



December 12, 2008

The Prodigal

“Where in seeking him we are found by him.”

The Rev. Willie Dávila, Priest in Charge

Ms. Lila Vaughan, Editor

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

This past Tuesday night we had our turn sponsoring the Salvation Army’s program called “Surviving the Night.” It is incredible to see the number of homeless in our streets. More depressing is seeing the number of young families with children. Needless to say many of these young families are led by single mothers. More disturbing was the sight of children running around in bare feet and infants wearing only diapers at a time when the northern winds came blowing in the cold.

Over time and space the human condition has not changed for many, especially the poor. In the time of the New Testament these were called the “people of the Land” and implied in the use of this word was that these individuals live off the land and at the subsistence level of existence. Looking at images through the marvels of television and film today, we see how a large part of humanity still lives in the same conditions.

Much like today, arguments were made as to why these “people” lived as they lived. One side of the argument was that these lacked personal initiative or in religious terms that these were sinners and that they lived in this manner because of their Sin. On the other side, the argument was that the nation as a people was captive to the dominant power of the oppressor or those with means. For Jesus the response was simply, “You always will have the poor with you, and whenever you will, you can do good to them.” (Mark 14:7)

Using today’s parlance, the “Liberals” were appalled at this statement whereas the “Conservatives” felt that their views were vindicated and so was the status quo. What is interesting to note is that without labels both sides feel there is not enough for everyone.

One claims that they don’t have enough whereas the other side says “they” have too much.

The Christian Faith at its heart is relational: our relationship with God and our relationship to our neighbor. Law or the use of Law is able to set boundaries in having a just society but “Law” in and of itself can not govern the human heart.

The Christian Gospel is about changing hearts. Jesus took a stance of embracing the world in order to change it. As the prayer book states, “Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within your saving embrace...” The embrace started much like ours, when we were infants. What other way than for God to enter the human condition!

May God bless you in this Joyful Season!

In His Name & Service,

SUNDAY READINGS

December 14	December 21	December 28	January 4	January 11
Isaiah 61:1-4: 8-11	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Jeremiah 31:15-17	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Genesis 60:1-5
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Romans 16:25-27	Revelation 21:1-7	Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a	Acts 19:1-7
Psalm: 126	89:1-4, 19-26	124	84	29

LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

8:00 a.m.				
Johnnie Marie Steve	Lila Wiley	John Richard (E)	Johnnie Marie Steve	Lila Wiley
10:30 a.m.				
Carmen (E) Kevin Pam © Sam (P)	Warren Lynne (E) Louie© Kathryn(P)	David Lucie Jack © Christine (P)	Sam Pam Kevin ©(E) Jeri Terry (E)	Warren Lynne Louie © Kathryn (P)
<u>Host/Hostess</u> Louie	Steve	Kevin	Lucie	Lucie
<u>Keeper of the Key</u> Lucie	 Cathy	 Kevin	 Lila	 Steve
<u>Ushers:</u> Kevin	Lucie	Cathy	Joel	Ava
<u>Acolytes:</u> OPEN	 OPEN	 OPEN	 OPEN	 OPEN
<u>Hospitality</u> Maldonado	 T. Dávila	 OPEN	 OPEN	 Hilliard
<u>Altar Flowers</u> Boyett	 Larmond	 Clark	 Sabsook	 Hilliard
<u>Oblationers</u> Buentello	 Ramirez	 Darabie	 Larmond	 Buentello

December 21st - - TAMALADA!

This is our community Christmas meal which will be celebrated after the 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service. There will be a list this Sunday of side dishes to accompany this meal such as: beans & rice, hot sauce, chips and for desert the all time favorite- buñuelos. Hope that you come to this time of fellowship and fun!

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

On Wednesday night, December 24th, we will celebrate the Holy Eucharist at 10:30 p.m. and conclude at around midnight. On Christmas Day, we will celebrate a Baptism and Holy Eucharist starting at 10 a.m. We will be assigning the various duties associated with those services once we know who will be in town and available at those times

INQUIRER'S CLASSES 2009

We will have the annual Episcopal visitation on March 22nd, 2009. We will have Adult Inquirer's classes for those wishing to become Episcopalians starting January 25th. For School age children these classes will start on January 26th and on Mondays thereafter at 4 p.m. These classes are for those interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church and how the Christian faith is expressed through it. We will discuss Church history, the Prayer Book, ethics, sacraments, scripture and Church polity. These classes are intentionally structured so that questions are asked and discussion encouraged. For those whose schedule makes it difficult to come on these days, arrangements can be made to accommodate their schedule; just call the Church Office.

YEAR- END STATEMENTS

We will be sending the year-end statements at the end of December and/or early January 2009. We ask that you review the statements for any discrepancies and/or errors and report those to us by the end of January. Please note that we will not send statements to those who contributed less than \$250.00, which is the maximum that one can deduct from the Federal Income 1040 schedule without proof.

FLOWER CHART FOR 2009

The new Flower chart will be up on December 28th. There will also be Note Cards for you to style how you want the flowers dedicated. For example: The Flowers are given to the Glory of God "in loving memory of _____" or in thanksgiving for _____." The cost of flowers is \$ 30.00 for the New Year. We thank you for your participation in this important ministry of praising God on Sunday mornings.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR HOSPITALITY

One of the most important traits of Christians over the centuries is one of hospitality. It is a vital ministry that we all should be concerned about. All are called to be good hosts; please help by signing up for Sunday mornings. Provide cookies, cake or other treats for about 80 people (This is for both 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services). The sign-up list is on the Bulletin Board outside the kitchen area.

IT'S OUR FOURTEENTH ANNIVERSARY

February 6 will mark the 16th anniversary of our acceptance as a Mission in the Diocese of West Texas. The Bishop's Committee has asked that a special giving of a dollar for every year of our existence be donated as a special offering to the Church on Sunday.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Laura, Mike, Jody, Moises, Patrick, Gabriel, Elena, Pamela, Jeremiah, Jo Beth, Maria, Nancy, for those seeking a place to belong; for our Church and its growth; for our children; for marriages; for refugees; for those who have lost their homes because of hurricanes; for the people of Haiti and Cuba; for the Iraqi people, for the people of Afghanistan, for those who serve in the Armed Services; for those in prison or detention; for those who suffer addiction; for the unemployed; for the homeless; for those who have died, and for peace.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF RECONCILIATION
 4518 SARATOGA BLVD.
 CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78413-2151
 (361) 852-9677/web page: church-of-reconciliation.org

“We are a diverse community, one under God, joined together to celebrate the love of Jesus Christ through worship, outreach and the Call to service.”

BIRTHDAYS

<i>Joel Hilliard</i>	<i>Dec. 3</i>	<i>Louie Dávila</i>	<i>Dec. 22</i>
<i>Pam Hilliard</i>	<i>Dec. 5</i>	<i>John Standley</i>	<i>Dec. 22</i>
<i>John Francis Ramirez</i>	<i>Dec. 6</i>	<i>Ramiro E. Lopez Sr.</i>	<i>Dec. 24</i>
<i>Ferman C. Rivera</i>	<i>Dec. 9</i>	<i>Juanita H. Lopez</i>	<i>Dec. 29</i>
<i>Cass Harris</i>	<i>Dec. 13</i>	<i>Fernando G. Rivera</i>	<i>Jan. 11</i>
<i>Teresa Schwirtlich</i>	<i>Dec. 19</i>		

<p><u>SUNDAY SCHEDULE:</u></p> <p>8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p> <p><u>3rd Sunday-</u> Anointing & Laying on of Hands</p>	<p><u>OUTREACH MINISTRIES</u></p> <p>2nd Tues. of the Month Salvation Army Canteen</p> <p>3rd Sunday- food drive for Cliff Maus Village Pantry</p>	<p><u>TUESDAY:</u></p>
<p><u>WEDNESDAY:</u></p> <p>12:10 a.m. Holy Eucharist</p>	<p><u>THURSDAY:</u></p> <p>BIBLE STUDY 10:15 a.m.</p>	<p><u>SATURDAY</u></p>

*OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY -THURSDAY 10:00 A.M. -4:00 P.M.