

ILLUMINARE

Volume 29, Number 10

May 24, 2011

Are We Still Here? And If We Are What Should We Be Doing?

Are you ready? According to the NPR station which my sister and I listened to on the way to Florida last week, May 21 will be the last day of this good earth. People were being interviewed who share this belief and telling remarkable stories of what they were doing and not doing in preparation for this, the last day.

Some had left their jobs. Others had taken their children out of school. Some were maxing out their credit cards. People were coming to a full stop in involvement in this life since it would soon end. Sis and I listened and mused that maybe we would extend our stay in Florida since going home would be counter-indicated, given the fact that our homes would be no longer, soon enough.

Some are to be a part of the rapture, taken up into glory with God and Jesus. The rest of us will be hanging around for some time while things come to their full stop, including us who will wind up “not with God and Jesus, but with Lucifer.”

While it may seem that I am making light of deeply held beliefs of other Christians, I am not. What I wonder about is why Christians spend any time worrying about the “end.” Why worry about that? If God loves God’s creation, including you and me and all the other parts of it, God’s love will sustain us all through whatever “ends” and through “The End,” should such an event actually ever happen. What Christians should be doing meanwhile is to live fully. We should give ourselves to God’s Reign now, serving one another and others as if our lives depended on it. They do. We should be about the works of God day in and day out and not sit around “waiting” for that final clap of thunder which will signal “The End.”

I just don’t get the benefit of trying to discover when that “End” may be. Life is not about “pie in the sky,” but rather, pie on the table right where we live and move and have our being...and pie on the table of everyone else who are our neighbors on this, God’s Good Earth. Real preparation for some anticipated “end” should find you and me and the rest of the Christian community working to see that the needs of each other are being met by how we are living our lives...for the common good...not for the sake of our personal spiritual skins.

May 21 may be the last day. I don’t know. No one knows. If it is, what I want to have Our Lord find me doing, should He be checking on each of us, is “looking and being busy” doing the works of God, helping to usher in and celebrate the Reign of God, now...not at some date or any future date in time.

*The Rev. Stephen Waller, Rector
St. Thomas the Apostle
Dallas, Texas*



SHARE IN OUR CELEBRATION OF PENTECOST: What Language do you speak?

On Sunday, June 12, wear your reddest red and be ready to sing! Following the 10:00 a.m. service, join us for a Festival of Discipleship in the Parish Hall where we will enjoy a pot-luck meal and explore fellowship opportunities.

Please sign up for the pot-luck meal on the clip boards in the narthex of the church.

Planning to Plan *from the Rector*

In my annual Rector's report on May 1 — hard copy and web available if you missed it — I mentioned that our Vestry and other lay leaders have begun a process that will lead us into developing a mid to long range plan for our congregation. We will focus on mission priorities, facilities and personnel and the financial foundation necessary to make all of it happen. We are not far along in this process and we are not in a great hurry. At the same time, we cannot take a healthy, vital future for granted. There is no emergency but there are no guarantees either.

In fact, I believe Christ Church is in good shape. We are growing and energetic. We are straining our facilities, budget, and core of lay leaders, and that is a good problem to have. We have no debt except through Christ School's long term bonds. This is just the time, then, to think creatively about what ministries we believe God is calling us into and how we can and should respond. This involves considering both continuity and change and the balance between them. So we begin by trying to ask the right questions: what elements of our spiritual and material heritage are most valuable? How do we safeguard those things? How is our congregation the same and how is it changing? What are the implications of both for worship, program, and staff? What is going on in our diocese, in St. Tammany Parish, and in the wider religious world around us? How are, how will, these trends effect Christ Church in the future? The Vestry will work on these questions at our retreat in early June, do some follow-up homework through the summer and into the fall. Then we will be ready, I pray, to engage the wider parish in a conversation that is specific enough to develop plans which are holy, bold, and achievable. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers.

April 20, 2011

The Rev'd A. Thomas Blackmon
Christ Episcopal Church
120 S. New Hampshire Street
Covington, LA 70433-3236

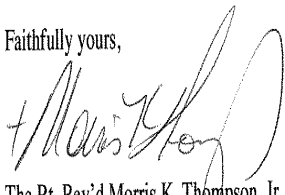
Dear Father Blackmon, Staff, and Parishioners:

Words cannot begin to express how grateful I am for the hospitality shown to the whole Diocese for my first convention. The setting of Christ Church, Christwood and Christ School was perfect. Gorgeous weather was a real blessing. In all my years in ministry I don't believe I have ever enjoyed a diocesan convention such as this one. Your attention to details gave room for everyone to relax. Because of your work, we were able to accomplish the work God has placed among us.

Please express to the many who helped in preparation for our 174th Diocesan Convention a job well done.

I am as always,

Faithfully yours,



The Rt. Rev'd Morris K. Thompson, Jr.
Bishop of Louisiana



**We give thanks
for....**

the baptism of

*Pierce Michael Plauché,
son of Michael & Aimeé Plauché*

SUMMER BREAKFAST & FELLOWSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

We would like to continue the tradition of having breakfast together after the 7:30 a.m. service and before the 10:00 a.m. summer Sunday Eucharist, but we need your help. We need volunteers to provide a simple breakfast and serve it in the Commons at 8:15 a.m. starting on June 19. If you would like to volunteer for one or two Sunday mornings, please sign up on the poster in the back of the church or call the church office at 892-3177.



MISSION BEYOND 2011 CARE PACKAGES

Please consider supporting the mission trip by sending a Care Package for one of the youth with a non-melting snack, meditation/prayer book, games (such as crossword puzzle, deck of cards, etc.) toiletries, or sunscreen. Notes of encouragement are also appreciated. Packages will be distributed to the youth during the Mission Trip. Care packages can be delivered to the office or the church on Sunday. Talk to Daniel Ciufi for more information—892-3177.

We give thanks for....

the confirmation of



William Samuel Batson, Sean Chandler Gardner, Elizabeth Lee Hodges, Amélie Helena Prather, Sarah Freret Prather, Erica Carolynn Sjunnesen, Ingrid Arden Sjunnesen, Alexis Allain St. Paul, William Jeebo Willis. May the Lord continue to accompany them on their journey as they grow in the grace and knowledge of him.

SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES



On Sunday, May 29, we will begin summer service schedule. Worship times will be as follows:

- 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I in the church
- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II in the Church
- 6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I in the chapel

We will resume the regular service schedule will return on September 18.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK!

All in the Family....

Meeting children from around the world

- When:** Mon., 8/1 –Thurs. 8/4
- Time:** 8:45-noon
- Ages:** 4-7.
- Cost:** \$30 for one child
\$40 for two
\$50 for three

Free child care for VBS week volunteers.

Led by E.C.C. Faculty member Shannon Hessemer and volunteers.



Closing cookout/pot luck dinner with moms, kids & dads on Thursday evening. Maximum of 40 children. Look for registration forms at church and on the web.

BREAKFAST (AND LUNCH) FOR CHAMPIONS



School is out for the summer. What should be a time of fun filled activities can be very difficult for children who count on their school to provide breakfast and lunch. Did you know that 70% of students enrolled in schools located in lower income areas of Covington qualify for free or reduced price meals at school? Summer is a very stressful time for parents who must feed their hungry children. They seek help from the Covington Food Bank.

We ask you to especially support our June Food Drive on June 5 & 12 as we seek to provide nutritional food items for those hungry children. The Food Bank needs breakfast bars, dried beans and rice, peanut butter, cereals, canned juices, mac and cheese, mixed canned vegetables and canned fruit as well as other suitable breakfast and lunch items. As usual, checks are welcome and should be payable to Christ church with Food Bank listed on the memo line. Your contributions are most welcome!

Free Counseling Services available through



St. Tammany Outreach for the Prevention of Suicide

Individuals need not be suicidal in order to receive this free service, only in need of counseling due to depression, marital issues, stressed, etc. It is available to individuals without insurance benefits or the means to pay for services. Services may be obtained by contacting STOPS (St. Tammany Outreach for the Prevention of Suicide) at 985-237-5506 or www.stops-la.org

Christ Church, Covington

*An Episcopal Church and School
in the Diocese of Louisiana*
120 S. New Hampshire St.
Covington, Louisiana 70433
(985) 892-3177
fax - (985) 892-3187

Early Childhood Center - (985) 892-9156
Christwood Blvd. Campus - (985) 871-9902
www.christchurchcovington.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Covington, LA 70433 Permit No. 46
--

The Rev'd A. Thomas Blackmon, Rector
tblackmon@christchurchcovington.com
The Rev'd Anne M. Maxwell, Associate Rector
amaxwell@christchurchcovington.com
The Rev'd Winston E. Rice, Assisting
wrice@christchurchcovington.com
Mr. John Morvant - Head of School

PARISH STAFF

Susan Griffis *Parish Administrator*
sgriffis@christchurchcovington.com
Laura Robert *Publications Coordinator*
publications@christchurchcovington.com
Eunice Hutchison *Receptionist*
receptionist@christchurchcovington.com
Daniel Ciufi *Youth Ministries Coordinator*
dciufi@christchurchcovington.com
Mary Anne Reidy, *Parish Life Director*
mareidy@christchurchcovington.com
Kathleen Turner *Newcomer Ministries*
kturner@christchurchcovington.com
Carolyn Parmenter *Director of Music Ministries*
Jessica Gaboury, *Organist*
Benjie Branson *Assisting Organist*
Max Welch, *Pianist*
Buddy Anderson *Nursery Coordinator*
Chuck Aversa, *Facilities Coordinator*

VESTRY

2008-2011— Suzanne Duggan, Lisa Geary,
Kim Scoggin, Charlie Stahr
2009-2012—Jeff Bell, Mark Berry,
Michelle Gallagher, Lucie Thornton

Scheduled to Serve, Sunday May 29, 2011		
	7:30	10:00
MC		Liz Taurman
EM	Ralphe Menetre	Leslie Brown Mel Elliott
Acolytes		Mason Ward Max Peragine Alainah Grace Reidy
Lectors		Andrew Boyd Madeline Boyd
Ushers	Don Kieffer Charlie Stahr	Tim Wolfe Mark Wendle Steve Canter Steve Savage Bobby Cox Cindy Schmidt
Greeters		Tom Jacks Adrienne Landry Lisa Geary
Altar Guild Team II		
Caring Ministry Leader Judy Shopf 892-2527		
Lessons For Sunday, June 5, 2011 Acts 1:6-14, Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36, 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11, John 17:1-11		