habit but also create a new way of living.

Our life is best lived, I believe, in six weeks cycles. So if you want to lose weight, work at it for six weeks and most likely you see most of your weight lost in the last week of the six. So do not worry about the next ten years or the next year, set a goal for the next six weeks and work at getting to that goal or exceeding it. Then set a new goal for the next six weeks. Before you know it, you will be nearing the next New Year with your resolutions met!

The next six weeks of the church year are called the Season of Epiphany. During Epiphany we focus on juxtaposing ideas about Jesus and the world. Jesus is the light and the world is darkness, Jesus is righteous and the world is sinful. Jesus brings life and the world brings death. Jesus will save you from your sins and grant you eternal life and the world cannot save you from anything and is mortal. Jesus is love, peace, hope, and joy and the world is filled with hatred, violence, hopelessness, and sadness.

During Epiphany, we hear Jesus call the disciples to follow him, to share the message of God, to be healers and servants of all. We too are called just as the original twelve disciples are called. We are commanded by God in Christ Jesus to live in the world and be bearers of hope, love, peace, and joy! We are servants! We are the light of Christ in the world. Do not hide your light, but let illumine all with love for all and service to allō this is our calling.

This month we celebrate Rich Houser's calling to serve Christ and His church as a Priest. This is an important moment in Rich's life. It will be in this moment that years of prayers, study, and service will culminate and propel Rich into years of service and ministry not only here at Saint Aidan's but also throughout the whole church. This is a very important day for Saint Aidan's too. It is the first ordination ever in the history of our church and we all should be proud and excited for Rich and for the ministry of Saint Aidan's. Please make plans to attendō make this your first resolution for 2010!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship

8am Holy Eucharist with Children's Message and Traditional Music

10:30am Holy Eucharist with Children's Chapel and Contemporary Music

Sunday School

Sunday School is offered for all ages from 9:15 to 10:15 every Sunday morning.

We encourage everyone to attend!

Connections

Are you new to Saint Aidan's, or would like to know more about who we are and what the Episcopal Church is all about? If so, then we invite you come to a four part class on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:15 in the Kitchen.

1st Sunday of the Month: Discover God

2nd Sunday of the Month: Discover the Church

3rd Sunday of the Month: Discover Saint Aidan's

4th Sunday of the Month: Discover Our Ministry

Feast of Lights

The Day of the Epiphany of Our Lord
Wednesday, January 6th, 2010

6:30pm ~ Worship

7:15pm ~ Dinner of hot dogs
and s'mores by the fire

The Ordination of Rich Houser
to the Sacred Order of Priests

Tuesday, January 12th

6:30pm Worship

Followed by a reception

There will be a wine and cheese party
with refreshments and food for children too.

We request that you bring your favorite
Bottle of wine to share.

FROM OUR CURATE

THE REV. RICH HOUSER



Happy New Year!! As we begin to start a new year on earth, (but not in the church year) we want to say this year will be different from the last in a variety of ways. I know I fall in the same category as most. I want to have resolutions, (but not call them that because that is not the %ool+ term now), and I want some sense of calm in my life. We ministers have some of the same challenges others have.

To help further along my spiritual growth during the day, I read a book called %alendar of Saints,+ nearly every day. During the church year, the church has set aside many days as days to remember Saints who did a significant thing in their lives. What is remarkable is that many of these saints did brave, ordinary acts of love and compassion towards others. It helps me to see that I can make a difference in others lives and spiritually grow as well. It usually takes only about 5 minutes to read, but it slows me down just enough to make a difference in the rest of the day.

I am very excited about this year as we begin 2010!! I want to thank Katy Neaves for her time and talent this past year and time and effort of everyone who helped with meals! If you need anything donq hesitate to call or email me.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

January 10 th	January 17 th	January 24 th	January 31
Mountasia	Movie Day w/Meal	Visioning/Mission Trip	Youth Bible Study and Confirmation w/Meal
1-3pm	Noon-1:30	Planning Meeting Noon-1:30	Noon-1:30

HIGH SCHOOL

January 10 th	January 17 th	January 24 th	January 31
Mountasia	Movie Night w/Meal	Visioning/Mission Trip	Peers and Pressure w/Meal
5-7pm	6:30-8:00	Planning Meeting Noon-1:30	5-6:30pm

SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN

I have some very exciting news about the Safeguarding Godq Children training. For those of you that have been trained before, you are qualified to take the new online training. If your training has expired, then you simply can email me, Dana Avery at danamavery@gmail.com and I will send you a personal access code. After you have the access code, you can go to the Safeguarding Godq Children website and take the online training. It is very simple and much easier than having to attend a 3 hour class at the church.

For those of you that have never taken the Safeguarding Godq Children course, you will need to take the original course. We require that every adult who works with the children and/or youth at Saint Aidanq be trained. Doing so will have us in compliance with the Dioceses of Texas. We will be offering a training class on Sunday, January 17th immediately following the 10:30am service. The class will be held in Classroom 2 and lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Dana Avery at danamavery@gmail.com if you are going to be attending the class. It is the intention of the Diocese to have everyone in the church Safeguarding Godq Children trained. It would be great if St. Aidan's could meet that goal. Our kids are so worth it!

God bless,
Dana Avery, Safeguarding Godq Children and Godq People Coordinator

FROM OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTER

MRS. ASHLEY REDER



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! As we begin a new calendar year, I start to reflect on the past year and see what I can do spiritually that will help me become closer with God. How can I do this? That is the question I keep asking myself. I want to challenge myself to try to spend just a few minutes each day sitting still, and for those who know me well, know that this is a challenge for me. During this time of stillness, I want to be closer with God on a daily basis and really listen to what He is saying to me. I hope, more often than not, that when this time of stillness is over, that I will image God looking at me, smiling. I love telling the children at Saint Aidanq that they are making God smile, whether it is being a kind friend in Sunday school, writing an act of service on their Offering Envelope or bringing a friend to church with them. As I remind them to stop and listen, I will try to do the same and remind myself and the children that God loves us and that He gave us his most precious gift so that we could live with him forever! That makes me feel warm and fuzzy on the inside. My news yearq wish for you is that you can have that same feeling!

The Childrenq Cross Choir will be starting a new semester in February. They will have lunch and instruction from 11:45am until 1:15pm on the first and second Sunday of February, March and April, and then lead the Offertory Song on the third Sunday of these months. Ms. Brenda and Mrs. Trish are teaching the children how to sing and how to use their voices to glorify God. If you are interested in being a part of this learning, and fun-filled time, please sign-up on the Childrenq Ministry board in the Narthex.

If you are a child in grades 2nd through 5th, and you are interested in learning more about being a Junior Acolyte, please join me on Saturday, January 16th at 9:30am in the Sanctuary for a training that will be less than an hour. Weq love to have you serve in this way on Sunday mornings.

Please save the date, as well as some PJs for our January FROG Event, Pajamas and Jesus Party. Clues about this event will be given each week in the Ministry Minute, so be sure to keep your eyes open and not count sheep so that you will feel well-informed about this event.

Great things are happening in the Childrenq Ministry. I am looking forward to a fantastic 2010! Please keep us in your prayers that we continue to provide useful programs and activities for the children and their families.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NICHE

We have numerous opportunities for our children to be involved during the month of January. For these events to be the most successful and fun that they can be, we encourage you and your child to be an active part of the Childrenq Ministry.

Important Dates:

Sunday, Dec. 27th at 9:15am
Family Happy Birthday Jesus Party

Sunday, Jan. 10th at 11:45am
Childrenq Cross Choir Practice

Tuesday, Jan. 12th at 6:30pm
Childrenq Cross Choir sings at Rev. Richq Ordination.

Saturday, Jan. 16th at 9:30am
Junior Acolyte Training

Sunday, Jan. 17th at 4pm
FROG Event: Pajamas & Jesus Party

Tuesday, Jan. 19th at 7pm
Childrenq Ministry Team Meeting

Sunday, Jan. 31st at 9:15am
Bible Bucks Store and Bible Bowl

PASTORAL CARE AND SERVICE UPDATE

MISSION GALVESTON

Please consider volunteering **Saturday, January 23rd** for a mission trip to assist the rebuilding efforts of our brothers and sisters on Galveston Island. We will meet at **7am in the St. Aidan's parking lot** and then carpool down to the island. Arriving at the William Temple center in Galveston around 8:30 am, we will then receive our "marching orders" for the day and head out to the worksite. Should leave the island no later than 4:30 pm. We will be carpooling but feel free to drive your own vehicle if you need to leave earlier to get to other weekend engagements. **What to bring/wear:** long sleeve shirt and long pants that will get dirty, hard soled, sturdy shoes or boots, gloves, ice chest with lunch, snacks and bottled water, crowbar(s), hammer(s), saw(s), staple gun(s) and any other tools you have useful for demolition, construction and clean-up/haul away (Temple center has a few tools but anything you can bring would be appreciated), safety glasses or goggles, face masks rated for industrial protection (I have some spares if you don't want to buy your own). Thank You for prayerfully considering helping out the residents of Galveston on Saturday, January 23rd. **Please RSVP and with any questions you may have to: kjd519@hotmail.com.**

BEACON

On Saturday February 20th from 9 - 11 am St. Aidan's will once again be sending a group of volunteers to the Beacon Outreach center located downtown at Christ Church Cathedral. Please mark this on your calendar and think about serving with us! We will meet at St. Aidan's at 8:15 am and then carpool downtown. This is an experience that will transform your life as you work to help others transform their lives. To RSVP or with questions contact me at kjd519@hotmail.com or 281-352-9007 for more information. **Since January 2007, THE BEACON has been providing hot meals, clothing, private shower and lavatory facilities, laundry services, and case management to people living on the streets of Houston. The case management provided at The Beacon helps individuals access services that can assist them in addressing the root causes of their homelessness and begin the process of moving off the streets and becoming self-sufficient.**

PASTORAL CARE

Do you have prayerful heart or a call to serve God's people in a more meaningful way? Consider joining the St. Aidan's Pastoral Care and Service team! We are always looking for new faces and new ideas! Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 9th from 9:30 to 11 am at the church office. Hope to see you there and best wishes for a safe and prosperous New Year!

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

(Matthew 25:35-36)

His Peace,

Kyle Jon Deutsch, Pastoral Care and Service Team Chair

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE UPDATE

On December 6th, at the Annual Congregational Meeting, Robbie Dillon, Debbie Haluch, and Kelly Howell were elected to the Bishop's Committee for a three year term to begin January 1st, 2010. We also elected Christina Klein to be our delegate to Diocesan Council and her husband, Joel, was elected as the alternate.

The Bishop's Committee will meet the first Monday of the month for 2010. We will also have a retreat later in January to set our goals for 2010. The Bishop's Committee for 2010 is listed on the back of the newsletter with their appointments.

The Budget for 2010 is looking good. We are only about \$2700 away from having a balanced budget with all salaries reinstated at 2009 levels. If you are considering making a pledge or re-evaluating your current pledge please do so immediately so that we can set the budget. Thank you!

THE FEW AND THE PROUD

DECK OF CARDS

It was quiet that day, the guns and mortars, and the land mines for some reason hadn't been heard. The young soldier knew it was Sunday, the holiest day of the week. As he was sitting there, he got out and old deck of cards and laid them out across his bunk. Just then an army sergeant came in and said, Why aren't you with the rest of the platoon? The soldier replied, I thought I would stay behind and spend some time with the Lord. The sergeant said it looks like you're going to play cards. The soldier said, No, sir you see, since we are not allowed to have Bibles or other spiritual books in this country, I've decided to talk to the Lord by studying this deck of cards. The sergeant asked in disbelief, how are you going to do that?

The Ace, it reminds me that there is only one God. The Two represent the two parts of the Bible, Old and the New Testaments. The Three represents the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. The Four stands for the Four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Five is for the five virgins there were ten but only five of them were glorified. The six is for the six days it took God to create the Heavens and the Earth.

The Seven is for the day God rested after making His creation. The Eight is for the family of Noah and his wife, their three sons and their wives-the eight people God spared from the flood that destroyed the Earth. The Nine is for the lepers that Jesus cleansed of leprosy He cleansed ten, but nine never thanked him. The Ten represents the Ten Commandments that God handed down to Moses on the tablets made of stone. The Jack is a reminder of Satan, one of God's first angels, but he got kicked out of heaven for his sly and wicked ways and is now the joker of eternal hell. The Queen stands for the Virgin Mary. The King stands for Jesus, for he is the King of Kings. There are a total of 52 cards in a deck; each is a week-52 weeks in a year. The four suits represent the four seasons: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. Each suit has thirteen cards- there are exactly thirteen weeks in a quarter. So when I want to talk to God and thank Him, I just pull out this deck of cards and they remind me of all that I have to be thankful for. The sergeant just stood there. After a minute, with tears in his eyes and pain in his heart, he said, Soldier, can I borrow that deck of card. This is a good reminder that if we don't have a Bible with us we can use an old deck of cards. Please keep our Men and Women of our Armed Services and their families in your prayers this Holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and May you have the peace of God in your life this Holiday Season with the hope it continues year after year.

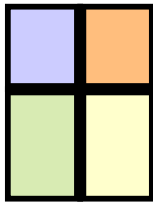
Semper Fi

Jimmy Baughman, Armed Services Chaplain

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE UPDATE

Income	Actual (as of 12/18/2009)	Budget (for 2009)
Pledge	\$146,470.93	\$187,284.00
Plate	\$ 50,100.91	\$ 36,600.00
Building Fund	\$ 18,015.00	\$120,000.00
Diocese	\$ 60,833.44	\$ 65,000.00
Building Use	\$ 56,376.01	\$ 42,000.00
Transfer from Bank	\$ 39,202.46	\$ 33,181.72
Ministry	\$ 20,843.69	\$ 11,000.00
Total	\$391,842.44	\$495,065.72

Expense	Actual (as of 12/18/2009)	Budget (for 2009)
Clergy	\$101,038.76	\$126,744.14
Staff	\$ 90,151.49	\$102,201.91
Diocese	\$ 19,324.20	\$ 33,631.00
Administration	\$ 32,658.65	\$ 32,800.00
Property	\$110,398.62	\$212,964.57
Ministry	\$ 30,003.32	\$ 29,219.13
Total	\$383,602.04	\$537,560.75



SAINT AIDAN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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BISHOP OF TEXAS

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SAFEGUARDING GOD'S PEOPLE COORDINATOR

JIMMY BAUGHMAN
ARMED SERVICES CHAPLAIN

LORA COSTIGAN
MARKETING COORDINATOR

JP DAINE
MUSIC MINISTER [8AM]

JEAN DICK
BOOKSTORE/GIFT SHOP COORDINATOR

TRISH HOUSER
CHILDREN'S CROSS CHOIR ASSISTANT COORDINATOR

SUSAN LINDSTROM
MUSIC MINISTER [10:30AM]

CAROL MCCAULEY
CONNECTIONS COORDINATOR

KAREN MYERS
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

THE VENERABLE RUSS OECHSEL
ARCHDEACON

BRENDA STEPP
CHILDREN'S CROSS CHOIR COORDINATOR

2010 BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

Executive Board

Christina Klein
Bishop's Warden

John Cesmirosky
Junior Warden

John Patton
Clerk and Controller

Ministry Board

Kelly Howell
Worship Ministry

Erika Cornejo
Children's Ministry

Robbie Dillon
Youth Ministry

Debra Haluch
Wellness Ministry

Ray McCauley
Evangelism and Formation Ministry

Kyle Deutsch
Pastoral Care and Service Ministry

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Doug Neaves
Treasurer and Chair

Rev. Justin Lindstrom
Priest

John Patton
Clerk and Controller

Ray McCauley
Bishop's Committee Representative

Ken Hoffman
Church Representative

Michael Taylor
Church Representative

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