

SAINT AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

...where people come together...

NOVEMBER 2009 ✦ **PENTECOST & ADVENT** ✦ VOLUME I ✦ NUMBER 3

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

COVER

- **FROM OUR VICAR:
A MESSAGE FROM
REV. JUSTIN**
- ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAGE 2

- **FROM OUR
CURATE: A
MESSAGE FROM
REV. RICH**
- **YOUTH AND YOUNG
ADULT INFO**
- CONNECTIONS
- **BOOKSTORE AND
GIFTS SHOP NEWS**
- **FROM OUR
CHILDREN'S
MINISTER: A
MESSAGE FROM
ASHLEY**
- **CHILDREN'S
MINISTRY NICHE**

PAGE 3

- **THE VERGER'S
VOICE**
- **PASTORAL CARE
AND SERVICE
UPDATE**
- **THE FEW AND THE
PROUD**
- **BISHOP'S
COMMITTEE UPDATE**
- **STEWARDSHIP,
FINANCE, AND
BUDGET UPDATE**

PAGE 4

- **STAFF AND
BISHOP'S
COMMITTEE**

INSERTS

- **NOVEMBER AND
DECEMBER
CALENDAR:
YELLOW INSERT**
- **OCTOBER SUNDAY
SCHEDULE:
CARDSTOCK INSERT**

FROM OUR VICAR THE REV. JUSTIN LINDSTROM



STRESS

I thrive on stress. Throughout my schooling, from Middle School thru Seminary, I procrastinated in writing papers and studying which caused extra stress. But then, amazingly, I was able to focus extra hard and get the work done and do well. I have learned over the years that this is not the most healthy of existences. I have always been a planner so now I plan out more specifically how I am going to meet my weekly obligations and plan way ahead for large projects.

Stress can be defined as the importance or significance attached to a thing or project and the physical, intellectual, emotional, and even spiritual pressure, pull, or other force exerted on one by another. I feel pushed and pulled all the time. Most of this is a good thing! I am mostly being pushed and pulled by God in the right direction for ministry. But there are times where I feel like it is out of control.

We have taken an extra hard look at how the church might be placing unnecessary stress on families and individuals in our normal course of doing ministry. Meetings take up a lot of time and we are trying to make every meeting we have, have a purpose and a significant outcome so that it does not add extra stress to our lives. We are making sure that every event and program is a positive expression of our core values and that it adds meaning to our lives and not added stress.

So with that said, some things might change and some things may remain the same, some things might be slightly tweaked, and some may not be done at all anymore so that we all are not stressed out and we can be more fully be pushed and pulled by God's Holy Spirit. Changes, we hope, will not happen overnight or be a surprise to us but will gradually be worked in.

I believe, we can get caught up in doing church stuff, especially those who have the honor of serving you as your church staff. We live and breathe the church so it is easy for us to lose sight of the many demands that you have on your time and energy. I want you to know that we are aware of this and we continue to work hard to get new people involved, schedule meetings at a decent

time, meet with a purpose, and evaluate all programs and events to see if they express our core values.

Doing church is different than being the church. I hope and pray that we can be more and more in the presence of God in Christ and with each other. I hope and pray that we can continue to show love to each other and to the community by being the church, doing church things from time to time, but being Christ's disciples in the world but not be of the world. We have to become less busy and allow for God to push and pull us into what God's will is. May we take this adventure together with good stress in the right places.

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.

First Sunday of the Month

Discover God

Second Sunday of the Month

Discover the Episcopal Church

Third Sunday of the Month

Discover Saint Aidan's

Fourth Sunday of the Month

Discover Our Ministry

**Children, Middle School and High School:
You are needed to help make our service
project successful!**

On November 22nd ~ 4-6pm, we will be decorating and filling shoe boxes for the Seafarers. This is such an awesome way for us to make this group of people feel special and appreciated. We invite you to come be a part of this service project and then enjoy a yummy dinner that will be prepared especially for you! RSVP Today!



FROM OUR CURATE

THE REV. RICH HOUSER



Blessings to you all!! Wow, it is already November. I feel like it's the start of July! We have had an exciting fall already. We do have on schedule change happening on Nov. 22. We will be doing Seafarer Collection and boxing of items for those on the high seas. They truly appreciate our generosity. These boxes we put together include toiletries they don't have access to.

Always check the youth page on the website for updates and details. Also, join us on facebook. Look us up at St. Aidan's Youth Group. We continuously update with pics and videos. See me get creamed with pie in slow-motion!!

If you need anything don't hesitate to call or email me.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sunday Nov. 1st
Wii All Out
Challenge
Noon-1:30

Saturday
Nov. 7th
Lockin/
Campout
7pm-8am

Sunday
Nov. 15th
Movie "A Christ-
mas Carol 3D"

Sunday Nov. 22nd
Seafarers Service Project
4-5:30pm

HIGH SCHOOL

High School Youth Bible
Study w/ Meal
6:00-7:30 Wednesdays
Nov. 4th, 11th, 18th,

Sunday
Nov. 1st
International
Foods Night
6:30-8

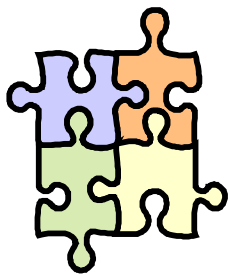
Sunday
Nov. 8th
Movie - "Where
the Wild Things
Are"

Sunday
Nov. 15th
Comparative
Religions
6:30-8

Sunday Nov.
22nd
Seafarers Service
Project
4-5:30pm

YOUNG ADULTS

Many thanks to Chad and Christina Getschmann for their hospitality in October! Mark your calendars for November 12th when Jonathon and Jennifer Ramirez host us at 21615 Brookchase Loop in Cypress. We will be together from 6-8pm. We look forward to great fellowship. Young Adults includes couples, families, and singles ages 18 through 35.



CONNECTIONS DINNER
MEET THE BISHOP
NOVEMBER 7TH AT 6PM
FOR ALL ADULTS ONLY
RSVP TODAY!
BRING A DISH TO SHARE.

BOOKSTORE AND GIFT SHOP

We have many new arrivals! The always popular St. Aidan's golf shirts in navy and white are now in stock, along with the new blue t-shirts. God is good!! We have beautiful gem stone crosses and we also have wonderful wood hand-made crosses that were crafted by a member of St. Aidan's and donated to us. They are truly amazing! We also have a gorgeous wooden bird house. Of course, we still have the cross necklaces and key rings that we sell for our youth group and we also have the Episcopal shields made by Jimmy Baughman. And we have books - lots of books. We are expanding our inventory little by little so stop by on Sunday before or after church to see what we've changed. You won't be disappointed.

Thank you!

Jean Dick, Bookstore and Gift Shop Coordinator

FROM OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTER

MRS. ASHLEY REDER



October was such a great month for the children of Saint Aidan's. We had our first ever Communion Instruction and a wealth of information was shared by Rev. Justin and Rev. Rich. We also had our first Bible Bowl of the new school year. It was great fun! The Bible Blasters are in the lead but we will be having our next Bible Bowl on Sunday, November 8th at 9:15 am, so who knows what could happen? Thank you to the parents and to Madyson, Youth Helper Extraordinaire who helped make this morning run smoothly! During our FROG Event, our children made Communion Bread and it was served the Sunday that Bishop High was here. What an awesome job the kiddos did making the bread and learning more about the process and the meaning of the bread itself.

November is a month that will be great as well for Children's Ministries. The same day that we hold our Bible Bowl, we will also have our Bible Buck Store. This Sunday the children may shop away and redeem their %bucks+ that they have earned for coming to Sunday school, for bringing friends to events and for showing Christ-like actions. The Children's Cross Choir has been singing away. They lead the Offertory Song on October 18th at the 10:30am service, and they did a fantastic job! They will be leading again on November 15th. Ms. Brenda and Mrs. Tricia have been doing a great job teaching the children so much about music and voice techniques.

We will have a service project on Sunday, November 23rd from 4-6pm. We will be wrapping and stuffing boxes for the Seafarers. There will be a list of materials that we will be asking the congregation to donate so that we can have awesome items to send to them. Our children will also use their creativity to make cards to include in these boxes. This project is sure to make them feel very loved. Rev. Justin will be firing up the grill to make a yummy dinner for us. I hope to see you there so that we can make a difference.

Great things are happening in the Children's Ministry. 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 in during the month of October. 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 Children's Ministry.

November Prayer Project- We will be talking about how to make a %lean sweep+ and pray for inner cleanliness as the Season of advent approaches.

Important Dates:

Sunday, Nov. 1st at Noon- Children's Cross Choir Practice

Sunday, Nov. 8th at 9:15am- Bible Buck Store & Bible Bowl

Sunday, Nov. 8th at Noon- Children's Cross Choir Practice

Sunday, Oct. 15th at 10:30am- Children's Cross Choir leads the Offertory Song during Worship

Sunday, Oct. 22nd at 4pm- Children, Route 56, Middle and High School Seafarers Service Project with Dinner.

RSVP FOR ALL EVENTS THRU OUR WEBSITE OR ON SUNDAY MORNINGS ON THE WORSHIP GUIDE TEAR-OFF FORM.

GARAGE SALE
NOVEMBER 14TH ~ 7AM-NOON
CHURCH PARKING LOT

THE VERGER'S VOICE

I believe that the more favor we give to others, the more favor God gives to us. Psalm 5:12 says: For surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield. As believers in Jesus Christ, you and I can have God's favor surrounding us, protecting us, and helping us to prosper. And I believe we need to put our faith in God's favor, especially in today's world. In tough times, we may be tempted to draw back our giving/tithing because we may be afraid that we won't have enough. Or perhaps, if we've lost our job or our source of income, we may be reluctant to sow our seeds/giving tithes. But Psalm 115:14-15 says, The Lord shall increase you more and more, you and your children. Ye are blessed of the Lord which made heaven and earth. Even in tough situations, I believe the favor of God can sustain us and cause us to grow in every area of our life. But it's important for us to do our part. We need to activate God's favor by calling on Him in faith and giving Him something to work with. And one way we can do that is through sowing seeds/tithing. I believe when we sow/tithe a seed of favor, we're going to receive favor in return. That's why JoAnne and I sow/tithe our seed into St. Aidan's ministry and give to other ministries as well. By being faithful with our tithing, we have seen a bountiful harvest. My prayer for you: Lord, I ask You for increase in the lives of everyone who reads this article as they sow/tithe seed to You. I pray that they will experience Your favor in every area of their lives. I ask that Your favor would go forth and bring restoration where they need it most. And I pray they can have a tremendous testimony of Your favor working in their life. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

God's Peace,
Johnnie Mathis, Saint Aidan's Verger

PASTORAL CARE AND SERVICE UPDATE

WARM CLOTHES TO WARM HEARTS CLOTHING DRIVE

Time to clean out your closets! For the month of October we are collecting cold weather clothing items to distribute to The Beacon- a homeless outreach center at Christ Church Cathedral downtown. Please bring your unworn or gently used long sleeve shirts, pants, sweaters and coats to church this Sunday for us to then bless and take down to the Cathedral sometime in early November. Thank you for being a blessing to those in need!

SEAFARERS' CENTER CHRISTMAS BOXES

As in years past we're again welcoming the stranger among us. Making Christmas Boxes for the Seafarers is a great way to do just that. We are asking everyone to bring a shoe box full of small travel-sized items such as the following: **band-aids, key chains, comb, paper & envelopes, dental floss, pencils & pens, deodorant, playing cards, disposable razors, puzzles & games, flashlight, postcards, kleenex & q-tips, socks, lotion & lip balm, knit caps, nail clippers, warm gloves, needle & thread, stamps, shaving cream, religious items, soap & shampoo, Texas souvenirs, toothbrush, toothpaste, address book, t-shirts, calendar, coffee mugs, disposable cameras, baseball caps, gum & hard candy.** We will collect Christmas Boxes throughout the month of November and will have a blessing for them prior to distribution to the Seafarer's Center sometime in early December. These gifts of love should be packed shoebox size, **WRAPPED AND TIED SECURELY** as one unit in Christmas paper. **PLEASE DO NOT WRAP LID AND BOX SEPARATELY. Please do not place bows on the boxes.** If you wish to donate scriptures or tracts, please bring them separately and not inside the Christmas box so we can match up appropriate languages. Please include your name and address, or the name of your church or group, in each box. You may receive a thank you note from a grateful seafarer!

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

THE FEW AND THE PROUD

What a day Jolynn and I have Saturday October 3, 2009. We went to a bag stuffing party. There were more than 250 volunteers that filled more than 2,000 bag of Halloween candy for our troops overseas. This was so far Cypress cares largest turnout yet. Last year they stuffed only 800 bags. With a heart as big as Texas the founding Director Raquel Cunningham and some close friends started this organization to send care packages to our troops. Now that the economy is down so are the donations. If my math this correct, just the boxes filled this weekend cost over \$2,500 to ship. So help is needed. On November 13th, 2009 (ok I know this is Friday the thirtieth just watch out for black cats) at the Cole Crossing Club House they will be filling boxes with miniature Christmas trees. These mini trees can be found at Hobby Lobby, Michaels, etc. I am asking for your help; if you can please donation a mini trees or money for postage so we can help make it another fantastic Day for our troops. I am also planning a veteran salute in November more information to come. Please remember our troops in your prayers. God I give you thanks for the courage of these brother and sisters in arms. For the strength of backs, their will, and for their grit, and determination, for their sense and their skill, I give you thanks. May I be to them as good a comrade as they have been to us and may your strong arm defend and empower them daily.

Semper Fi
Jimmy Baughman, Armed Services Chaplain

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Bishop's Committee is searching for nominees for the 2010 Bishop's Committee. We have two positions to fill. They are also working on the shortfall in finances for 2009 and the preparation for a budget for 2010. Kyle Deutsch was approved to move on in the process to become a priest and a Letter of Support was issued for Rich Houser to become a Priest. His ordination to the Priesthood, God willing, will take place in January. A Policy Manual for the Church is written and being revised and will soon be complete.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE UPDATE

The Stewardship and Finance Committee is currently leading our 2010 Stewardship Program called Showing Love. We encourage everyone to turn in an Annual Giving Card on or before November 1st. Following November 1st they will meet to make a recommendation of a 2010 Budget to the Bishop's Committee and then it will be voted on by the church at our Annual Meeting in December.

Year to Date (As of September 30, 2009)

<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Pledge	\$110,862.00	\$140,463.00
Plate	\$ 29,194.53	\$ 27,450.00
Building Fund	\$ 14,310.00	\$ 90,000.00
Diocese	\$ 45,000.03	\$ 48,749.94
Building Use	\$ 47,431.62	\$ 31,500.00
Transfer from Bank	\$ 36,027.57	\$ 24,886.26
Ministry	\$ 16,145.94	\$ 8,249.67
Total	\$298,878.04	\$371,298.87

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Clergy	\$ 80,096.56	\$ 86,063.65
Staff	\$ 75,035.80	\$ 77,526.35
Diocese	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 25,223.13
Administration	\$ 23,810.60	\$ 24,599.61
Property	\$ 93,898.67	\$169,814.54
Worship	\$ 2,746.18	\$ 1,274.76
Children	\$ 7,339.64	\$ 4,849.64
Youth	\$ 5,695.03	\$ 6,568.95
Wellness	\$ 3,924.36	\$ 2,733.32
Evangelism/Formation	\$ 2,987.07	\$ 3,599.70
Pastoral Care/Service	\$ 2,637.98	\$ 4,049.91
Total	\$313,171.89	\$406,303.59

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AS:

St. Aidan⌘ Episcopal Church
St. Aidan⌘ Young Adults
St. Aidan⌘ Youth Group

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JP DAINE
PIANIST

JEAN DICK
BOOKSTORE/GIFT SHOP COORDINATOR

JEFF HUMPHREY
TREASURER

SUSAN LINDSTROM
MUSIC MINISTER

JOHNNIE MATHIS
VERGER

CAROL McCAULEY
CONNECTIONS COORDINATOR

KAREN MYERS
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

THE REV. RUSS OECHSEL
ARCHDEACON

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mikel Nicks
Bishop's Warden

John Cesmimosky
Junior Warden

Larry Dick
Clerk

MINISTRY BOARD

Erika Cornejo
Children

Debbie Haluch
Wellness Ministry

Kyle Deutsch
Pastoral Care and Service

Christina Klein
Worship

Ray McCauley
Evangelism and Formation

John Patton
Youth

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Jeff Humphrey
Chair and Treasurer

Rev. Justin Lindstrom
Priest

JoAnne Mathis
Member

Ray McCauley
Bishop's Committee Representative

Doug Neaves
Treasurer (Beginning 2010)

John Patton
Bishop's Committee Representative

Michael Taylor
Member

