



SAINT AIDAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

...where people come together...

DECEMBER 2009 ✦ ADVENT & CHRISTMAS ✦ VOLUME II ✦ NUMBER 1

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FROM OUR VICAR THE REV. JUSTIN LINDSTROM



ADVENT: WHAT IS IT?

Advent is the penitential season of the four Sundays before Christmas that are set aside for us to prepare. But, what are we preparing for? Does that mean we are to get our house ready for Christmas? Does that mean we are to get all our shopping done? For some of us, that may be what preparing is all about.

In the life of the church and in our faith, we are to be preparing for the first and second coming of Christ. We are preparing for what it means to have a God that is incarnate or made flesh who lived among us. We are preparing for what it means to be a follower of a God who is also Jesus the Christ. We are preparing ourselves in our faith to understand that we anticipate Jesus to come back to judge and rule our lives.

So we believe in the First Coming of God to be the birth of Jesus at Christmas. We believe that God came to the earth and lived as one of us so that we could have a deeply personal relationship with a not so distant God. We believe that Jesus is the Word made flesh, the Savior of the world, the Redeemer, the Prince of Peace, and more. No words can capture who Jesus is as God incarnate.

We also believe in a Second Coming. That Jesus will return to judge us and to convict us of our beliefs. So we are to be alert! To be prepared! Not because we need to live on edge and with anxiety that Jesus is coming again, but that we are called to live our faith now because the Kingdom of God is at hand. Jesus has already come and brought the Kingdom and all that it represents with him; therefore, we are kingdom people believing that the Kingdom of God is here and now. So we are to be prepared and on alert to live as kingdom people, sharing the love of God in Christ Jesus with all, at all times.

So, this season of Advent is not just about preparing our families, homes, places of

business, and church for Christmas and all its festivities. It is really a time to look deep within ourselves and discover what we might need to change or grow in our faith lives to be more alert and prepared to be the people of God's Kingdom and to do the ministry work that our hearts and mind are then called to do. Be prepared! Be alert! Be the church!

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

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24th

- 4pm . Family Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist and Candle lighting led by the Children of the Church
- 9pm . Holy Eucharist and the Service of Light led by our Music Team

New Year's Eve

Thursday, December 31st

7pm . U2charist

- Holy Eucharist with u2 music
- Offerings will go to the One Campaign to further the Millennial Developmental Goals of the United Nations

FROM OUR CURATE

THE REV. RICH HOUSER



Blessings to you all!! We gently roll into Advent and we are so tempted to celebrate the birth of our savior right now. That is not what Advent is all about, and we need to take it slow no matter what is going on. But look around, all we see is Christmas already; houses with Christmas decorations next to leftover Halloween decorations! It is a challenge for me as well, but this is the time for some contemplation no matter how busy. Let us pray that we will let Advent be more than a prelude to Christmas.

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

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sunday Dec. 6th Christmas Party Noon-1:30	Sunday Dec. 13th Church-wide Christmas Party 5-6:30	Sunday Dec. 20th School's Out Party 5-6:30	Sunday Dec. 31st U2charist 7-8:30 pm
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HIGH SCHOOL

High School Youth Bible Study w/ Meal 6:00-7:30 Wednesdays Dec. 2nd, 9th	Sunday Dec. 6th Christmas Party 6:30-8	Sunday Dec. 13th Church-wide Christmas Party 5-6:30	Sunday Dec. 20th School's Out Party 6:30-8	Sunday Dec. 31st U2charist 7-8:30 pm
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YOUNG ADULTS AND YOUNG AT HEART

Many thanks to Jonathan Ramirez and Christina Garza for their hospitality in November! Mark your calendars for December 17th when we have a white elephant gift 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.

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



Is a bit of a frenzy lurking? Maybe that frenzy is already there. We know Advent calls us with its message of quietness, anticipation and peace. Meanwhile, our lives make their demands. We have people who need our care, shopping and cooking to do, parties to attend, Christmas cards to mail and travel possibly. My prayer for each of our families here at Saint Aidan's is that you are able to get the "shoulds" done that present themselves AND find those times, however brief, when you can light a candle and cease the doing long enough to just "be". I hope you join us as we make Advent wreaths on Sunday, December 29th at 9:15am to help our families with this. Having these at home will hopefully help you keep focus on the importance of Advent.

December is a month that will be full of events as well for Children's Ministries. On Saturday, December 12th from 9:30am-Noon, children interested in leading worship by reading and/or singing on Christmas Eve for the Family Lessons and Carols Service will rehearse and be assigned readings during this time. Your child must be present on the 12th during this rehearsal in order to lead worship on Christmas Eve. We want the participants to feel prepared and confident as they lead this important service. The children will also have another short rehearsal on Sunday, December 20th at 9:15am. While the children are rehearsing, their parents may enjoy a Gift of Time.

The Children's Cross Choir has led the Offertory Song for the past two months and will do the same this month on December 20th at the 10:30am service. Ms. Brenda and Ms. Trish have done an amazing job with these children! If your child is in Kindergarten through 5th grade and would like to join the Children's Cross Choir starting in January, we would love to have them, and I know they will learn bunches. Please make plans to be at the Happy Birthday Jesus Party that will be held on December 27th at 9:15am. We have some awesome events planned for that morning that will reinforce the reason for the Season!

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 December. 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.

Important Dates:

Sunday, Dec. 6th at 11:45- Children's Cross Choir Practice

Saturday, Dec. 12th at 9:30am- Lessons and Carols

Rehearsal for children leading songs and the readings and a Parent's Gift of Time

Sunday, Dec. 13th at 9:15am- Bible Buck Store & Bible Bowl

Sunday, Dec. 13th at 11:45- Children's Cross Choir Practice

Sunday, Dec. 20th at 10:30am- Children's Cross Choir leads the Offertory.

Wednesday, Dec. 24th at 4pm- Family Lessons and Carols, lead by the children, with Holy Eucharist

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

THE VERGER'S VOICE

God is very deliberate about the relationships He puts you in. You're going to relate to different people in different ways, but each contact you make with others has a purpose--for you and for them. Don't take your relationships lightly.

What you say--to your friends in the morning, your coworkers at the office, the clerk at the grocery store, and the friend on the phone--is important. Your words speak who you are. But don't overemphasize your words at the expense of your life. The truth is that the people you meet are more likely to see Jesus Christ in your actions than in your words.

The apostle Paul did a lot of traveling, and he wrote a bunch of letters (they're called the epistles) to the people he visited. He compared the life of a Christian to a "living letter," meaning that your life is like a "letter of recommendation," written in the heart of others.

"Your lives are a letter written in our hearts, and everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you."

2 Corinthians 3:2

God's Peace,

Johnnie Mathis, Saint Aidan's Verger

PASTORAL CARE AND SERVICE UPDATE

MISSION OF YAHWEH

For the past 6 years St. Aidan's has supported the Mission of YAHWEH by collecting new and gently used clothing items during December. Please bring your donations to church throughout the month up to and including the 4th Sunday of Advent (Dec 20) for blessing and distribution. Thank you!

The Mission of Yahweh has empowered homeless and abused women and their children for over 47 years. The doors are always open for women in crisis. A truly unique refuge that not only gives food, clothing and shelter, but also is committed to rehabilitating women to become self-sufficient, productive members of society.

www.missionofyahweh.org

BOYS AND GIRLS COUNTRY CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

Our 2nd Annual Christmas Giving Tree for Boys and Girls Country has started. Please take a tag from the tree, purchase item(s) and wrap your donation prior to bringing to church. We will be sponsoring Cottage #9 this year with items starting as low as \$20. For all big "ticket" gifts, donations of any amount are welcome: **please call Kyle Deutsch at 281-352-9007** if you wish to purchase or donate funds towards these larger items. *Boys and Girls Country is a Christian Home, providing children from families in crisis with love, security, a sense of self-worth, and opportunities to prepare them for a successful life.*

www.boysandgirlscountry.org

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

There were two special days for me this month. November 10th was the 234th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps (I don't look too bad for being 234 years old) and the other day was November 11th, Veterans Day. My granddaughters invited me to their school (Robison Elementary) for a veteran's celebration. This was one of the best celebrations for Veterans that I have been to in a long time. The students and the staff of Robison Elementary get

two thumbs up for the celebration they put on for Veterans Day. From Kindergarten through 5th grade, the students sang songs, read poems, had a power point presentation, and the students wrote letters to all the vets that were there. They also had a helicopter from the Texas Air National Guard land and show off their aircraft. On this day an elementary school showed me and 97 other Veterans that patriotism is alive and well at Robison Elementary School in Cypress, Texas.

In closing, there's an organization in Cypress that need our help. Cypress-Cares sends care packages to our troops overseas. Please go to their web page ([www. Cypress-Cares.org](http://www.Cypress-Cares.org)) and check them out. They have their events schedule for all to see. I know that they are about \$3,000 dollars in the hole. It takes about \$13.50 to mail a package overseas. Cypress-Cares needs our help so please help if you can.

Semper Fi

Jimmy Baughman, Armed Services Chaplain

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE UPDATE

Saint Aidan's Annual Meeting

December 6th

9:15-10:15am

We will vote on our budget and vote on the following nominations.

Nominated to the Bishop's Committee are:

Robbie Dillon, Debbie Haluch, Kelly Howell

Nominated as our Diocesan Council Delegate:

Christina Klein

Nominated as our Diocesan Council Alternate:

Joel Klein

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE UPDATE

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE FOR BUDGET YEAR 2010

54 ANNUAL GIVING CARDS COLLECTED

FOR A TOTAL OF \$196,620

AND AN AVERAGE OF \$3,641.11

OUR GOAL IS TO HAVE 75 ANNUAL GIVING CARDS

FOR A TOTAL OF \$255,000

AND AN AVERAGE OF \$3,400

Year to Date (As of October 31, 2009)

<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Pledge	\$122,136.00	\$156,070.00
Plate	\$ 37,490.90	\$ 30,000.00
Building Fund	\$ 16,420.00	\$100,000.00
Diocese	\$ 45,000.03	\$ 54,166.66
Building Use	\$ 55,003.73	\$ 35,000.00
Transfer from Bank	\$ 39,202.46	\$ 27,651.40
Ministry	\$ 16,852.94	\$ 9,666.30
Total	\$332,106.06	\$412,554.36

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Clergy	\$ 86,687.32	\$ 99,623.70
Staff	\$ 82,142.51	\$ 85,821.50
Diocese	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 28,025.70
Administration	\$ 26,814.34	\$ 27,332.90
Property	\$101,020.45	\$184,197.87
Worship	\$ 2,746.18	\$ 1,416.40
Children	\$ 7,434.41	\$ 5,299.60
Youth	\$ 6,037.12	\$ 6,818.93
Wellness	\$ 3,940.34	\$ 2,900.32
Evangelism/Formation	\$ 3,072.03	\$ 3,999.70
Pastoral Care/Service	\$ 3,383.47	\$ 4,599.90
Total	\$338,278.17	\$450,036.52

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AS:

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

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JIMMY BAUGHMAN
ARMED SERVICES CHAPLAIN

LORA COSTIGAN
MARKETING COORDINATOR

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

Ken Hoffman
Member

Ray McCauley
Bishop's Committee Representative

Doug Neaves
Treasurer (Beginning 2010)

John Patton
Bishop's Committee Representative

Michael Taylor
Member

