

The St. John's Newsletter

St. John's Episcopal Church 254-803-3800 Marlin, Texas April 2007

We are a church community rooted in Anglican traditions and committed to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through faith, prayer, compassion, and encouragement.

MEETING THE PRESIDING BISHOP

Clergy of the Diocese of Texas were invited to meet the Presiding Bishop on May 16 at St. David's in Austin. Bishop Wimberley remarked that Bishop Jefferts Schori has a peaceful presence. She is approachable and very easy to talk with. One major theme of her ministry is bringing Christ's peace to us, our churches, our communities, to our denomination and to the world. She often begins her articles or talks with 'shalom.' This means, according to her: "Shalom is a vision of the city of God on earth, a community where people are at peace with each other because each one has enough to eat, adequate shelter, medical care, and meaningful work. Shalom is a city where justice is the rule of the day, where prejudice has vanished, where the diverse gifts with which we have been so abundantly blessed are equally valued." ([A Wing and A Prayer](#), Katharine Jefferts Schori, page 33.)

After her initial remarks and lunch, we asked the Presiding Bishop questions for two hours. Her peaceful and inviting presence made it easy to ask those things we wondered about; she listens well, and answers forthrightly. She urged us to find peace within ourselves, and then within our congregations and to take this message to the world.

Her remarkably peaceful presence represents us well in the world. Her personal views are liberal, but her focus is peace. She is concerned with how we in the Anglican Communion are living with diversity of opinion and how we are or should be listening respectfully to one another. Her concern is more with the manner in which we are handling our disagreements than with the issues.

Her talk with our Diocese was riveting and extremely well delivered. Having seen her, I am not surprised that she was elected at General Convention. I am sure her presentation was excellent. Please keep her in your prayers that she may indeed be an agent of Christ's peace in the world and that our Communion may handle conflict in the Christian manner to which we are called.

Shalom in His love, Judy

St. John's Leadership

Vestry:

Senior Warden, Mike Meyer

Junior Warden, Troy Henderson

Clerk/Treasurer, Cathy Phillips

Polly Gaeke

Bobby Peterson

Joe Owen

Rector: The Rev. Judy Filer

Director of Music: Sue Visser

Parish Administrator: Cathy Phillips

Altar Guild Chair: Louise Burton

Altar Flowers Chair: Polly Gaeke

Christian Education Leader: Joe Owen

Special Events: Libby Price, Patti Bosnack, Gary Smith

MEMORIALS

Anyone wishing to make a memorial should contact Jean Trice, chairperson in charge of memorials. Telephone number is 883-2611.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you want to request flowers for St. John's altar, contact Polly Gaeke, chairperson, phone number 584-4464.

ST. JOHN'S CHOIR NEWS

There are St. John's throws still available if anyone would like to purchase one for \$35. Please contact Sue Visser.

The Choir will be on summer sabbatical beginning July 9, and choir practice will resume September 4, 2007.

CURSILLO

If you are interested in attending a Cursillo weekend, please contact either Polly Geake (584-4464) or Kyla Smith (584-2461). Applications to attend Cursillo can be obtained on the Diocesan Cursillo website at www.texascursillo.org.

A Cursillo Day of Deeper Understanding is scheduled for July 14, 2007, at St. John's. The Rev. Paul Moore of St. Christopher's in Killeen will be the Spiritual Advisor, and Kyla Smith will be the Coordinator. The Episcopal Cursillo Leaders Workshop will be held at Camp Capers on September 28-30, 2007. A Convocational Cursillo Christmas party will be held in December. The date and location will be announced at a later date.

2007 CURSILLO WEEKENDS

August 2-5, 2007

November 1-4, 2007 (campsite)

SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN

Safeguarding God's Children is scheduled for two Sundays at St. John's: August 12th or 19th. We have scheduled two dates in order that the whole parish will be able to attend one of the two dates. Trainers are Meg Barrett and Sandy Smock. Anyone who wishes to work in the nursery or in children's Sunday school must be registered and must attend. By Diocesan rules, background checks are required on all those who wish to work or assist in any children's program.

ST. JOHN'S WEBSITE

Our website is up and running! Please check our website at www.stjohnsmarlin.org to see our work in progress. The newsletter and the calendar for lay readers are on the website. Please check often for upcoming events.

EMAIL UPDATES

Email updates to parishioners about what is happening in the parish will begin going out weekly and emergency emails go out more often (i.e., if someone becomes ill). If you do not receive these and would like to, please call the church office, or email stjohnsepiscopal514@sbcglobal.net **AND** jwfiler@aol.com. Please put the words "email update" in the subject line and you will be included in the list.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Luke 10: After this the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to come. And he said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'

We at St. John's are in the process of trying to reconvene our chapter. If you are interested in this ministry, there is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall for those interested in taking the training classes. After taking the training, one can decide whether or not to take the vows to become a Daughter of the King.

COFFEE HOSTESS

July 1 – Cathy Estes

July 8 – Molly Walker

July 15 – Sherri Patterson

July 22 – Louise Burton

July 29 – Libby Price, Patti

Bosnack & Gary Smith

OLE!

Many thanks to our wonderful host and hostesses who provided such a scrumptious Mexican Fiesta to celebrate the June birthdays at St. John's! Gary Smith, Patti Bosnack and Cathy Phillips truly outdid themselves!

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

Carter Henderson 7-4
Libby Price 7-9
Mary Price 7-12
Mary Smith 7-13
Louise Burton 7-18
Dub Wagner 7-25
Mike Ferda 7-27
Meagan Henderson 7-29
[Troy's daughter]

You are cordially invited
to brunch on Sunday, July 29th
in celebration of all parish July birthdays and anniversaries.
Please join us following the regular Sunday service for wonderful food and fun in the Parish Hall,
St. John's Episcopal Church.

LITTLE CHURCH CLUB

The Little Church Club will meet July 22 and 23. Any member of St. John's is welcome to attend this conference. Cost is \$75 for double occupancy or \$90 for single occupancy. Scholarships are available. Please notify the office if you wish to attend.

VISIONING STATEMENT FOR DIOCESE

The Diocese is in the process of writing a new Vision Statement. The Diocese will be writing its Statement within the next few months. They are seeking input from parishioners who are interested. You are invited to participate in an event. There is no charge for the events, which last from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., but reservations are necessary. If you wish to attend, sign up online at www.epicenter.org or call the church office.

On Saturday, July 7, I will attend the event at St. Thomas, College Station in College Station if you would like to ride along.

AN IMPORTANT EVENT AT ST. JOHN'S

As you know, my mother is suffering from Alzheimer's. Howard Gruetzner, head of the Texas Regional Alzheimer's Association has been an invaluable source of help to our family. The book he authored on the diseased is used internationally and is recognized as one of the authoritative books on Alzheimer's. He is also a licensed counselor and an expert in counseling on grief and loss.

Mr. Gruetzner hopes to provide better service to the Falls County Region for those families dealing

with Alzheimer's Disease and also for those suffering grief from any loss. He has requested to use our Parish Hall for a meeting to try to discern the needs in Falls County.

Please join us on Wednesday, July 11, at 10:00 a.m. at St. John's to hear his presentation, and please invite anyone you know who is suffering from grief or who knows someone with Alzheimer's. Refreshments will be served following the meeting.

Perhaps this will become an area of outreach for our congregation. Please join us if you can. Judy

MORE ON BISHOP JEFFERTS SCHORI

Here is biographical information on our Presiding Bishop:

The Very Reverend Katherine Jefferts Schori was elected Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church by the House of Bishops on June 18, 2006. Out of seven candidates, she was elected on the fifth ballot with 95 of the 188 votes cast. The House of Deputies overwhelmingly voted in approval of her election later that day. She is the first woman Primate in the worldwide Anglican Communion and the 26th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

A native of Seattle, Jefferts Schori later lived on the East coast and graduated from high school in New Jersey. She received a degree in marine biology from Stanford and earned her master's and doctorate degrees in oceanography at Oregon State University. While a graduate student, she met Dr. Richard Schori, head of the Mathematics Department at Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon. He is a theoretical mathematician (topologist). They met at a stewardship dinner at the Episcopal Church of the Good Samaritan. They married in 1979 and have a daughter Katharine who is a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. Jefferts Schori is a third generation pilot herself, and both parents were pilots.

She worked for several years in oceanography, including with the National Marine Fisheries Service in Seattle. When the funding in the federal budget for these research programs ended in the mid 1980's, she returned with her husband Richard Schori to Oregon State, where he rejoined the mathematics department.

Back at Good Samaritan Church, she became active in lay ministry and then earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California. She was ordained a deacon in May 1994 and a priest six months later. She returned to Corvallis, Oregon, as an assistant rector at Good Samaritan. She was elected Bishop of Nevada in 2001.

WORKERS NEEDED!

Kairos needs volunteers on July 5 to come to the Parish Hall and help bag cookies. These bags of cookies are taken to the prison as part of their ministry. They would appreciate your help.

Please note that the baskets for food contributions have been placed in the Parish Hall.

FOOD FOR JULY:

Salvation Army Canned Goods; Macaroni & Cheese; Peanut Butter & Jelly, Rice; Beans
Please remember to bring these items to put in the food baskets. Let's help restock their food shelves.

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat . . ." Matthew 25:35

THANK YOU! Thanks to all who helped repair and label the Cursillo banners from 216 Cursillos. This was a labor of love and a great opportunity for St. John's to minister to the Diocese. Those who helped on Tuesday, June 12, 2007, were Pattie Bosnack, Paula Wade, and Cathy Phillips.

Thanks again! Polly Gaeke

WELCOME HOME !

Michael Smith, Howard Lee and Pat Smith's son, has returned home from Iraq. We know that his family is very excited to have him home, and we are all very proud of him!

Let us continue to pray for all who have served and are currently serving in our country's armed forces:

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

4th of JULY!

The 4th of July — a day set aside to commemorate America's independence. There are parades, patriotic music, marching bands, cookouts with family and friends, too much to eat, sometimes too much to drink, fellowship, memorial services, and fireworks. These are wonderful memories; times to be enjoyed with family and friends. Sometimes in our busy whirlwind of life, we have a tendency to be complacent about the fact we are living in a free country, enjoying freedoms that were, and currently are, denied to so many.

As we enjoy the 4th of July, let us not forget to pray for our great country, particularly in this time of great conflict, that we will remain independent and free:

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through

Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

PICNIC: There will be a 4th of July Picnic at St. John's. There is a sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall for everyone to sign up and note what you would like to bring to the picnic. We also plan to have some games. So, come join with us in food, fellowship and fun!

Have you seen the beautifully restored light fixture in front of the church? Be sure to thank Sammy Bosnack for all his hard work in repairing and restoring this light. Sammy worked several days and donated his time and skills to St. John's. The lovely flowers are a gift from Patti and Sam Bosnack in loving memory of Patti's father. What a blessing to have the Bosnacks as part of our St. John's family. Thank you for your generosity.

IN THE NEWS:

Happy Anniversary! Jean & Jim Trice celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June.

William Byron Cox, Jr. ("B.J.") was presented as a Symphony Brass. At Mart's Academic Awards Banquet, Sean Farmer received awards for Top English II student and Top Spanish I student. He also received the Male Spirit Award at the Band Concert. His sister, Morgan Crum, received the Golden Friend Award for her first grade class in Mart.

The Rev. Paul Taft, former rector of St. Alban's Waco, retired from active ministry on June 30, 2007. He and his wife Lucy will continue to reside at 5504 Andover Drive, Tyler, Texas, 75707; (903) 581-2767.

NEEDED ITEMS:

When you empty your egg cartons, please bring them to the church and leave them in the Parish Hall. Bobby and Antoinette Peterson need them. Thank you.

RALLY DAY:

St. John's Rally Day, Parish Picnic and Parish Photograph will be held on Sunday, September 9. Look for updates and additional information in next month's newsletter!

ENTERED INTO LIFE ETERNAL:

Danie Elizabeth Daily; Emma Whiteley; Jerry and Julie Franks

We offer our deepest sympathy and prayers to family and friends.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servants and grant them an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Cathy's Corner:

June was certainly a busy month! Working for Christ was able to rehab 31 homes, and there were over 100 volunteers. It was hard work, and it was hot and humid, but the benefit from this ministry is truly inspiring. What a blessing for me to be able to participate in this ministry.

Do you have a favorite hymn? Please contact Sue Visser or the church office and let us know. Then Sue will be able to incorporate some of your favorite hymns into our service.

Do you have a favorite prayer from the Book of Common Prayer? Please contact the church office with the information. We will be printing these in the newsletter.

If you need to contact me, you can reach me at the church office, 803-3800, on my cell phone, 716-6851, or at home, 803-3515. My regular hours at the church are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sundays.

Please note that the Rev. Judy Filer's days in the church office are Wednesdays and Sundays. Also, please note her cell phone number (254) 722-2013.

Camp Allen's Summer Events Schedule is posted on the bulletin board by the office. Check this out for summer family fun and activities at Camp Allen. Check all the events for this year at their web site, www.campallen.org.

MARLIN POLICY NATIONAL NIGHT OUT (DO YOU WANT TO PLAY VOLLEYBALL?)

National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 7th beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Courthouse Square. There will be a bicycle parade from Wal-Mart to the Square at 5:30. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs and various activities throughout the evening.

There is also a volleyball tournament among the churches. A team consists of 6 persons, 2 of whom must be female. If you want to gather a team, the church will provide matching t-shirts. Interested? Call the church quickly!

SUMMER CHALLENGE:

So far there have been two challenges to everyone in the congregation this summer.

The first is to try a different type of Christian outreach this summer. It can be a one time project or ongoing. What type of project? Remember scripture: for the hungry, the homeless, the new in town, the ill, those in prison, any outreach you can think of. Scripture also urges us to love one another so that "they may know we are Christians by our love . . ." Any outreach project will do. Take the challenge and let the office know what you did and what you learned. I'll let you know what I try, too!

The second challenge was to take this "ordinary" time as a time of growth of spirit. Take quiet time each day to relax and sit in God's presence. If distracting thoughts come, bless them and release them to God. This is a daily process and over time, will make a difference in your life. Let the office know how this challenge goes.

So far, your rector hasn't started either challenge. So you have plenty of time to get going. Take the challenge!

INFO YOU CAN USE:

If you purchased one of the afghans during the choir fundraiser, be careful if you wash it. We have been informed by one member who washed hers that it unraveled in the washer. We will

check with the manufacturer regarding this.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please remember: The deadline for newsletter submissions is the 25th of each month. In the shorter months, this is very critical. Also, if you have any information or articles you would like to share in the newsletter, please drop them off at the office, place them in the basket in the Parish Hall, or email them for consideration. Thank you!

A LAUGH A DAY . . .

A minister was completing a Temperance sermon. With great emphasis he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." And then finally, shaking his fist in the air, he said "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and pour it into the river." Sermon complete, he sat down.

The song leader stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, nearly laughing, "For our closing hymn, let us sing "Shall We Gather at the River."

JULY 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 3		4 JULY 4	5	6	
1:00 Choir Practice	7:05-Episcopal Night with the Astros		PICNIC 2:00 <i>Carter Henderson</i> <i>B'day</i> Kairos	Kairos Bag Cookies	Kairos 7 Kairos Vision Event 9:00-1:00 College Station	
8		11	12			
Baptism of Joe and Jacob Roppolo Kairos 4:00 Ultreya, Cameron 9 <i>Libby Price B'day</i> 10		10:00 am Howard Gruetzner	<i>Mary Price B'day</i> Sue Visser - vacation 13 <i>Mary Smith B'day</i> Sue Visser - vacation 14 Cursillo Day of Deeper Understanding Sue Visser - vacation			
15	Sue Visser - vacation	18	19	20	21	
Millennium Development Goals Sue Visser - vacation 16 Sue Visser - vacation 17		Vestry Meeting 6:00 pm <i>Louise Burton</i> <i>B'day</i> Sue Visser - vacation	Sue Visser - vacation	Sue Visser - vacation	Sue Visser - vacation	

22 Little Church Club Camp Allen	23 Little Church Club, Camp Allen 24		25 <i>Dub Wagner</i> <i>B'day</i>	26 27	<i>Mike Ferda B'Day</i>	28
29 <i>Meagan Henderson</i> <i>B'day</i> St. John's Birthday Party	30	31				