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301 Hays Country Acres Road
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES:
8:30 a.m. *Holy Eucharist (Rite II)*
10:45 a.m. *Holy Eucharist (Rite II) with choir*

www.dsholyspirit.org

 Please recycle by passing *Life in the Spirit* on to a friend!

Letter FROM THE EDITOR

Vision. There are so many ways we rely on vision. 20/20 vision. Visionaries who lead the way in the world. A vision of loveliness. Clear vision.

As a Christian community, we can sometimes struggle with what our vision is. What should it be? What is God calling us to? Is it the same for everyone? Does it help us live life every day?

I'm reminded of the words of a favorite hymn. "Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart." And that simple plea is at the heart of vision, isn't it? Christ is our vision. Our common life in Christ is what propels us forward, draws us to one another as we draw closer to Christ.

Slowly, as we are daily remade by the power of God present within us through the Spirit, we begin to see differently. We see through the eyes of God. In II Corinthians 5, St. Paul reminds us that "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" And as a new creation, we see with new eyes. God's eyes.

What does that look like? Another favorite song, this one much more recent, sums it up well, what it is like when we see through God's eyes.

When people look inside my life, I want to hear them say.
She's got her Father's eyes, her Father's eyes,
Eyes that find the good in things, When good is not around.
Eyes that find the source of help, When help just can't be found.
Eyes full of compassion, seeing every pain.
Knowin' what you're going through, and feeling it the same.
Just like my Father's eyes.

In this issue, we look back at where we've been and forward to who we might become. As we look, let us remember to look through God's eyes.

Blessings,

Carol Morehead

Happy Birthday to ECHS!

In this issue, we continue to celebrate our beginnings as a church in Dripping Springs. We began with a birthday party on February 14th, 25 years to the day after the diocesan council that established a mission congregation called The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. Our celebration continues on Pentecost with our annual birthday and parish picnic.

Just like anyone starting out on a new venture, those first members were likely excited about the work God was doing in and through them. We have asked for several of our current members to remember the early days when they first came to ECHS. Scattered over the past years have been many "firsts" which we have remembered here as well.

And as much fun as it is to look back and celebrate where we've been, it is equally important to reflect on where we are going. So we look at what the future might hold. What are our dreams for our families? For our congregation? For our community?

Please enjoy the history, memories, pictures, and milestones as we celebrate a bright beginning and look forward as we continue the journey together.

A Brief History of The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit

BY DON STEPHENSON

On April 29, 1984, a group of thirteen adults and three children met in the snack bar of the Dripping Springs High School to organize an Episcopal congregation in Dripping Springs. Plans were made to meet at the Old Methodist Church 3:00 p.m. each Sunday in May for Eucharist. On June 12th, 1984, the congregation at Dripping Springs held its formal organizational meeting on Pentecost Sunday and requested from Bishop Scott Field Bailey the designation of provisional membership within the Diocese of West Texas, and on June 19 Bishop Bailey tentatively designated the congregation as The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. On January 17th, 1985, the formal petition for establishment of The Church of the Holy Spirit was presented to the Diocese of West Texas and on February 14th, 1985, the Annual Diocesan Council of the Diocese of West Texas meeting in San Antonio, Texas, under the Episcopacy of The Rt. Rev. Scott Field Bailey, gave seat and vote to The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. From humble beginnings we were off and running.

The congregation started out with twelve families and a budget of \$9,376. In the initial years the church family met in homes, a dance studio, a skating rink, and even in a funeral home, but finally purchased a building site on Hwy. 290, two blocks east of Ranch Road 12 (land that now sits between Home Depot and the new H.E.B. presently under construction). For the first thirteen years, Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit did not have a full time clergy, but in December 1997 all that changed when Rev. Nancy Coon was assigned as our first full time clergy. Those early missionaries of our parish worked diligently for thirteen years, laying the foundation through difficult growing years, to the point we could have our first full time clergy.



The congregation continued to grow until it was apparent we needed a new location. A new site of 38.6 acres on Hwy 290 West, some 10 miles west from Austin, and 2.8 miles east from Dripping Springs was purchased to build our current facility. The congregation held their final worship at the original building site on Hwy 290 on their church birthday, The Day of Pentecost, May 19th, 2002, and the first worship service at the new site at 301 Hays Country Acres Road was Trinity Sunday, May 26th, 2002. Bishop James E. Folts of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas presided over the Dedication and Consecration of The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit on Sunday, June 2nd, 2002. The church continued to thrive and February 21, 2008, we became a Parish of the Diocese of West Texas.

The new facility, located on top of one of the tallest hills in Hays County, is stunningly beautiful, and the architecture of the facility was built to reflect the stewardship of creation and the theology of the Day of Pentecost. The original construction consisted of the main building and a large pavilion. The pavilion was later enclosed and expanded to create a parish hall. Our parish has grown from twelve families to nearly 250 congregants. And the ministries of the church have expanded to include the ICE Youth Group, the Discovery Day School, multiple programs for children and families, and complete offerings of Bible Study and Education for all ages. The building has been a source of ministry for local non-profit organizations such as the Girl Scouts, MOPS, The Friends Foundation Board,



Hays County Master Naturalist Meetings, the Dripping Springs Women's Club, Rotary International, the Dripping Springs High School Choirs, the Hill Country Band, and the Wimberley Chorus. The campus also has been a venue for many musical events from local and nationally known artists in concerts open to the community.

We have been blessed to be a blessing and look forward to a future that brings the community together not only in worship and prayer, but in service to and for the Dripping Springs community. Thanks be to God for those who were our early pioneers and thanks be to God for each member who is here 25 years into our history; we have many, many more years to serve God in and through the people God has called into this church family. 🌱



FACES OF THE SPIRIT

Tom and Emily Hausler have been attending Holy Spirit since the end of 1985 and are some of the members with the longest tenure. According to Emily, the Dosses and Polkinghorns came shortly after they did, and Elaine and Cecil Touchstone came just before they did.

“Tom and I attended the Methodist church for the first ten years in DS because there was no Episcopal church. (I was baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal church.),” said Emily. “When we heard an Episcopal church was forming we first attended service in what was then a dance studio. Charlotte Rhodes was one of the first people to greet us at that service, and we attended services afterward in the old trailer on the goat pasture property later purchased, before we built a sanctuary.”

Needless to say, the Hauslers have seen a good deal of change in the last 25 years. Emily explained, “Of course, the worship space is different, and I do miss things about the intimate setting we had in the goat pasture, as well as some of the members who have passed on. But there still exists a strong relationship with God no matter

where you worship. God is in us and with us no matter where we physically are.”

Looking to the future, they hope that one day ECHS has an operating budget that can fund a full-time youth minister. “Young families are what keep a church vital, and without them congregations don’t thrive,” commented Emily. She also reflected her call to the Service and Mission ministry. “I hope everyone can experience the joy received in outreach to someone less fortunate than us. We are so blessed, but more so when we share our gifts with someone else.”

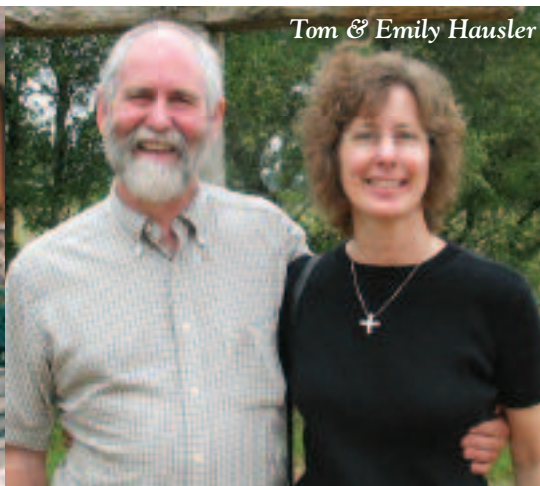
Through the years, the Hauslers have been engaged in many different ministries at ECHS. In fact, Emily served as Bishop’s Warden the year of the move to the current site, which proved to be a busy year. Emily reflected on that eventful time. “Scott McAfee, our previous warden, had taken us through most of the steps - sale of the old site and most of the construction of the new site, so the wheels were in motion. That year was one of both excitement and anxiety. You can imagine the kinks of just moving – a new building with leaks, because it

wasn’t quite finished. But once we set the move-in date we just went for it. And change is not always easy; we had a few members who were worried we would lose that sense of family in a bigger location.

We were actually in for a week before the Bishop was to come for the dedication and consecration. And what a crowd we had for that - a full house! Members, locals, and members from the diocese were all there. As I looked out at the crowd that day, my thoughts went to those dear members who had not lived long enough to see that moment. They were our “forefathers,” so to speak, who set us on this path. But I was blessed with a wonderful Bishop’s Committee, fellow members, and of course the grace of God to lead us on our journey.”

Both Tom and Emily continue in ministry at ECHS as well as in the Diocese of West Texas. They serve as ushers, are part of the Mission and Service ministry and the Buildings and Grounds ministry, and are passionate about World Mission. Emily is a part of the Cursillo community, and Tom is a part of the Men’s Ministry.

Written by Don Stephenson



Tom & Emily Hausler



Rob and Wendy Schneider's family represents one of those families who joined the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in the late middle, if you will, of our 25-year history. You're not brand new nor did you help establish this congregation. Saying that, you have been members here since 2004, which really is a short time ago. Tell us what brought you here.

We were ready to leave South Texas, but we knew we wanted to stay within the Diocese of West Texas which has been our diocese for most of our lives. We were looking for a place in this geographical area both for us and for our two boys. We also knew Nancy from diocesan work and that was a drawing-card.

Can you describe any changes you have observed in your years at Holy Spirit?

Well, we have noticed a growth in the number of young families and, probably more profoundly, we have seen a remarkable growth in the diversity and gravity and relevance of offerings for Christian formation. That is very gratifying to us.

What sort of hopes or goals do you hold for this community for the future?

We have always been focused on the importance of the lay ministries and have always felt those ministries should be honored in a visible way. That emphasis has driven most of our diocesan involvement. We must always remember that a lay ministry can be

as simple an act as a smile directed toward a total stranger. We try never to forget that we form the priesthood of all believers, and that Jesus has reminded us over and over to feed His sheep.

Our hope for the future is that the laity will become more and more aware of its importance in the work of the church and will step forward to energize that privilege into an action.

It is the community that keeps us here. Programs are important, but we do feel deeply that the bloodstream of any church is its community, and we have an extraordinary group of people here with diverse backgrounds, talents, and interests who care about each other and our Christian traditions.

Written by Patricia Hall

The Schneider Family



Maggie & Mike Castleman



Even in a church as young as Holy Spirit, Mike and Maggie Castleman can be considered newcomers. Raised Episcopalians, they took a diverse and winding path through a variety of denominations and spiritual experiences before landing at Holy Spirit in 2005. After buying a ranch in Dripping Springs, they were looking for a place to worship for Easter Sunday. Maggie stopped by the church to check on service times, meeting Barbara Polkinghorn in the process. After attending the Easter Sunday service, both Maggie and Mike realized how much they missed the ceremony and liturgy of the Episcopal Church. Mike, as Maggie puts it, jumped right into worship at Holy Spirit, and she followed.

What makes them stay? For Mike Castleman, it is the people who keep him coming back, who drew him in and hold him here. Maggie, on the other hand, found herself surprised to be back in the Episcopal Church. Like Mike, she enjoys the service, the liturgy, and the people, but she is firm in her belief that *the* Holy Spirit caused her to come to *our* Holy Spirit and to stay here.

Both Mike and Maggie have become in-

involved at ECHS. Mike immerses himself in each Sunday's worship service, serves as an usher, and has a strong call to serve the church as a donor. Maggie's call is as a member of the Vestry, which she feels has been a "very spiritual" experience for her. Maggie believes that Holy Spirit's Vestry has been very good about coming together in prayer and listening to one another. In addition to her Vestry service, Maggie has tried her hand at Godly Play/Sunday School teaching and has also been deeply involved in EFM.

While they are relatively new at ECHS, they have been around long enough to have developed favorite memories of their time here. For Mike, it was last fall's famous "drought-breaking dinner." When they agreed to host a First Friday dinner at their home, though it had been dry for months, rain began to fall just before the dinner guests arrived. While the rain abated during the dinner itself, it returned with a vengeance after the guests left, dropping 5 inches onto their ranch and, as Mike puts it, "it has been raining ever since." If such dry conditions happen again, dinner is at the Castlemans'!

For Maggie, the music at ECHS has awakened memories of her past. While living in Houston in the early 70's, the Castlemans were members of the Church of the Redeemer, a parish that blended Episcopal teachings with Pentecostal elements. The wife of the church's leader wrote many of the songs that we sing at ECHS, so the music often takes her back to that unique and happy time.

Both Mike and Maggie definitely have ideas for the future of ECHS. Mike sees the key as focusing on the "blocking and tackling," or the fundamentals of being a parish. He would like those who are committed to the church – spiritually, emotionally and financially – to work together to get ECHS to a place of security. Mike believes if we can focus on and accomplish the basics, then the dream and vision will follow.

Maggie sees great potential in "in-reach" – reaching inward among ourselves and strengthening our fellowship and mission so that we can then be able to reach outward. Knowing who we are and who we want to be are the key in moving forward. 🌱

Written by Andrea Moynihan

FIRSTS

First Meeting to organize and First Holy Eucharist	Snack Bar of DSHS – April 29, 1984, 3:00 pm The Second Sunday of Easter. 17 in attendance, 13 received communion
First Vicar	The Reverend Hunter M. Morris (April, 1984-Nov. 14, 1993) Other Vicars: The Rev. Ted. Knies (Nov,1993-April 3, 1994) The Rev. Richard McLean (April, 17, 1993-July 7, 1996) Half Time Vicar (with St. Eliz.Buda): The Rev. Jonathan Folts (July 7, 1996-November 30, 1997)
First Full Time Clergy	The Rev. Nancy G. Coon (Dec. 3, 1997-present)
First Bishop	The Rt. Rev. Scott Field Bailey
First Bishop's Committee	Bishop's Warden: Charlotte Rhodes; Susan Purcell, Jr. Warden; Henry Johnson, Treasurer; Kay Brooks, Clerk. There were 12 families, 12 pledges to the 1985 budget for \$9,376.00, and 28 Baptized members.
First Music Director	Evelyn Rios
First Vestry	Senior Warden: Jeff Atherton; Jr. Warden: Ty Lawrence; Members: Ben Adair, Brooks Elliott, Cindy Krudop, Carol Morehead, Jim Polkinghorn, Rob Schneider, Elizabeth Williams
First Marriage	March 22, 1997 - Terry Johnson and Donna O'Connor
First Baptism	December 16, 1984 - Patricia Ann Bartels
First Burial	January 3, 1986 – Janie Lindeman German
First Confirmands	May 19, 1985 – Patricia Ann Bartels
First Service as a Parish	Council – February 24, 2008
First Service in Current Building	Trinity Sunday – May 19, 2002
Dedication and Consecration of New Building	June 2, 2002, 6:00 pm – The Rt. Rev. James E. Folts Officiating. 240 persons were in attendance.
First Event in New Parish Hall	A Blessing of the New Building, followed by fellowship and food on Pentecost, Sunday, June 4, 2006.
First Community Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday, April 3rd, 1999
First Day School Class	October 2003
First VBS	June 2007
First Epiphany Pageant	January 4, 2009
First Capital Campaign Completed	July 2, 1999 – Completed First Capital Campaign for this land and building. We held worship on our present site in a space where the Fellowship of Christian Chainsawyers had cleared land and mulched with cut cedar. We set up tables and chairs outside. Scott McAfee was the Bishop's Warden and The Rt. Rev. James Folts had come to “open the envelope, please” to declare the amount pledged for the new site and building. Ninety were in attendance for the worship.
Final Worship at Original Site	May 19, 2002 – Pentecost Sunday was our final worship service at the original building site. The Rt. Rev. James Folts came and held the Liturgy of Declaration of Secularization whereby the land and building was removed from the canonical jurisdiction of the Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas. In attendance were 135 persons.

Vision FOR THE FUTURE

BY PAUL WILLIAMS, SENIOR WARDEN

Where there is no vision, the people perish. PROVERBS 29:18

We serve a God of vision. When there was nothing but void, empty darkness, God called forth light. In the midst of chaos and sin, God plunged into this world, “taking the form of a servant” and showed us how to live through the life of Christ. Because of Christ’s redeeming love on the cross and in the resurrection, when God sees us, we are a new creation. God’s vision is poignantly given in Revelation 21:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Vision feeds us, sustains us. It gives us hope for the future, makes us live each day with a renewed sense of purpose and perspective. As the Proverbs say, we perish without vision, wasting away.

Thankfully, we at Holy Spirit stand on the shoulders of those who had the vision to begin an Episcopal church in Dripping Springs. We benefit richly from them and their vision, which led to things they could never have imagined. Some of them never got to see what grew out of that first meeting at the high school snack bar.



What would they think to see things now? Because of their vision, the faith community of Holy Spirit is alive and vibrant.

And what now? The parish is established, a beautiful campus graces the high hill along Hays Country Acres Road. Have we reached the end? Completed the task? What is the vision now?

In some ways, the vision is unchanged: to be the community of faith, called by Christ and centered around the Eucharist and the prayers, bound to one another week by week, year by year.

Yet with each generation, new vision emerges, new horizons are seen. What lies ahead now? Part of Jesus’ mission was to reconcile us to God. We are called to love God and one another, called into relationship. When the relationship is real, it is a physical, tangible connection. We talk of time, talent and treasure. We are called to give our whole self to God.

As each of us thinks of our personal spiritual journey, we recognize that there are many stages along the way. And so it is for our faith community at Holy Spirit. We have been young – we were a mission. Now we are a parish; we are becoming a mature congregation. The current Vestry has outlined a vision to grow, not just in numbers but in outreach, in financial self-sufficiency, and in spiritual maturity. When we provide for ourselves, we build a foundation for helping provide for others.

As we move into our future, let us have the vision to do what it takes to reach spiritual maturity as a congregation. Let us move with faith into an uncertain reality. If we truly open ourselves to God’s Spirit at work in and among us, we will find that in 5 years, 10 years, 25 years, we won’t recognize what God has done with us. Some of us won’t ever see the fruition of the things we are doing now. But with vision, through faith, we will continue to become the people of God, in the unique way God needs us, in this parish and in all the places where God leads us. 🌿

Koinonia and Ekklesia: COMMUNITIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

BY REV. NANCY COON



The second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles describes the sending of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost to the disciples and others. They were gathered in the upper room as a mighty wind (spirit) sent from God for the gathering of a new community of the faithful followers of Jesus Christ swept through the small band. Many scholars actually have “re-named” this book of the Bible, The Acts of the Holy Spirit because of the emphasis on the role of God’s Holy Spirit in the gathering in and sending out those who were called by God to be the *koinonia*, those who participated in the sharing of a life of faith in Jesus Christ. This community ultimately became the *ekklesia*, the people who were to represent Christ on earth after the Ascension of Jesus Christ to the right hand of God.

Their common life was based on their Baptisms through Water and the Holy Spirit as the entrance and initiation rite into membership into Christ’s Body, those who do the work of God now that Jesus was no longer among them. The Baptismal Covenant as expressed in The Book of Common Prayer, p. 304, outlines for us today the same expectations that the early disciples were committed to as the early Christian community.

We are asked five foundational questions about our common life together in Christ: Will you continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers? Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord? Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ? Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? Will you strive for justice and peace among all peo-

ple, and respect the dignity of every human being? Our response to each of these questions is: *I will, with God’s help.*

The theology of both the Old and New Testaments cannot be understood outside a theology of community; from the Creation Narrative in Genesis, through the calling of Abraham to God’s People, by the exodus from Egypt at the Passover and entrance into the promised land, and ultimately in the people who gathered around Jesus, the Biblical story is located in a community and told through the personal faith experiences of its people.

Today, we say things like “it takes a village,” but are we willing to embrace that concept in all of its fullness and promise? The promise of a life of abundance and joy is a life lived in community in relationship with others; relationships that are mutual, cooperative, and interdependent; relationships that support, nurture and serve one another as Jesus lived his life in service to others in the name of God. These relationships are created from a common union in the Holy Trinity of God and a theology of radical hospitality that bears witness to the five questions in the Baptismal Covenant.

Koinonia, fellowship in the Holy Spirit, and *Ekklesia*, the gathered people of God, are the Biblical communities that God has given us, and we have been given one another. We are not expected to make our spiritual journeys alone; we are expected to travel together in pilgrimage, rejoicing in the power of God’s Spirit, gathering and scattering to do the work of God in the world. The opening acclamation in Holy Baptism instructs us: There is one Body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God’s call to us. One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism. One God and Father of all. *Amen, Amen!* 🇺🇸

this summer at holy spirit

Summer Worship Times

beginning May 30th

8:30 a.m. Rite II without music

10:00 a.m. Rite II with music

Discovery Summer Camps -

Discover the adventure in summer!

Ages 2 to 7 years

Explore Nature June 7-11, 9am-1pm

Fairy Tales June 21-25, 9am-1pm

Beach Fun July 5-9, 9am-1pm

Space Adventure July 19-23, 9am-1pm

www.discoverydayschool.org

Vacation Bible School -

Come join us on a safari!

Kingdom of the Son Safari VBS June 14-18.

\$15 registration fee. For more information, please contact Brad Eubanks, CYF Minister at brad@dsholyspirit.org or 512.858.4924.

Discovery Day School -

Fall Registration Open Now

Ages 18 mos. to preschool

Offering an excellent educational experience for preschool children in a nurturing Christian environment. Number of days available dependent upon age. www.discoverydayschool.org
512.858.4924

Sunday Children’s Chapel

1st through 5th grades

The hope of Children’s Chapel is to joyfully worship God, to encourage active participation by all of our young worshipers, to teach about the Love of Jesus and about our Liturgy, and to help our children get to know each other and their church community.

Faith-Full Families

All families with children ages 5th grade and younger, and their siblings, are invited to join us for an activity, food and Christian fellowship in the parish hall on the first Wednesdays of the month at 6pm. RSVP and a \$10 donation per family requested to cover food and supplies. Please RSVP to Victoria at 422.0319 or MaryBeth at mefarr@verizon.net.

ICE Youth: Sunday Night Live!

Meetings on Sundays from 6:00-7:30 PM for dinner, fun, fellowship, and some great discussions. For more information, please contact the Children, Youth & Family Minister Brad Eubanks at brad@dsholyspirit.org or 512.858.4924.

High School Youth Mission Trip Summer 2010

June 26 - July 3 to St. Louis, Missouri