

The Messenger



Volume 9, Number 5

June 2010

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
MOBILE, ALABAMA

Dear Cathedral Family,



During the summer months here at Christ Church Cathedral, we enjoy the change that comes when children are out of school and families shift gears into a different pace of living. Some of us will enjoy vacation time away, while some will stay in place and seek summer respite in other ways. I hope that this summer will bring each of us some opportunity to be still at this mid-point and reflect on the year behind and focus on the year ahead.

Your vestry is using a portion of its summer meeting time to engage in what we are calling Visioning 2010. This is the initial stage of what will become a multi-year plan for the ministries of the Cathedral. In its May meeting, the vestry reviewed our current census report, detailing the demographics of our membership, and our participation and giving trends over the past ten years. They also reflected on their workshop time last February, when the vestry and staff discerned from their experience our strongest ministries—hospitality, worship, and place (our beautiful and historic buildings and grounds in the heart of downtown Mobile.)

My reflections on our lessons for the Day of Pentecost led me to understand these ministries as the “gifts of the Spirit” that have been given to the Cathedral family. These gifts are God’s answer to the fervent prayers of his faithful people at Christ Church, allowing us to grow into a healthy and vibrant Christian community and an effective Cathedral for Mobile and for our diocese.

With the power of the Spirit of God advocating for us, what do we pray for now, as we look to the next phase of our life together? I would ask each of us to devote thought and prayer time to this question, in specific terms, praying also for your leadership as they discern our way forward. Certainly, we ask for continued growth in our gifts of hospitality, worship, and place. Beyond this, what is God calling us to do? We know that God has answered our prayers with the gifts, the people, the resources we have needed so far. Now we must continue to imagine boldly, hopefully, how we will grow, how we will lead and be led.

Faithfully,
Beverly J. Gibson +

Census for First Quarter 2010

Members	678
Households	318
Percentage joined	
0 to 4 years	41%
5 to 9 years	33%
10 and over	26%

The Cathedral Chapter

Class of 2010

Robby McClure
Susan Clinton
Jamie Davidson
Bob Israel
Happy Henson
Mark Weeks

Class of 2011

Burnley Davis
Carolyn Eichold
Mary Carol Ladd
Meg McGovern
Rick Mitchell
Leland Moore

Class of 2012

Ginny Behlen
Carter Drane
Ken McElhaney
Win Thurber
Laura Warren
Charles White

Chapter Members

The Rev. Ken Cumbie,
St. Luke's, Mobile
Magoos Hamilton,
St. Thomas', Greenville
Mendy Henderson,
St. Agatha's, deFuniak Springs
Joy Tway,
St. Mary's, Andalusia

The Dean's Travel Diary

May 19, 2010

Antalya, Turkey

Grace and peace to you from the Mediterranean Coast town of Antalya in modern day Turkey and historical Asia Minor. The past two weeks have been an immersion course in the ancient civilizations of this region from Lycian, to Greek, Roman and Byzantine empires. Lectures have enriched our travels from Istanbul down the Aegean Sea coast to the Mediterranean. We were surprised at how mountainous this region is, tall peaks right to the coast. The olive trees dominate the Aegean landscape, some planted in orchards, others wild on the hillsides. We are now in the citrus area.

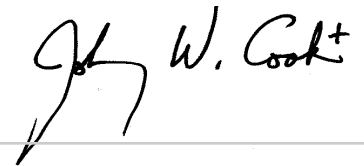
If I had to pick a highlight at this time in our travels it would be our time in Ephesus, walking the marble streets where Paul would have walked and seeing the theater where he preached. The stores and houses that

have been excavated and preserved show a sophisticated culture that Paul would have encountered.

Our prayers have been thanksgivings. We give thanks for our cathedral family making possible this time of renewal and education. We give thanks for the many blessings in our life together, especially our high school and college graduations. Our news of the oil spill tells us that this disaster still looms in the Gulf of Mexico. We pray for good minds to solve the problem and for the safety of all marine life.

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue our travels to Greece and Ireland. We pray for you each day.

Faithfully,



Telling Our Story

We moved to Mobile from Biloxi one year after Katrina. Our home had been hit by one or two tornadoes and our church, St. Mark's on the Beach, had been totally destroyed and was but a slab of concrete with only the church bell remaining and found several blocks away. The decision to move was not an easy choice. We had many strong, loving and long-lasting relationships with neighbors, friends and members of our church family. We had not known Mobile except for an occasional visit of not more than 2 or 3 hours on any day. However, Mobile was the best choice to find a new place to live and a new church to attend.

Choosing a new church is not as easy as picking an Episcopal church from the yellow pages and showing up each week. Every church is different. Some are charismatic, some contemporary, and others traditional. In all we attended seven different churches over the first three years to determine where we would best fit with our conservative/traditional values.

Our first visit to Christ Church found us sitting on folding chairs. We were told the pews and kneelers were being worked on. Several windows had been removed for refurbishing and the floor was covered with paper. More positively, we had been warmly

welcomed by a team of ushers at the door. The majestic procession following the high-raised cross, the excellent presentation of the lessons, prayers, sermon and the music were wonderful and so meaningful. We were very impressed with both Johnny and Beverly who went out of their way to welcome us. We revisited Christ Church several times over the next three years. We began to meet some of the parishioners who were kind and friendly and seemed interested in us becoming regular members at Christ Church.

The acoustics and speaker system at Christ Church are by far the best of all the churches we have attended. This enables us to hear the readings, prayers and homily. The music continues to impress us; the organist and directors ably lead this magnificent choir that boasts so much talent for such a small group. Occasionally we are treated to additional orchestral musicians who add so much to the service. All of these things plus the handbell choir and the children's choir make attending Christ Church a real pleasure.

"Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place." We know we have found our new church home and family.

Bob and Joy Dean

Financial Update through April

Pledge Income	Actual	\$ 143,083
	Projected	\$ 191,666
Expenses	Actual	\$ 200,183
	Projected	\$ 190,621
Shortfall Year to Date		(\$ 57,100)

Direct Pledge Payment

To begin to have your pledge paid directly, please call Brenda Stanton on Mondays and Wednesdays at 438-1822. Summer is a good time to begin direct pledge payments.

Financial Update 2010

On Sunday, May 16 the Wardens of Christ Church Cathedral presented the following update on the financial situation on the parish, going into summer.

Senior Warden—Robison Clarendon McClure, Jr.

In light of the uncertainties of our economy, your clergy and lay leadership adopted the practice of regular reports to the congregation on the financial situation of Christ Church Cathedral. You will have noticed that a financial report appears each month in *The Messenger*.

Through cost-saving measures and elimination of some budget items, Christ Church Cathedral is operating at a 2010 budget level with that of 2009. This is consistent with our practice in moving from 2008 to 2009, as well. We have continued to grow in numbers of members and in ministries without significant growth in our budget. Our budget is based solely upon pledges made by our members, and it does not exceed pledges made. Our spending in 2010 has been carefully controlled, and we are actually below most monthly budget projections as of the end of April. However, pledges have not been received at a rate consistent with projected expenditures. Many of us have continued our practice of waiting until the end of the year to pay our pledges. Even with our tight budget, based on pledges, as of April month end we are operating with a \$57,000 deficit.

Although we are able to borrow internally from restricted funds in order to meet expenses, this is clearly a situation that should not continue.

Historically, a call goes out in the summer months for everyone to remember to pay pledges over the summer. This year our situation has brought us once again to an early call for pledges to be paid in monthly increments, like we pay our bills. Further, I would like to issue a challenge to us all—to reduce our operating deficit as much as possible by September, allowing us to begin our program year in good fiscal health.

The clergy and lay leadership of Christ Church Cathedral are focused on growing in faith and reaching out to others. We will remain cautious in keeping track of our trends in giving. Thank you for your faithful response to supporting the ongoing ministries of this Cathedral family.

Junior Warden—Robert Willis Israel

We are speaking to you today mainly in order to keep everyone informed of our financial situation. There are also some specific things that you can do to help.

- Pledge, if you have not done so. If you are new to Christ Church, or if you were not able to make a pledge commitment last fall, please know that you can do so at any point during the year. Pledge cards are available on the ministry table in the Chapter House and in the Cathedral office. Or, you may call Brenda Stanton, our financial secretary, who will record your pledge. Knowing what you plan to do helps us in our planning for ministries.
- Remember that the Direct Pledge Payment option is available. This allows your pledge payment to be made electronically. This is especially helpful if you will be away during the summer. Forms for beginning this service are also on the ministry table, or you may call Brenda Stanton, who will set this up for you.
- Make pledge payments monthly, if you are able. Like every other family, the Cathedral family pays its bills monthly, and having the cash available helps. This keeps us from having to borrow money that must be paid back at year end.
- Capital Campaign Pledges continue to be paid, even though the option of deferring these for a year was offered in 2009. We are thankful for your continued faithfulness in funding the capital projects that are now almost totally finished. What you experience around you this morning—this beautiful space, the lights, the sound, the garden, the Chapter House—has been made bright, safe, and inviting by the money you have pledged to our Capital Campaign. Thank you for your generosity in that endeavor—and also for your consideration of how we can all work together to keep Christ Church Cathedral dynamic, hospitable, and welcoming by supporting our operating budget.

Mission trip to Our Little Roses Home for Girls

By Holly and Bill Hall, Parishioners
Christ Church Cathedral

Fifteen volunteers from St. Columba Episcopal Church in the Florida Keys recently returned from a week-long mission trip to meet 56 of the most fortunate girls in Honduras who reside in the Our Little Roses Home for Girls. The facility takes homeless, oppressed and abused girls. It was amazing to witness what great young women these girls are becoming. They care for one another. Love is evident.



Bill helps Vanessa with word search

The Journey... Upon descending from above the Honduran banana fields and smoldering sugar cane burn-offs, we landed at San Pedro Sula airport. After clearing immigration, our air-conditioned bus was waiting for us at the curb. During a thirty minute drive through the bumpy streets of the city of 800,000, we recognized familiar fast food spots amidst an urban mix of horse-drawn carts, dilapidated trucks and cars. When our bus driver pulled up to Our Little Roses and honked his horn, a security guard rolled back a heavy metal gate from the concrete wall that surrounds the campus of the OLR Home and Holy Family school. After unloading our suitcases into the dormitory style rooms located just above the school, we received an introductory presentation from the home's director. Of 7 million Hondurans, 40% are unemployed, 80% live in poverty, 62% in abject poverty, which means that people are living without clean water, adequate food or medical care. It is tragic to see how these people live. Less than 2% of Honduran girls

have any education. Graduation from sixth grade is cause for celebration.

Our Little Roses...

OLR houses 56 girls from tots to teenagers in a safe and supportive Christian environment. The OLR staff works very hard to assure that the girls' needs are met in a climate of limited resources.

All girls go to Holy Family bilingual grade school on campus or a local public school. The common message is "these girls are the lucky ones". Somehow they have moved beyond destitution and anger, working together as a caring, supportive team while getting an education. The girls are loving, compassionate and eager to play and learn. Fifteen OLR graduates live in an off-campus transition home while attending college. One graduate is opening a dental clinic to serve OLR and under-served families in the neighborhood. Others include a practicing attorney and a business administrator.

Reflections... We shared work, play, faith and education with the girls. Mornings began at chapel, then off to school! They returned in time for afternoon study and activities. After dinner were the special evening recreation times; reading, knitting, doing crafts and puzzles, playing basketball. There was an outing to Bishop Frade's home to swim. Sunday we worshiped together at the Cathedral. For our farewell, the girls performed an enthusiastic show for us and we gave them a pizza party. What we cherished most were reflective moments when the girls shared their thoughts and revealed themselves to us. When we departed, there were smiles, hugs and some tears.



Bridget gives her hibiscus away

What next?.. We feel this mission trip was a precious gift placed in our hands, and pray that we used it humbly and lovingly. We thought that we were making the trip to help the girls, but our interactions with them changed our lives. Our rewards were great: to see the girls' smiling faces, and feel their kindness, love and appreciation. Now, we are pondering these rewards, their impact on us and wondering what is next. In this economy, fewer groups are going OLR. Our visit meant a lot to the girls. We plan to return and hope that others in the Christ Church Cathedral Family will have opportunity to experience this unique place where people are making a difference in the lives of these girls, each one a special little rose.

To learn more about Our Little Roses Ministries, an oasis of hope and love for the girl child at risk in Honduras, go to

<http://www.ourlittleroses.org>.

For more photos, please go online to <http://picasaweb.google.com/christchurchcathedralmobile>

Please see related story on page 7.



Holly and Damaris

June Birthdays

June 1	Champ White	June 10	Mike Gibson	June 18	Vic Stanton
June 4	Joe Booth		Hannah Collins	June 19	Tim Holladay
June 5	Mary Elizabeth Blankenship	June 11	George Seymour		Cooper Leland
	Kenyon Drew		Claire Speegle	June 20	Larry Floyd
	Elizabeth Elliott	June 12	Shannon Harris	June 21	Jay Watkins
	Perri McKay	June 14	Carter Drew	June 23	Kathy Thurber
	Alex Nicholson		John Ross	June 24	Natalie Coale
	Justin Williams	June 15	Paul Redd	June 25	Patty Biel
June 7	Katherine Deaton	June 16	John Henry Johnson	June 26	Betty Coale
June 8	Sonny Irvine		Alex Mitchell	June 26	Jimmy Wayne Butler
	Will Drew	June 17	Betsy Brown		Jacque Hawkins
June 9	John White		Sonny Kearley	June 27	George Cassis
	True Nicholson		Marolyn Kruse	June 28	Lisa Portacci
				June 29	Robin Herndon
					Marissa Patrick



VBS 2010

9:00 a.m. to noon
 Tuesday, June 22
 Wednesday, June 23
 Thursday, June 24



You are invited to Egypt to join Joseph on an unforgettable journey! You will build pyramids...jostle through a colorful marketplace...squish mud to make bricks...and join Joseph on the adventure of a lifetime!

Use the enclosed forms to register to attend or to help.

Or, go online to: <http://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/hl/cccvbs2010/gpgs/Home.aspx>

We are looking for teachers and volunteers of all ages.
 Call the Cathedral Office if you want to join the VBS team!

Cathedral Prayer List

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to your servants the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Loaves & Fish

**Cathedral volunteers
will staff Loaves and
Fish**

**Monday, June 21
11:15 a.m.
15 Place**

Thank you to our
May volunteers:
Lynne Davis
Gaye Formanek
Bill and Holly Hall
Sam Power

Members Brink Brinkley, Alice Carwie, Bubber Carwie, Lisa Cooper, Hetty Cunningham, Dolores Drane, Raymond Fields, Connie and Marion Gonzales, Donna Moree, Walter Moss, Nick Nichols, Jim Ryall, Win Thurber, Butch Trawick, Tom Twitty

Friends and Family Charlie Alexander, Lulah Bankhead, Sandy Blankenship, Sally Boom, Robert Bressett, Chris Brown, Justin Bunch, Steve Chandler, Sr., Bobby Clark, Gwen Cook, Thomas Cramer, Alice Crook, Gregory Cunningham, Van Davies, Dyson Deaton, Mattie Deaton, Helen DuMars, Andrew Ewaskiewicz, Tom Ford, Glenn Foster, Greg Gibson, Laurent Giddens, Kate Granada, Dauren Hamilton, Katie Hamlin, Derry Hargett, William Hicks, Bill Johnson, Penny Johnson, David Key, Lois Anne King, Steve Lauten, Rhett Boyd Leake, Taylor Lee, Peter Martin, Brittain McCoy, Sharon McDonald, Bill Meyer, Ted Middleton, Mark Micalizit, Chas Pierce, Betty Pritchard, Brenda Puckett, George Seymour, Jr., Enola Shields, Isabelle Smith, Curtis Stone, Dolores Sullivan, Clinton Taylor, Gray Thorworth, Betty Torbert, Lewis Tyner, Kathryn Wessinger, Michael Walker, Jean Wentworth, Marvin Williams, Melody Williams.

For Those Serving in the Military Brad Israel, Christopher Hume, Brandon Warren, Darrien Gibson, Kelley Hood, Jensen Basenberg, Andy McMillan, Kevin Lock, Evan Sizemore, Robert McNeil, The Rev. Bowen Woodruff, Thomas Key, Daniel White-Spunner Reed, Jimmy Burgess, Jonathan Duralde, Andrew Campbell, Michael Boggao, Ron Lansong, John Rogers, Jr., Patrick Little, Thomas Middleton, Dallas Carl, Brett Granger, Sam Garcia, Chris Marslender, Jerry Olin, Abby Hutchins, Marvin Walker, Thomas Clough, Justin Rickert, Tyler Gamble, The Rev. Martha Kester.

Births Emily-Marie Persons Butler, granddaughter of Erica and Ken McElhaney; Jeffrey Madison Chapman, grandson of Jane and George Inge.

Baptisms Owen Talmadge Hines, son of Christian and Valrie Hines.

Marriages Julia Carlile McClelland to Christopher Arthur Hoitink; Kristen Leigh Morris to Derek O'Neal Thomas; Harriet Herndon Luce to Rogers William Alley.

Prayer for the Gulf of Mexico

We pray today for the preservation of our natural environment, especially the Gulf of Mexico and the lands and waters it touches: Guide those who labor to contain the oil that endangers the creatures of sea and land; Strengthen those who work to protect them; Have mercy on those whose livelihoods will suffer; Forgive us for our carelessness in using the resources of nature, and give us wisdom and reverence so to manage them in the future, that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and that generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Congratulation to More College Graduates

Susie Wuest, B.S. in
Business, Marketing
from Springhill College.
Daughter of Gary and
Doris Kohler.

Virginia Inge, B.A. in
Education from the Uni-
versity of Alabama.

Correspondence

The Mobile Kappa League appreciates the warm welcome they received at Christ Church Cathedral. We look forward to services in the future.

Cornell England
Mobile Kappa League President

Diocesan News

Thursday, June 3 5-7 pm St. Peter's, Bon Secour Famous Annual Fish Fry! Plates are \$8 per person. Fish Fry is the first Thursday of each month, May - September. St. Peter's is located at 6270 Bon Secour Highway, Bon Secour, AL.

Thursday, June 3 6 p.m. Church of the Redeemer, Mobile Bluegrass players from around the area from Mississippi, Alabama and Florida meet every 1st Thursday to jam (spontaneous picking and grinning). It's free to come listen and enjoy, or bring your instrument and join in. Supper at 6 pm, \$5 per person. Music begins at 7 pm.

Tuesday, June 8 5:30 - 8:00 p.m. Church of the Advent, Lillian invites you to a Dixieland Concert with the Don Lewis Orchestra. Enjoy red beans and rice with sausage, coleslaw, brownie and a drink for \$8. Please bring your own chairs and blankets. Supper begins at 6 pm. Guests: New Orleans All Stars. Advent is located at 12099 County Road 99 in Lillian, Alabama.

Friday, June 18 7 - 10:00 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church presents Coffee House to benefit ERD. Your \$5 donation will help purchase goats, chickens, geese, & micro loans, etc for third world village families.

Fierce Storm Strikes Our Little Roses Home (Follow up from related story on page 4)

From internet news, May 21 - A fierce storm struck Our Little Roses Home and Holy Family School on May 19 and leveled one side of the 14-foot wall surrounding the campus, leaving the property exposed, with several feet of standing water throughout the campus. It is imperative that the wall be rebuilt to protect the children and staff living and working there. Hired police have been guarding the exposed buildings, playground and vehicles. In Honduras, security must be maintained on property where people live, especially children, to protect from intruders and vandals. This is a potentially dangerous situation. The wall needs to be repaired as quickly as possible. We have come so far with these girls, help keep them safe now. Donations are requested for this vital project. Checks may be made payable and sent to: Our Little Roses, PO Box 464, Somerset, VA 22972. OLR Ministries in Honduras is linked with Our Little Roses Foreign Mission Society, Inc. in the United States as a non-profit mission organization, recognized as a charitable organization by the IRS and contributions are tax-deductible. Thank you so much for your support.

Altar Flowers

are available on Sunday, July 11. The cost of flowers is a \$75 donation to the flower fund. If you would like to give a flower offering, please call Candace in the Cathedral office.

Pastoral Care

June

Susan Garth
Elizabeth Harrison
Judy Henson

EYC

Remember...Christ Church volunteers will staff Loaves & Fish on Mondays, June 21st and July 19th. If you would like to help, please call Sam Power at 653-1203.

We are still looking for group leaders for VBS on June 22 - 24 from 9 am - noon.

Christ Church Cathedral
115 South Conception Street
Mobile, Alabama 36602

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christ Church Cathedral

Corner of St. Emanuel and Church Streets
115 South Conception Street, Mobile, Alabama 36602

Established 1822

The Right Reverend Philip M. Duncan, II, *Bishop*
The Very Reverend Johnny W. Cook, *Dean*
The Reverend Canon Beverly F. Gibson, Ph.D., *Sub-Dean*
Carolyn Jeffers, *Provost*
Peggy L. Lyden, *Organist and Choir Master*
Teri Williams, *Assistant Choir Master*
Brenda Stanton, *Financial Secretary*
Dunn H. Chandler, *Director of Christian Education*
Candace Lister, *Cathedral Secretary*
Deidre and Joe Williamson, *Nursery*
Judy Jones, *Housekeeping*



Hours 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday
Telephone (251) 438-1822 E-mail to office@christchurchcathedralmobile.com
www.christchurchcathedralmobile.org