



COMFORTABLE WORDS

... *A Monthly Communication from Holy Comforter Church...*

Serving the Episcopal Community of Angleton Since 1897

Holy Comforter
Episcopal Church

DECEMBER 2010

www.holycomforterangleton.org

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 AM Holy Eucharist
9:30 AM Christian Education
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist

Mission Statement

“All are welcome to grow with us through worship, prayer, fellowship, and service at Holy Comforter, a Christ-centered family Church.”

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The word became flesh
and lived among us...”

John 1:14

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve

Family Service & Eucharist 4:30 PM
Children's Pageant
Candlelight Service 10:30 PM
Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day

Informal Eucharist 10:30 AM

December 26, 2010

Christmas Lessons & Carols 10:30AM
(One service only; no 9:30 activities)

Invite your family and friends
to join us in celebration!

MOTHER CAROL'S COLUMN



Advent is here! In Advent, we mark the season of preparation for the coming Christ Child! To help our preparation, Holy Comforter is providing booklets of Advent reflections and prayers by Henri Nouwen, entitled: *Living in Hope!* The booklets are located on the baker's rack in the Narthex. Setting aside time every day in Advent to read and pray will help us to keep focused on what is important in this season: the celebration of Christ's birth.

Like others in our culture, we prepare expectantly for Christmas day; however Advent invites us to a counter-cultural preparation. Instead of rush, rush, rush, and buy, buy, buy, we are invited to slow down, to prayerfully consider the true gift of Christmas: God's gracious love-gift of Jesus Christ.

Advent also invites us to be especially faithful in worship. We have a number of special things going on this season. **Each Sunday in Advent**, as well as on Christmas Eve, a Holy Comforter family will lead us in prayerfully lighting the Advent Wreath candle. On **December 5**, we welcome The Reverend Preston Weatherly to the pulpit. Recently retired as pastor of St. John Lutheran, Preston and his wife Carolyn have honored and blessed us with their presence at Holy Comforter!

On **December 19**, join us for the annual Advent Breakfast at 9:30, between services. This year, it's a potluck breakfast, so bring whatever you like! Please note the schedule of Christmas Services on the front page and invite your family and friends to share this holy time with us!

A note regarding the children's pageant on December 24th at 4:30: We want your child or grandchild to share in our pageant! Tom & Jodi Long are directing the pageant this year and welcome lots of participation! Please note their contact information on page 6. What a great way for your child to experience first hand the miraculous story of Christmas!

Advent blessings to you all!

Carol

Boy Scout Buzz...



Troop 531 had another successful year running the baked potato booth at the County Fair. This fundraiser provides the troop with much of the funding needed to keep the troop running through the year, providing tents, cook stoves and backpacks for the scouts. Since then the troop has completed the Path-finding Merit Badge. This badge was discontinued over 40 years ago and brought back for the BSA's centennial. The scouts needed to be able to provide directions to the local blacksmith shops, apothecary's and liveries. They then had to identify the modern corollary's to these old badge requirements and give concise directions to all of them in their community.

The scouts have now begun working on their Personal Fitness merit badge. This is one of the hardest badges to earn and consists of a fitness exam each week for the next twelve weeks. They need to show consistent improvement each week in a mile run, sit ups, pull ups and push ups. In addition, the scouts will be ringing the bell for the Salvation Army on December 11th at Wal-Mart.

Giving God

*We worship
not a hidden God,
covered, clothed
in mystery, inaccessible.*

*We worship
God revealed ~
a child, born of humble means,
forsaking glory to be one of us,
one with us,
Emmanuel.*

*We worship
God reconciling,
giving life for us,
and raised to new life,
calling us by the Spirit
to give our lives away
for love.*

~Roberta Porter



*Join us Sunday, January 9th at
9:30 a.m. as James Northrup
presents an update on the
Parish House progress.*



**Episcopal
Relief & Development**
Healing a hurting world

This Christmas, give a gift for lasting change!

**Order your Christmas gifts from the
Gifts for Life catalogue, available on the
baker's rack in the Narthex.**

**Last year, Gifts for Life helped nearly
3 million people in extreme poverty.**



Coffee Hosts for the month of December



- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>5 Dorothy Hajecate</p> <p>19 Advent Breakfast</p> | <p>12 The Briscoe Family</p> <p>26 Hood & Powell</p> |
|--|--|

Please contact Betty Mogford at 979-345-2968 if you would like to sign up.



Hurray for Acolytes!!

On Sunday, November 28th, Holy Comforter commissioned acolytes Brook Eby, Mark Eby, Kevin Cole, Breanna Cole, Mason Hawkins, and Alyssa Fields. We are grateful for their ministry and their sponsors, Christie Cole and Andrea Demopulos.



*Advent Breakfast
(Potluck!)*

*December 19th
9:30 am*



- | |
|--------------------------|
| 10 Jack & Billye Carroll |
| 31 Jeff & Cathy Helms |



- 2 Doris Jackson
- 4 Austin Noe
- 7 Sara Keenom
- 13 Pam Baron
- 15 Eloise Lostak
- 21 Lonnie Lostak
- 23 Zane Funk
- 28 Joey Warren
- 29 Teal Clem
- 31 John Minkert
Paul Eby



“GREEN” TIP OF THE MONTH

Recharge, Reuse!

Save money and resources by using widely available rechargeable batteries, many of which can be reused up to 1,000 times. More than 15 billion batteries are thrown away each year — enough to make a column to the moon and back. That number continues to grow, as we use more and more electronic devices in our lives.

The Holy Comforter Endowment Fund...

...we've heard a lot about it lately; it's how we were able to buy outright (read: no debt) the Parish House on the property that Holy Comforter has longed for over the years. But what exactly is the Endowment Fund? It is a fund established a number of years ago from the proceeds of the Josephine Wilson testamentary estate for the purpose of supporting the ministry of Holy Comforter Church, with a particular interest in capital purchases, improvements, and specific ministries. Actual dollar amounts vary with the market and economic fluctuations of our time, but the investment portfolio currently stands, after the Parish House purchase, at roughly \$600,000, not including a number of oil and gas interests that continue to produce from time to time.

Mrs. Wilson's generous bequest was professionally managed, and over the years the income earned has been re-invested in ministries of the parish and the larger Angleton community, although its primary purpose is to support Holy Comforter Church and our program of work. A nonprofit corporation was chartered in 1981-82 and a 6-member board of directors was established to develop and oversee an endowment, using the original "Wilson fund" as seed money. Each year the parish elects one member to serve a three year term on the board, after which that member rotates off. Additionally, each year the vestry appoints one of its members to a three year term on the endowment board. So, every three years, two people cycle on and two people cycle off.

Endowment grants from income have been awarded over the years to Holy Comforter Church and School; to the St. Thomas Center in its various forms and ministries providing local social services; to Habitat for Humanity year after year, including leadership in an "Episcopal Build" drawing collaboration from all the parishes of central and southern Brazoria County; to the "Share the Harvest" program of rice farmers, encouraged by James Northrup; and on and on, large and small but always toward the greater good. Last year, accumulated funds earmarked from unspent grant capacity were used for the HC capital purchase of the Thompson property at 335 S. Chenango. The burned-out house on that property was sold and removed; the land is currently used as a fenced play yard for Holy Comforter School and is available for as yet unknown future needs.

Development and use of the endowment has been a great blessing to Holy Comforter over the years. You can help this fund to continue to serve Holy Comforter by remembering the Holy Comforter Endowment Fund in your own gift-giving and estate planning, much as Mrs. Wilson so generously helped us all with the initial bequest in her Will. Every personal remembrance designated for Holy Comforter's Endowment Fund nurtures and grows the endowment so that Holy Comforter's ministries can continue to thrive, produce and serve. If you have questions about the Endowment Fund, contact its chair, Doris Jackson; she will be happy to answer your questions!

YOUTH CLASS



Thanks to Barbara Thomas and her team, the new Youth class is underway! Meeting each Sunday in the Parish House garden room, middle school and high school youth enjoy meeting together and exploring the scriptures.

Your Child is Invited to Share in the Magic of Christmas!



*Holy Comforter Episcopal Church
Children's Nativity Pageant*

*Rehearsals: Sundays, Dec. 12 & 19
Holy Comforter Church at 12 Noon
Costumes Provided*

*Presentation: Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m.
Directors: Tom & Jodi Long
979-849-9955*

drjblong@yahoo.com or tomlongiv@yahoo.com



MUSIC NOTES

The Holy Comforter choir is doing a great job under the direction of Daniel Russell. Thank you, choir, for your beautiful anthems and your leadership in worship!



Coffeehouse Theology

Parish Hall 9:30

Our baptismal covenant invites us to "continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship." Christian education is a part of the way we fulfill our covenant vows.

You are invited to join us every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. as we delve into scripture to consider the stories of our faith and apply God's word to our own lives.

Won't you join us as we grow in knowledge and grace through the wisdom of scripture?



Sunday, January
23

Annual Parish
Meeting

9:30 a.m.
(between services)



Let God's Light Shine at Holy Comforter

We have gratefully received 34 commitment cards for 2011. Many more cards are still outstanding. It would be a great help to receive these as soon as possible. Thank you for your faithful commitment to God's work at Holy Comforter!

The Vestry, Staff and Faculty of
Holy Comforter Episcopal Church
and School wish you a joyous Christmas
and blessed New Year!



Holy Comforter Episcopal Church Vestry Synopsis.....

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Holy Comforter Episcopal Parish Vestry was held on October 12, 2010, with Rev. Carol Petty presiding. Those members present were: Lori Hawkins, Dianne Kilgus, Trey Picard, Barbara Thomas, Ed White, James Northrup and Jerry Powell. Not present were Chip Cole and Lola Kay Hood. Also present was Barbara Marin, Clerk of the Vestry.

Mother Carol led the vestry in spiritual reflection. The minutes of the September 14th regular vestry meeting and Sept. 19th called meeting were accepted as presented.

Mother Carol reported for HCES. Classes are full as the school starts its 33rd year of service. While learning about stranger danger, 911, bike safety and fire safety, the children had visits from police officers, fire fighters, nurses and EMT. The school staff has several new faces this year. They are Sciobhan Short, day school assistant, Trisha Pruitt, lead teacher, Chelsea Murphy, extended day assistant, and Marisa Symonds, day school assistant.

Senior Warden, Lori Hawkins, reported that Daniel Russell has started as our new organist. Jr. Warden, James Northrup, reported that he and Jerry Powell had met with Baker and Lawson. James presented a plan showing changes to renovations to Parish House. James presented a report on the condition and costs to renovate the garage building. After discussion, the vestry voted to have the garage building removed from the property.

Mother Carol presented the final report for the Nominating Committee. Those nominated for vestry are Mike Hattaway, SuZan Carpenter, and Ellen Eby; David Shackelford for Endowment Board; Walt Kilgus, Council Delegate; and Dianne Kilgus and Sherry White, Council Alternates. The vote will be by acclamation on Sunday, Oct. 24th.

Mother Carol reported that the Lay Audit Review is scheduled for Sat., Oct. 16th. Cindy Stevens, Allan Dinsmore and Trey Picard will review financials as required by the DOT.

Mother Carol reported that Barbara Thomas had suggested a theme of "Let the Light Shine" for the Vestry Commitment Drive. Barbara Thomas agreed to lead the vestry in the commitment drive.

Mother Carol reported that she has had several requests for use of the church facilities. She reported that there is a need for a facility rental use and policy agreement. Ed White and Barbara Marin agreed to serve on this committee.

The Financial Report was presented by Dianne Kilgus. She reported that the Financial Committee had reviewed and recommended that the vestry accept the report as presented. After review, the report was accepted. The meeting was closed with prayer led by Mother Carol at 8:40 p.m.

Barbara Marin, Clerk of the Vestry

Financial Report

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Operating Income	19,862.45	122,109.44
Operating Expense	23,272.54	190,203.41
Surplus or (Deficit)	(3,410.09)	(68,093.97)
<u>Designated Gifts (Memorial, Disc. Fund, etc.)</u>		
Income	25.00	34,280.87
Expenditures	415.00	2,519.00

Endowment Fund Balance as of 9/30/10 was \$658,848.66.

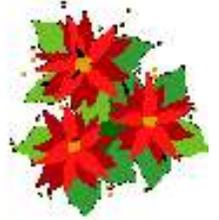
Value of mineral properties is in addition to this amount.

Holy Comforter Episcopal School News



Merry Christmas from the HCES staff

Dear Families,
What a joyous time of year!
The staff and I send wishes your way for happy and safe holiday celebrations. The gifts are already coming in for our "Christmas Partners Blessing Children" Project. Thank you to everyone who is able to give. Please send the unwrapped gifts by December 3rd. Look for information coming home from your teacher about your child's classroom Christmas party. Your children are such a joy—thank you for sharing them with us!!



Mrs. Logsdon

Children's
performance
at
Open House



December 2010

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																													
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