



Dove Tales

A publication of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church ❖ Spring/Summer 2011

Beat the Heat!

Take Part in Holy Spirit's Summer Programs

From arts and crafts to camping to strumming and singing, Holy Spirit has a host of children's summer programs guaranteed to stave off those summer doldrums.

Flip Flop Sunday

Whether a 10-year-old favorite or a new blinged-out pair, toss on a pair of flip flops and kick off the summer at Holy Spirit's 7th-annual Flip Flop Sunday, May 22. After the service in the nave at 10:30 a.m., Fellowship's finest will serve up a BBQ lunch. Children (and even adults) can get their faces painted and take part in games, including EYC's 2nd-annual dodgeball tournament.

Vacation Bible School

Visit Hometown Nazareth this year during Vacation Bible School (VBS), June 20 to June 24. Children, ages four through 11, and adults are invited to attend these evening sessions that kick off with dinner at 5:15 p.m. each night. Families will play games, sing songs, listen to stories and

explore the daily lives of people who lived during the time of Jesus.

Shari Watson, this year's VBS director, is calling for adult and teen volunteers. "Having the support of volunteers helps to make it a more meaningful experience for the children," she says, adding that this year's program requires a lot of adult volunteers in particular. E-mail Shari at iswatson@comcast.com for information.

Visit www.hsechurch.org

in May for additional details on Holy Spirit's summer offerings.

Summer Camp at Camp Allen

Nothing says summer like swimming, campfires and a whole lot of silly games. Holy Spirit is lending three of its own to lead three sessions at Camp Allen this summer. KariAnn Lessner, director of Children's & Family Ministries, Sarah Taylor, youth and young adult missionary, and Father Patrick Hall will direct sessions for middlers, middle schoolers and those in high school. Visit www.campallen.org to view camper videos and download registration forms.

Summer Strummers

If you've ever felt drawn to the guitar, now is the time to learn. Holy Spirit is offering beginner and intermediate guitar classes for kids of all ages, July 18 to July 22. Participants in the beginner class will learn how to play basic chords, a beginner strum and lots of songs. The class



During Vacation Bible School, families will play games, sing songs, listen to stories and explore the daily lives of people who lived during the time of Jesus.

will also include games designed to help students learn more about the guitar.

Those taking part in the intermediate class will learn about strum patterns, timing and playing as a group. Songbooks will be provided and there will be an opportunity to perform for members of Holy Spirit. For guidance on purchasing a beginning guitar, contact Juli Browning, director of contemporary worship, at julibrowning@sbcglobal.net.

Choir Camp

Children, ages five through 11, who enjoy singing can take part in Choir Camp: A Hymn of Praise, July 25 to July 29, from 9 a.m. to noon. Stephen Morris, director of music ministries, will teach participants the basics of good singing and how to sing as a group. Children will have the opportunity to use what they learn as they help lead worship in the traditional service.

Visit www.hsechurch.org in May for additional details on summer offerings and to fill out a registration form. "Invite your friends and neighbors. We have a great summer of fun and learning planned and hope everyone will join us!" KariAnn says.

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Become a Mentor at MAM

In the day to day grind of the workaday world, you may not think your work life is all that inspiring. But to someone who is looking for a job, a few words of encouragement can keep them on that path to employment.

Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) is looking for volunteer mentors to provide one-on-one guidance for its Employment Services clients. “Finding a job can be a daunting process. We’ve all been there before—it takes time, persistence and the ability to absorb a certain amount of rejection before landing the position you want. Volunteer mentors provide encouragement and keep clients accountable to their job search strategy,” says Bob King, member of Holy Spirit and associate director of Employment Services for MAM.

Before being matched with a mentor, Employment Services clients participate in workshops covering a variety of subjects,

including forming a job search strategy, resume-writing, interviewing techniques, interpersonal skills, professionalism and conflict resolution. “MAM is not just teaching clients how to find a job, but

“MAM’s Employment Services clients don’t want a hand out. They want to find meaningful sustainable employment that will help them improve their lives.”

how to keep a job and create value for an employer,” Bob explains. Mentors call their clients once a week to check in and meet with them one on one once a month for a period of six months.

Bob notes that mentors can come from a range of industries and positions and don’t necessarily need to be currently active in the marketplace (that’s you, retirees!). “We’re looking for emotional maturity, professional bearing, enthusiasm and energy,” Bob says.

“MAM’s Employment Services clients don’t want a hand out. They want to find meaningful sustainable employment that will help them improve their lives,” says Wright Moody, a member of Holy Spirit, who serves on MAM’s board of directors. “Many of the clients in this program are highly educated and skilled people. I have been to several of the graduation programs and met these fine people and thought, there but by the grace of God go I,” he adds. For more information on becoming a mentor, e-mail Bob King at bking@maministries.org or call 713/574-7542.

Day of Service, Day of Hope

Pull the weeds. Sort the clothes. Deliver meals. We’re putting on our grubby clothes, slapping on the sunblock and gearing up to help the community for Day of Service, Thursday, April 21. The third-annual event, held on Maundy Thursday, is an opportunity to pitch in and help out local nonprofits that provide assistance to those in need.

**Support the community on
Day of Service,
Thursday, April 21.**

“These organizations often have small staffs and are dependent on volunteers to provide critical services to the community. Volunteers from Holy Spirit provide whatever is needed—from yard maintenance to food preparation to working with clients,” says Julieanne Mani, who is heading up this year’s event.

During this year’s Day of Service, volunteers will serve Memorial Assistance Ministries, Vita-Living, West Houston Assistance Ministries, Westside Homeless Partnership and Mission of Yahweh. To

sign up, e-mail Julieanne at atassie18@aol.com. “Day of Service is a time that we come together as a church family to help our neighbors and remind them of God’s great love for us,” says Julieanne.

A Word from the Rector

Jesus’ life as an example can be daunting, but it remains the standard by which we must live if we claim to be His followers.

Central to His life was service. He gave healing, forgiveness, care and sometimes thoughtful judgment. In all instances, He was pouring out His heart for the world. “The least of these” were His people. The poor, depressed, angry, lost, hungry and confused sought Him out. They sensed in Him their only hope. Every one of them was given some-



Father David Puckett

thing, though not always what they had hoped for. The crippled young man lowered into a room where He was teaching sought healing. Jesus said, “Your sins are forgiven.” This unexpected word did heal him and he walked again.

Doing service for others always means doing it unexpectedly as our Lord did and also without thought of any reward. Be part of the Holy Spirit Day of Service on Maundy Thursday, April 21. Give as Jesus gave and be His hands on earth.



Adding Warmth, Subtlety

Organ Upgrades to Broaden Music Offerings

Lightning may never strike twice, but a lightning strike and a roof leak can wreak havoc to a church organ. Last summer when a lightning strike hit the nave at Holy Spirit, it added to the problems the organ was experiencing from a roof leak several years ago. “Although repairs from the roof leak had been ongoing, the lightning strike destroyed the control system, the swell motor and compromised other areas of the organ,” relates Stephen Morris, director of music ministries.

The repairs, however, which are largely covered by insurance, are providing an opportunity for Holy Spirit to accomplish much-needed upgrades that will ultimately broaden the music offering and improve the organ’s use in congregational singing and choral accompaniment.

The organ at Holy Spirit was designed in a neo-Baroque style, which was very

popular in the late 1970s when it was built. While the style emphasizes clarity, color and brightness, it often comes at the expense of warmth, subtlety and flexibility, according to Stephen. “The Holy Spirit organ is a very fine instrument, particularly for playing literature written before 1840, but it is poorly adapted to music of the

Added stops will improve the organ’s use in congregational singing and choral accompaniment.

19th and early 20th centuries,” he says. The result limits the organ’s effectiveness in accompanying hymns and especially anthems. “I joke with my colleagues that I have put the 19th century back in the filing cabinet and locked the door. These limitations are especially troublesome with choral music where subtlety and flexibility are key to good performance,” he adds.

Among the repairs will be replacement of the control system, which allow an organist to make easy stop changes. “This system was already failing as a result of the age of the instrument. The replacement of this main system is covered mostly by insurance, which saves the church a substantial amount of money that would have been needed for regular maintenance,” Stephen explains.

While the work on the control system is done, the church will add 12 to 14 digital stops, bringing the 24-stop organ to a 36- to 37-stop organ. “These upgrades will, in essence, transform the choral accompaniment ability of the instrument and finally do justice to the musical traditions of the Anglican Church,” Stephen says.

The added stops will be digital, since the addition of windblown pipes would increase the project cost by four to five times. “The latest digital technology uses



Upgrades will add warmth, subtlety, flexibility and broaden the church’s music offering, adding selections of choral and congregational music from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

sounds sampled from actual pipe organs of the highest quality and are astonishingly good—virtually indistinguishable from actual pipe-work, even to trained ears,” assures Stephen. Any of the additions could potentially be converted to actual pipe-work at a later date.

“A church organ periodically needs service. The repairs needed from the lightning strike provide a good opportunity to upgrade and improve the quality of the instrument,” says Father David Puckett.

“What you will hear when the project is complete is a much warmer, supportive sound for congregational singing. And in terms of musical repertoire, the upgrades will open up music selections from over a century of organ and choral music—a period that contains a substantial majority of the choral music written for the Anglican Church,” Stephen says.

Fr. David says to be on the look-out for opportunities to contribute to the project. “We will need support from the congregation to accomplish these upgrades, but we feel the benefits of this project outweigh the moderate cost,” he says.

Fun with Organ Vernacular

Q: What is a stop on an organ?

A: In simple terms, a stop on an organ is like an instrument in an orchestra. Each stop is a collection of pipes (one for each note) which have a particular tone color, such as a flute, oboe or trumpet. A well-designed organ has a diverse collection of stops that can be played alone, in combination or all together to create the many different sounds of the organ. When the organ was first developed, all the different types of pipes were by default “on.” If you did nothing, you played on full organ all the time. Controls were soon added that allowed the player to turn off—or “stop”—individual sounds. Today, the case is the reverse. All stops are turned off by default, and the organist chooses which sounds, or stops, to turn on. Nevertheless, the term “stop” endures.



Youth Prepare for Mission Trips

Holy Spirit youth are proving that fun can go hand in hand with service. The Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) is gearing up for two mission trips this summer: a trip to downtown Houston from June 3 through June 8 and an out-of-state urban mission trip to San Francisco, July 21 through July 26.

“Mission trips are fun. You’re serving the Lord, hanging out with friends and meeting new people,” says eighth-grader Jacob Peter.

EYC opted to return to downtown Houston for this year’s mission trip after last year’s successful week of service. “Jesus commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves. We have many Houston neighbors in need, and we love them by serving them,” explains Sarah Taylor, youth and young adult missionary.

During the Houston trip, students will help the homeless at downtown shelters and soup kitchens and volunteer at the Houston Food Bank. “We want the youth to get a sense of the wide range of injustices that our fellow Houstonians experience,” Sarah says.

Students will stay overnight at the historic Christ Church Cathedral and attend Sunday morning worship service. To get a taste of the city’s diversity, the youth will dine on food from a variety of different countries, and the group will take part in a fun night out such as a ballgame.



Students work side by side to help those in need, deepening their relationships with each other, with God and with their neighbors.

The San Francisco mission trip, open to those who attended last year’s trip, will focus on feeding people. Students will work alongside youth from St. Gregory’s of Nyssa Episcopal Church, volunteering at the Free Farm, a local urban garden, the church’s food pantry and the San Francisco Food Bank. Additionally, students will serve the hungry at Glide Memorial Church. The youth will also tour the sights of the Golden Gate City.

“We will work hard on both of these mission trips, but we’ll have plenty of fun and new experiences. Each day, we will serve at least one ministry, and every night,

we will continue to get to know each other and have the chance to reflect on the day’s work,” Sarah says.

Sarah explains that the trips are a perfect complement to what the kids are learning each week. “Every week at EYC, we meet as a community to eat, have fun and talk about how to follow Jesus in our everyday lives. Mission trips help form us as a community of Christ-followers. After helping those going through difficult times, the experience gives us motivation throughout the year to confront the difficult things in our own lives,” she says.

And the relationships formed on these trips can last a lifetime. “This is potentially a life-changing experience for those who participate. We want youth to gain a passion for serving, thankfulness for the blessings in our lives, deeper relationships with each other and for God and a love for strangers,” she says.

Sarah stresses that safety is a top priority on any mission trip. “Every place we stay and work is well supervised. In Houston, we will have two trained interns leading us around the city as part of the Cathedral Urban Service (CUSE) program, and in San Francisco, we will be working closely with youth ministers in the Episcopal Diocese of California.”

EYC is asking for prayers and support from church members. “When we go on these trips, we consider ourselves missionaries of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, doing work in Jesus’ name,” Sarah says. EYC needs to raise \$3,500 for its summer mission trips. Although donations will be accepted at any time, be on the look-out for upcoming fundraisers.

“Mission trips are a great way to make friends and an opportunity to help people and feel good about it,” says Eric Riegel.

Seconds Jacob. “You see how fortunate you are compared to other people and also learn a lot about the Lord. That feeling of knowing you helped somebody less fortunate is rewarding.”

“Plus, it’s super fun!” Eric adds.

J.O.Y. University at Holy Spirit

Members of Holy Spirit are spreading the joy and sharing their talents through J.O.Y. University this summer. Adults and children can take part in a variety of classes, including grilling up that perfect summer meal, the 123s of ballroom dancing and testing your flexibility with yoga.

“This is a great opportunity for people to hang out with their church family, learn something new and come away knowing more about Jesus, Others and Yourself,” says KariAnn Lessner, director of Children’s

& Family Ministries.

KariAnn encourages members of Holy Spirit to invite their friends. Each class is just \$5 per person. And if you have a special talent or skill you’d like to share with your Holy Spirit family, e-mail KariAnn at dcfm@hsechurch.org. “Whether you play the harmonica or can wield a paintbrush, this is a safe, fun environment to teach others and share how awesome God is in our midst,” she says. Look for a full class listing in May at www.hsechurch.org.



Emmet's Gang

You don't have to have a green thumb to work in the gardens at Holy Spirit. Just ask Lou Snyder of Emmet's Gang. "I don't particularly like to do yard work—my primary motivation is to serve the church."

Lou initially got involved with the ministry in the early '90s as a way to meet members of his new church family. In 2009, Lou was asked to lead the ministry, which reduces the sextons' workload and helps to cut down on church expenses.

When Hurricane Ike hit, Lou was on top of things—literally. He scaled the walls of the church to assess potential damage to the roof. "To have a contractor remove branches that were hanging over the roof would have cost the church about \$5,000." Though Lou is careful to note that this was not an official Emmet's Gang project and volunteers are certainly never asked to perform yard maintenance from 15 feet in the air, Lou put his chain saw to the job and removed the branches.

Although he was happy to help post-Ike, Lou's proudest accomplishments are on terra firma. "Emmet's Gang tends three memorial gardens around the church. Volunteers have worked very hard in the last few years, clearing the gardens of weedy



Lou Snyder on the grounds at Holy Spirit.

undergrowth and planting colorful flowers like pansies, marigolds and cyclamen," he says.

"Emmet's Gang carries on the fine work done by the Hoe and Hope ministry, a gardening ministry which faithfully served the church for years," adds Ron Merrett. Lou says that joining Emmet's Gang is as easy as dropping him an e-mail at lmktexas@gmail.com. "No experience is necessary. We meet once a month on a Saturday morning for a few hours.

"It's a great way to get to know others and help out the church," he concludes.

Optimism, Belief

By Melonye Suarez, senior warden

You probably have been hearing a lot about Holy Spirit's underfunded 2011 budget as of late. While not an extravagant budget by any means, our budget reflects our optimism about the future of Holy Spirit. Our budget reflects our belief that having educational programs, ministries, outreach and talented clergy and staff in place is key to growing our membership and growing in our walk with Jesus Christ.

When Ricardo and I were deciding how much to increase our own pledge, this scripture came to mind. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," *Luke 12:34*. While familiar, it has taken on a deeper meaning to me in my 16 years here at Holy Spirit.

I think the reason so many good things happen here at Holy Spirit is because people have given their hearts to God. I'm proud to be part of a community that focuses on what is important—that sets aside differences and works side by side to accomplish great things.

It's not just about the numbers. Our vision is to reflect the Holy Spirit to the world, and with God's help, we're doing that.

From the Ground Up

Holy Spirit has successfully negotiated a new energy contract with Green Mountain Energy. At a rate of three cents less per kilowatt hour than our current contract, the church could save at least \$30,000 in energy expenses. "This new contract, combined with the improved energy efficiency realized through our many upgrades in the church's heating and cooling systems, could give us a much-needed break," says Gardner Headrick, parish administrator.

Also, the church continues to add new signage on campus. As part of its ongoing Welcoming program, several visitor parking spaces have been added in the west and east parking lots. "We hope these spaces will encourage visitors to park up front and help them feel at home," Gardner says, adding that new markers for handicapped parking spaces will be added in the coming months.

The Good News of Christ...Cool, Indeed

By Father David Puckett

Long ago I read a story of a small boy who saw an object that puzzled him. He asked his mother, "Who is that man nailed to those pieces of wood, Mommy?" This reminded me of when I was rector of St. James LaGrange. I was giving a tour of the historic nave, and when we came to the ornate Victorian baptismal font, one of the teenagers on the tour asked, "Cool, what is this for?"

Easter is coming, but does the world care? Mysteries are fast upon us and the Paschal event waxes near, but much of the creation for whom this will occur cannot see it. Jesus the Christ of God lives, but

in the world's eyes, He lives only for Christians.

There is a need for the church to reclaim the triumphant truth that Jesus suffered, died and rose again for the whole world. There is a call awaiting every Christian to proclaim the good news that He lives for people everywhere.

The Easter Event is not for the church only. It is a world event. It is the pivotal point upon which this planet revolves. See yourself as one able to proclaim, "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed—for the whole world."



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More Than Words on a Page

Teacher Brings History to Life for Students

Where can you learn how to lasso, pan for gold and get a taste for the life of an early Texas pioneer? At Holy Spirit Episcopal School, of course. Seventh- and eighth-grade students are closing their books and setting their eyes on history, thanks to Ted Ferretti, Holy Spirit's new U.S. and world history teacher.

In his 16th year in teaching, Ted believes that active learning and hands-on activities help students gain a better understanding of history. During a study on the Civil War, Ted comes dressed as a Union soldier—in full regalia. A friend, who is involved in living history organizations with Ted, comes garbed as a Confederate soldier. “Through a living history demonstration, the kids learn what life was like for each soldier, their beliefs and the challenges they faced,” he says.

During a study of World War II, a

helper cues up a short video of Army paratroopers loading onto a plane. Ted then enters the class dressed in full combat gear and talks about the landing at Normandy.

In another demonstration, Ted puts the students in the role of a German family faced with the decision on whether to harbor a Jewish family during the Nazi reign. “At several junctures, I introduce a new dilemma—if you’re caught, your entire family will suffer the same penalty as the Jewish family. It helps them see that not everyone living in German was a Nazi; many were coerced and forced into serving the Nazis.” Ted then leads the class into a discussion on the Holocaust, culminating in a field trip to the Houston Holocaust Museum. “History is more than just words on a page. When kids can set their eyes on what life was like before them, it deepens their understanding and appreciation for history,” Ted says.



Ted Ferretti shares about the life of soldiers during the Civil War. Ted believes that active learning and hands-on activities help students gain a better understanding of history.