



ALL SAINTS'

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

July 2011

"A Sense of Place"

The Rev. Rick Dunham, Interim Rector

Dear People of All Saints', It is curious to me how certain subjects seem suddenly to become the dominant topic. They were always there but in the background. Then, something happens and there they are – front and center.

For instance, I have never given the matter of housing much serious thought. Maybe, because I have always had one? Lately, it seems that housing has been an element of nearly every issue that has come to my attention.

It probably began when I got my tax appraisal notice. Having lived in church-owned housing for most of my career, it was a wakeup call to see how much "homeland security" was going to cost me. Well, at least I have a home! There are many people who do not.

According to United Nations statistics, some 42 million people were refugees in 2009. This year we've seen thousands made homeless by the tsunami in Japan and the fires, floods and tornados across our country. Dare we forget the continuing tragedy in Haiti or the ongoing rebuilding in New Orleans? It seems on any given day, there are 1,000 homeless people in Corpus Christi. One fifth of our homeless are children.

About the time I got my appraisal, we also started receiving requests for donations from the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund. They needed to help with disaster relief in storm ravaged areas of this country.

That was followed by our Father's Day offering to Habitat for Humanity. Finally, the needs of Cliff Maus Village surfaced. It seems that housing issues have suddenly popped up from "nowhere." However it has happened, housing has become an important topic, especially as it concerns Cliff Maus Village.

"For me, the short answer is that God cares about it."

On the positive side, during this time, All Saints' Compassionate Living Commission had their bi-monthly food distributions. Also, I was introduced to the "Mission of Mercy," whose executive director is Patty Clark. As you may know, "Mission of Mercy" runs a mobile medical clinic that serves those who fall between the cracks in our social system. Lack of medical care and lack of housing are closely linked. Where you find one, you usually find the other.

With all this focus on housing and homelessness, the question arises of why it should matter to us? For me, the short answer is that God cares about it. As stated in Eucharistic Prayer C, God created this, "fragile earth, our island home." Beyond that, I think of God's promise of a homeland to the Jews and how that promise is the source of hope and conflict to this day. I think of the Holy Family being homeless at the time of the Nativity and of their exile in Egypt during the persecution of Herod the Great. I think of all the outcasts whose lives Jesus touched. They were those who were literally cast out of the society. In other

Continued on Page 2

The Messenger

All Saints' Episcopal Church

The Rev Rick Dunham, Interim Rector

3026 S Staples
Corpus Christi, TX 78404
(361) 855-6294
(361) 855-7320 fax

The Messenger

published 12 times per year by All Saints' Episcopal Church, Corpus Christi, Texas
To submit to this publication, please send articles electronically to the editor's email: allsaintscdbeverly@sbcglobal.net.

Continued from Page 1

words, they were homeless. I think of the words in the Letter to the Hebrews, "But as it is, they desire a better country, that is a heavenly one." This, of course, relates to St. Augustine's famous statement, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee."

A home is more than a physical dwelling. A home means having a place to belong. Hopefully, it is a place of love and happy memories, but at the least, a home offers a measure of security against the world. One can close the door and find an element of privacy and peace. A home represents stability. It is something fixed in an unsettled world. It is no wonder people need and want a place to call home.

Thinking about all those who need adequate housing makes me more mindful of and

grateful for the home I have and for all the places I have been privileged to call home. I cannot imagine how hard it must be to be without a sense of place. It makes me feel a greater responsibility to respond to those who need adequate places to live.

These days, my focus is on the needs of Cliff Maus Village. It is a worthy cause and a good ministry of the Episcopal Church. It meets the needs of those who cannot qualify for other forms of housing assistance. I hope it is your cause, too, because All Saints' is one of the sponsoring congregations. It is our responsibility. I hope you will be generous with your time and money to this or some other equally worthy project. That would give comfort to someone and be pleasing to God who has made a home for us. *Faithfully, Fr. Rick Dunham*

"Things Are Moving @ Cliff Maus Village!"

from Phyllis Finley, CMV Board Chair

Thanks to the efforts of many people, we are making progress on getting the vacant apartments ready for occupancy. All Saints' has had two workdays, not counting the continuous efforts of Chuck Hilton, Mike Mason and Tom Kenyon. St. Bartholomew's has had several workdays, as has Good Shepherd. St. Mark's has plans in place to come. And there are many people behind the scenes from all parishes, offering help, advice and support. Thanks to all of you.

The CMV board is working diligently to identify funding opportunities, to reorganize where needed, and to streamline our budget. We are an enthusiastic group, and we are looking for new board members. If you feel called to serve in this ministry, please contact one of the CMV board members or the church office. Please don't forget Saturday, July 9, when members from several parishes will come to work. **Thanks to everyone for a Herculean effort!**

"Thoughts about Holy Spaces"

from Arlene Long, Music Director

Vaulted ceilings, intricate and brilliant stained glass, huge stone columns, palpable silence – the overwhelming sense of centuries-old Holy Space has planted itself in me and I am changed. Notre Dame, La Madeleine, St. Eustache, Chartres, Sacre Coeur, Rouen, Mont St-Michel – these cathedrals spoke volumes, and still have me in their grip. Or God still has me in the grip of these Holy Spaces.

In these places the quiet worshipful attitude of worshipers and visitors alike made me want to be silent, to simply "Be." I found myself in extravagant Beauty, awed by the

devotion of those nameless artisans who conceived and brought into being such Beauty. They were clearly transmitters of Divine Imagination. It is as if they gave their *entire lives* to create this column or that painting or this wood carving—their *entire lives*—in anonymous, silent diligence centuries ago. Such complete devotion surrounded all of us. I was called to release my "self" in silence and become part of the spacious Holiness. It was Glorious!!

My prayer is that I can re-create even a bit of that Spacious Holiness every day, and especially when we worship together.

“In the Midst: Notes from the Senior Warden”

Last Saturday morning, June 25, I awoke knowing it was going to be a long day. The third step in our rector search process kicked off “On the Labyrinth” at 9:00 a.m. Rick+ opened the session with Morning Prayer and then shared a few words of wisdom with us. He handed the work of the day over to Canon Ed Dohoney, Diocesan Employment Officer, to lead us through the steps needed to build our Parish Profile.

It was a good day. More than 65 folks gathered for what proved to be an enjoyable exercise, leading us one step closer toward defining who we are and what our future may hold. We gathered in tables of eight, shared our thoughts and ideas per Canon Ed’s instructions, and recapped our small group responses table by table for all to hear.

What I thought might be tedious, and possibly not very inspiring, turned into something quite the opposite. Personally, I sense an energy level of the good sort, one that is pleasing and reassuring—particularly about the good things we do at All Saints’. Likewise, I’m grateful for the positive attitudes and honest sharing as we discussed those things we can do better at All Saints’. Listening to folks’ comments in a relaxed, non-threatening environment reminded me how blessed I am to be part of this loving, caring community. It was a good day.

Others shared the following with me:

“... I am still impressed by the way Rev. Ed facilitated the meeting; his good humor and organization moved us all along and included everyone, without time wasted. I was touched by the heartfelt sharing of our people, who obviously felt safe to share their innermost yearnings and thoughts.”

“... I was comforted to hear Rev. Rick caution us against viewing ourselves as ‘wounded.’ We’ve done much good work with Rev. Sandy’s guidance and now we can move forward from that place.”

“... As I listened to Rick’s opening remarks,

I felt reaffirmed that we are a vibrant, creative and energized group of folks. His words helped set the stage for a morning of intimate sharing and listening.”

Yes, it was a good day, and we truly missed those who could not be with us. But that does not mean the day is over. We all have more to do, including those who attended the workshop. EVERYONE should have received the parish profile workshop questionnaires via snail mail. EVERYONE is asked to complete the worksheets (15-20 minutes of your time) and return them to the church office. For those who tend to misplace their snail mail, simply click on the link provided and you may use your computer to complete the forms (print and return to church office) or, simply print and handwrite your responses. <http://www.allsaintscorpuschristi.org/ParishQuestionnaire-2011.pdf>



All our input, yours, mine, ours, will be used to build our profile. It would be incomplete without your voice! After all input is collected (July 17 deadline), everything will be bundled up and shipped off to Ed+ and his staff to assimilate into our parish profile.

In closing, I am reminded that, in the book of 1 Samuel, the Lord sent Samuel to find the next King of Israel. By listening to God, Samuel found David, an unlikely young shepherd. The Lord is sending us to find our next priest and shepherd. The Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” (1 Samuel 16)

If we listen to God and look into our hearts, we will find the priest who will be our next shepherd. Through God, we will know when it is the right person.

Today, and every day, is a good day at All Saints’. *Faithfully yours, Cathy Chatham, Senior Warden*



ALL SAINTS'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Place
Stamp
Here

All Saints' Episcopal Church
3026 S Staples
Corpus Christi, TX 78404
(361) 855-6294
(361) 855-7320 fax
www.allsaintscorpuschristi.org

Service Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 Sunday: 9:00 a.m. LifeStreams, Rite III
 Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation Hour
 Sunday: 10:00a.m.-10:40 a.m. Adult Spiritual Formation
 Sunday: 11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Nursery/Child Care available for Sunday services
 Tuesday: 11:30 a.m. Midday Eucharist
 Thursday: 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Labyrinth Walk
 Visit our website: www.allsaintscorpuschristi.org

SUMMER SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Sunday morning Adult Formation — No formation Sunday, 5/29, or on July 3rd (holiday weekends). **Nooma Videos** will be available to view in the Rite 13 room at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings for the summer.

Children: The Spring **Godly Play** classes have concluded and will resume in the Fall. Various activities will be offered in the children's room and nursery during the 10:00 a.m. time for those families needing child supervision during that time.

LECTIONARY SCHEDULE

7/3 Pentecost III: Independence Day; Deuteronomy 10:17-21; Psalm 145:1-9; Hebrews 11:8-16; Matthew 5:43-48

7/10 Pentecost IV: Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:1-14; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

7/17 Pentecost V: Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

7/24 Pentecost VI: 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119:129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

7/31 Pentecost VII: Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 15-22; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

July CALENDAR

- July 1 Tai Chi
- July 4 Office closed in observance of Independence Day
- July 5 Wisdom class (until current book is completed);
Midday Eucharist; Food Pantry
- July 6 Yoga; Cursillo meeting; CCP; Choir rehearsal
- July 7 CCP; Labyrinth Walk
- July 8 Tai Chi
- July 9 Cliff Maus Work Day II
- July 11 Finance Committee meeting; CCP; Wisdom class
- July 12 Wisdom class (last meeting until fall);
Midday Eucharist
- July 13 Yoga; Cursillo meeting; CCP; Choir rehearsal
- July 14 CCP; Labyrinth Walk
- July 15 Tai Chi
- July 16 Tai Chi
- July 17 **Questionnaire deadline**; vestry meeting
- July 18 CCP; Wisdom class
- July 19 Midday Eucharist; Food Pantry
- July 20 Yoga; Cursillo meeting; CCP; Choir rehearsal
- July 21 CCP; Labyrinth Walk
- July 22 Tai Chi
- July 23 Tai Chi
- July 26 Youth from St. Michael's, Austin, Labyrinth Walk
- July 31 **Fifth Sunday: LifeStreams service**