

Announcements

Sunday, August 10, 2008

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Today at the 10:30 service we will be blessing the eight youth and four adults who are going to Galveston on their mission trip. During their stay they will be cleaning and refurbishing Sunday School rooms at the Mission Church of St. Augustine of Hippo, painting a mural in the youth center of Grace Episcopal Church, where they will be staying, celebrating Holy Eucharist on the beach, and participating in contemplative prayer. We look forward to their safe return on Thursday. Please keep them in your prayers as they travel.

Next Sunday, August 17, we will be celebrating the sacrament of Holy Baptism. Please contact the office immediately if you have someone who would like to be baptized that day.

Next Sunday we will also be blessing our parish puppy, Beckelee, who will be going to California to complete her training to be an assistance dog. We hope that many of our children will be present to assist in the blessing. We are very fortunate to have the ministry of Barbara Buchanan among us as she dedicates so much of her time to training puppies to make a difference in people's lives. We are glad that as Beckelee departs her predecessor, Kindra, will be returning to worship with us. You haven't really passed the peace till you've shaken paws with our parish dog!

Many thanks to everyone who came to play in God's Big Backyard. The theme of our Vacation Bible School this year was outreach, which is a very important ministry of the church for people of all ages. We continue to collect Pennies for Peace and encourage you to look at the picture of our children on the Diocesan webpage www.epicenter.org.

On Saturday, August 23 the Vestry is sponsoring Ripe for the Harvest, a visioning event led by the Reverend Steven Rottgers, Rector of Grace Episcopal Church, Georgetown, from 9 am until 4 pm. Please let Lisa know if you will be attending this very important meeting as we learn from Steve some good methods of nurturing healthy growth within our parish and ways of welcoming those whom God draws to our doors.

The Outreach Commission will hold its next meeting on Tuesday, August 26 at 6:30 pm. The turnout at our last meeting was overwhelming as we begin to focus on the ways we already serve our community and the world and the directions our future actions should take. Please let Lisa know if you are interested in serving on this commission. Supper will be served for a suggested donation of \$10.

Please remember our hungry neighbors and pick up an extra jar of peanut butter or sack of beans at the store for the basket in the narthex, which will be delivered to El Buen Samaritano for their food pantry. Remember that Jesus said, "Just as you serve the least of these, so do you serve me."

The Bishops' Outreach Conference will be held at Camp Allen on Friday and Saturday, October 16 and 17. Scott Poteet, the son of parishioner Alice Smith, will be a keynote speaker as he has recently returned from his mission work on the West Bank. We hope Scott will also be coming to speak at St. Alban's some time in the near future. Please sign up for this conference on the Camp Allen website www.campallen.org.

Rally Day will be Sunday, September 7. Children will register for their new year of Sunday School, and a Ministry Fair will be held in the Parish Life Center. Ministry chairs, please contact the Rev. Ann Brotherton to reserve your space. This is a wonderful time for people to learn about the many ministries of our parish and to sign up to participate in new groups.

The elevator in the Parish Life Center is working, so please do feel free to go look at our wonderful new office and classroom spaces, but remember that we are still in the process of moving in and that Margaret has been out all week with foot surgery. Parents, we ask that you impress upon your children that the elevator is not a toy!

Please save the date: The Right Reverend Dena Harrison will visit St. Alban's on Sunday, September 7 at 5:00 to bless and celebrate the completion of the upstairs of the Parish Life Center. We will hold a pot luck reception as our supper.