

Frankly Speaking

October 2007

Pentecost, Year C

St Paul's Episcopal Church, Woodville, TX

Break Down the Walls; Come, Know Jesus (Holy Ghost Power)

WHAT CAN ONE PERSON DO?

This story describes the lives of three remarkable men, but the lesson in the story is how God triumphs when we are faithful. Trevor Huddleston was born in England and was educated at the prestigious Lancing College and Wells Theological College. Ordained as an Anglican priest, he was sent in 1943 to a mission post in Rosettenville, South Africa.

Over the next thirteen years Huddleston developed into a much loved priest and revered opponent of the apartheid South African government. In 1945 Huddleston met a fourteen-year-old black child suffering from tuberculosis. For two years the child was bed ridden in the hospital and every day Huddleston visited the child. The child remembered Huddleston's compassion, which inspired the child to become a Christian.

Eight years later, Huddleston met another fourteen black child, who had just seen the movie, "Young Man with a Horn," the story of the Jazz trumpeter, Bix Beiderbecke. The boy asked Huddleston for a trumpet because he wanted to play like Beiderbecke. Huddleston raised the money to buy the trumpet and arranged for trumpet lessons. The boy learned quickly and began to play with many area orchestras and bands. That boy grew up to be the world renowned Jazz trumpeter, Hugh Masekela. Masekela has recorded his own compositions including "Grazing in the Grass," created a platform for South African music and appeared with Harry Belafonte and Paul Simon.

COMMUNITY OF HOPE

Community of Hope training in Pastoral Care began in September and runs through November 20. The training is being facilitated by Pat Knecht, Darby Kethan, Eugenia Rust and Carol Sherer. Each session of the training is designed to help participants become more aware of and deepen their relationship to God and to enable them to become pastoral care givers. The COH training is based on the Rule of Benedict as described and expanded by Joan Chittister. Each participant receives a book and a notebook containing course materials at the first meeting.

If you would like to know more about the Community of Hope, you are invited to talk to any of the facilitators listed



Frank is happy the weather is cooling off! Concrete gets hot!

The tubercular fourteen year old grew up to be a vocal adversary of the oppression of South African black people by the apartheid government. Beginning in 1955, he dedicated himself to black education and achieving progress through peaceful demonstrations despite the prevalent violence. Thanks to the model of Huddleston's care for him as a child, he became an Anglican priest and persisted in his

denouncement of the oppression and denial of basic human rights and dignity by the apartheid government.

By 1979 his tenacious, but peaceful attack against apartheid had gained him world-wide support and empathy. In 1984, this diminutive man, Desmond Tutu, was elected Archbishop of Johannesburg and won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Yes, these three men, Trevor Huddleston, Hugh Masekela and Desmond Tutu, are extraordinary and gifted people by any measure. However, the amazing truth of this story is that each of us could easily perform the acts that set Masekela and Tutu on their way. There is nothing special needed except a faithful heart to help a child achieve a dream or to show love for a sickly child.

(Thanks to Wayne Sanderson)

THE TABLE

There is a table in the parish hall that just calls out to me each time I enter. Placed on the wall nearest our church building, it contains a growing collection of materials, articles and other materials that may be of interest and helpful to congregation members. For example, there are some copies of the Walgreen-published Senior directory. It is a comprehensive listing of services, organizations, nursing homes, medical facilities, Medicare and Medicaid questions, etc., that will help in making decisions about older persons in need of such help. Also, there are some copies of materials for helping the bereaved, announcements of upcoming events, and other books that may be of interest and help. A new addition is a simplified book on anger management, and you'll find issues of small booklets that might aid you in home devotions.

Check out the table next time you pass by....it just may call

WHAZZUP? Upcoming Events

October:

November:
1-4: Cursillo

December:
2: First Sunday of Advent

Submit your information on upcoming events to be included in the next newsletter!

ASK FR. STEVE

Q: What are we doing with Adult Christian Education?

A: I am offering a series of varied topics in the parish hall from 10:15 to 10:40 each Sunday, including Bible Study, Prayer Book analysis and topical issues.

From time to time, lay presenters will also have offerings for adult formation.

We can enjoy our coffee and snacks while learning more about our faith.

The children's class runs concurrently, in the Sunday School room in the church.

Q: When are we going to have a choir again?

A: Many people have expressed their desire to have the choir resume its activities.

I'm asking my dear wife, Nancy, to step in temporarily to organize the choir while we evaluate our music program.

We are extremely grateful for the offerings and ministry of Darby and Wayne as our musicians.

If you would like to sing in the choir, please come to rehearsal on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. at the church.

In Christ,

SEEN ON CHURCH SIGNBOARDS...

Forgive your enemies - it messes with their heads!

Free coffee, everlasting life: Yes, membership has its privileges.

God does not believe in atheists; therefore, atheists do not exist.

Staying in bed shouting "Oh, God!" does not constitute going to church.

There are some questions that can't be answered by Google.

BOOK NOOK

There's a new VHS in the church library, *The True Christmas Story*. The title was intriguing, so I watched it one evening, about 40 minutes long. I WAS FASCINATED but it wasn't exactly what I expected. It might well have been titled, *Everything you don't know about Herod*, and as I watched I realized that except for the baby killing part, I knew little about a man of great influence and power in the world into which Jesus was born. Herod built cities of great complexity, including theaters, modern baths, swimming pools in the desert, and a palace that defies belief.

Learning more about Herod and the world of Jesus' birth leads me to more completely understand the word of Jesus' birth. You'll enjoy this film, well narrated by an eminent historian and Biblical scholar, and probably find you want to share it with others as I do.

God Calling is the name of a book by A. J. Russell and our church library has several copies. It's a book I'd not want to live without and from which I've gained much wisdom and strength through the many years I've read and reread it. It is written through the divine listening of two English women who lived a life of poverty yet have given the world a wondrous gift. To quote the forward, "open this book as any page and taste its beauty. Linger on its tender phrases. Let its wonderful quality sink deep into your spirit." You may find, as I have, that each entry seems to be written specifically to fit the individual readers' needs for any day. Filled with wisdom and interesting to read, I have never failed to be heartened, calmed and strengthened by what I read. I recommend it highly as a personal devotional.

(DK)

QUOTE FOR THE DAY

"It is when things go wrong, when the good things do not happen, when our prayers seem to have been lost, that God is most present. We do not need the sheltering winds when things go smoothly. We are closest to God in the darkness, stumbling along blindly."

(Madeline)

STEWARDSHIP REVISITED

We've said it, and we mean it: we'll not be coming 'round asking you for money. Your stewardship committee (Lou Campbell, Woodie Cone, David Rust) has agreed that this year our focus will be on strengthening our relationships with Jesus. We firmly believe that the Lord wants most of all for us to be willing to follow where He leads. If we can make that commitment, He will provide the motivation for our giving of ourselves, our time, talent and money. But, to reiterate, we will be leaving those decisions to you.

We have undertaken to send visitors from the church to every household in the congregation. We believe that this visitation series can work toward nurturing the spiritual health of the body, strengthening bonds of fellowship and providing feedback to the church leadership.. We entreat your prayers that we can be constantly attentive to the Lord's will, as expressed through his

Part II:

The Stewardship Committee met to discuss implementing the "new, improved and changed" way of addressing congregational visiting and stewardship information. Visits will be made to each member of St. Paul's, which will give us all an opportunity to get to know those we don't know well, reconnect with others, and to become more closely connected with each person at St. Paul's. Additionally, we hope that the love of God which is shared during these visits will encourage each of us to think carefully about how we are able to support the work of our Lord in the everyday business of our church through our gifts of time, talents and treasure. See you soon!

(DK)

RUSSIAN ICON EXHIBIT AT SFA

Stephen F Austin campus, Nacogdoches, is hosting the show Russian Icons from the collection of Mary Moody Northen, from November 16 through February 10. The exhibit is in the Griffith Gallery in the Griffith Fine Arts Building, Room 208, and is open 12:30 to 5, Tuesday through Sunday. They'll send a brochure if you call: 888-240-ARTS.

We have a Greek icon above the Tabernacle (the brass cabinet by the podium), beside the Sanctuary Lamp (the red candleholder). Christian iconography in the Orthodox (Greek, Russian and Coptic) tradition is fascinating and will be addressed in a future issue.

COMMUNITY OF HOPE CONFERENCE

To St. Paul's Church:

I wanted to express my appreciation for the support from St. Paul's Church for our attendance at Camp Allen and The International Community of Hope Conference Your prayers, your dedication to having the Community of Hope as a vital part of St. Paul's and your monetary support for attendance are very meaningful.

I've attended many conferences and retreats and meetings. I'm pretty sure that almost all the people attending with me would identify themselves as Christians. Yet, the Christians in attendance at the Community of Hope gathering were different from any others I've been to meetings with. There was an aura of peace permeating every activity, from worship

through meals and recreation. Each person had such an air of calmness, such a bearing of profound assurance as servants of Christ.

The Community of Hope members bring hope to a hurting world in great need of peace and healing. Of immense importance to those who want to minister to others is the training provided through COH. Modules are studied and presented each week that provide information, insight and inspiration, the tools we need to make an enormous difference in our own lives, but more especially, in the lives of those whom we serve.

St. Paul's is small but powerful. As we work to equip ourselves for God's work, the support provided by the BC is necessary and greatly appreciated.

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WHAZZUP? Upcoming Events 2

Cursillo

The final Cursillo date for 2007 is November 1-4.

If you are interested in attending, please see Fr Steve or anyone who has already attended. Cursillo.

Your Event Here

If you are part of or planning an upcoming church event, please provide the information so that it can be included in the newsletter! Just put your information in the newsletter mailbox in the parish hall, or email it to Fr. Steve at <frstephen@sbcglobal.net> or to Nancy at <nksecaur@yahoo.com>

If you have information for the newsletter, please get it in by the **22nd of the month** so we can get the newsletter out as close to the first of the month as possible.

If you would like to write something for the newsletter, whether regularly or one time only, please let Fr Steve or Nancy know.

St Paul's Episcopal Church
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Break Down the Walls; Come, Know Jesus (Holy Ghost Power!)

Quick Peek at Upcoming...

Nov 1-4: Cursillo

Nov 16 - Feb 10: Russian
Icons display at the SFA
Univ. Griffith Gallery,
Nacogdoches

Nov 22: Thanksgiving Day

Dec 2: First Sunday of
Advent

A QUICK PRAYER FOR THE SICK

I find often that folks **would** pray with people they visit or friends and family member who are ill if they just **had** a prayer to use. Being uncomfortable using our own words deprives others of our gift of prayer with them (as opposed to the equally important part of praying **for** them at another time). So, here's a prayer from the BCP that you can cut out and put in your wallet to have "at hand" when you need it.

"Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servant (*Name*), and give your power of healing to those who minister to (*his/her*) needs, that (*he/she*) may be strengthened in (*his/her*) weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

I have copied this and discretely left copies in doctors' offices and hospitals as I have visited, in hopes that someone in need would find and use it.

Feel free to "go and do likewise."