

the **SPIRIT**

**A Newsletter from
The Church of the Holy Spirit**
Currently Meeting at Pedrotti Ranch
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San Antonio, Texas
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ADVENT 2011



GETTING TO KNOW YOU AT HOLY SPIRIT *by Barbara Cavazos*

JOHN PERKINS

The room adjacent to the "Sanctuary" at Pedrotti's is affectionately dubbed Perkins Hall in honor of the man, who for the last two decades, has been instrumental in leading the Holy Spirit adult Sunday school class that now meets in that area.

John Perkins can also be considered the "Patriarch" of Holy Spirit, having been a member of the church since July of 1982, when it met in the Colonial Hills Elementary School on De Zavala Road. Once the priest in charge, Cliff Waller, discovered that John was a Civil Engineer, he told John that God sent him to Holy Spirit so his expertise could be put to use in the supervision of establishing the church on UTSA Boulevard. This would include installing utility lines and a septic tank, moving in and arranging temporary classroom buildings on the property, and constructing the driveway, sidewalks and parking lot.

John would go on to become a most stalwart supporter of the establishment of Holy Spirit as a worshipping body of Christ. Ten years later, he would be instrumental in the expansion of one of the buildings into the church sanctuary that existed until Holy Spirit relocated. Throughout his time at Holy Spirit he served on several Bishop's Committees, and been active in the handling of church finances throughout the years as volunteer

WOMAN OF FAITH CONFERENCE

At 8:30 on a cool Friday morning, some of the women from Holy Spirit stood talking in the Target parking lot at Bandera Pointe, waiting for the rest of them to arrive so they could carpool downtown. This was the first day of a two day **Women of Faith Conference** at the Alamodome on October 21-22, 2011.

At the Alamodome, Holy Spirit was well represented as 32 women came together at the front of it and became part of thousands of women filing into the massive building. Some of these women had traveled from all over South and East Texas to attend this annual event that had moved them so much during previous meetings that they clamored for more.

The praise music performed by live bands was uplifting and joyful. Musical performances included Christian recording artists Amy Grant and Mandisa. The speakers, including Patsy Clairmont and Andy Andrews, delivered their messages with humor and soul searching testimony. The day session started at 10 AM and ended at 3:00. Feeling adventurous (and ambitious) Holy Spirit women walked from the Alamodome to the heart of downtown to grab dinner and then returned for the evening session that started at 6:30.

The following morning the group returned for a second day of inspiration from more speakers and performers. One of the Saturday speakers was Lisa Whelchel, from the 80's sitcom Facts of Life.

The whole event, designed for the Christian woman, resulted in a sisterhood of those dedicated to God's purpose for us.

The group, organized by Michelle Little, had great seats that were obtained through Habitat for Humanity. Everyone is already talking about doing this again next year.

MINISTRY LEADERS MEET

The Bishop's Committee has implemented a new format

church treasurer. John is lovingly referred to as the "Money Man." John has been part of the Eucharistic Ministry Team for years and led Evening Prayer one day a week on UTSA Blvd. For the last decade and a half he has coordinated and led the adult Sunday School program that boasts about 15 participants.

John was born in Alpine, Texas, and moved with his family to Midland when he was in the 4th grade. In 1941 the family came to San Antonio where he attended Jefferson High School one semester. His last two years in high school was at Sewanee Military Institute in Sewanee, Tennessee. From there he accepted an appointment to West Point Military Academy where he graduated in 1946.

On one leave from the academy, he met a friend's sister, Jane, "who was just a kid." John was stationed in Okinawa, Japan for two years and returned to the states in 1949. By then, all his friends had married and started families, but someone told him that he might want to give a "grown-up" Jane McMillian a call. They were married in 1950 and had two children, Matilda (Tillie) and John M. Although John was raised in the Presbyterian faith, Jane was an Episcopalian and had gone to Catholic schools and so, in a compromise, they raised their children in the Episcopal faith.

The Army took John and Jane all over the world. Later, Jane would tell people that in 24 years of Army life, they had moved 29 times. After 28 years in military service, he retired from active duty and joined the Civil Service at the Department of the Army. In 1982, the Perkins' would retire for the last time. They knew they wanted to live in Texas and since Tillie was doing her residency in San Antonio, they decided this would be the place. A home off the golf course in Fair Oaks Ranch, where he could pursue his love of golfing and tennis, was perfect for them. It was at this time, that Holy Spirit came into the picture and the rest is history.

Both were active at Holy Spirit until Jane became ill and was limited in her participation. John, their family, and their friends at Holy Spirit had to say good-bye to her five years ago. Two years ago, John had to have heart bypass surgery. Much to Tillie's dismay, John could not be kept down for long and is back to golfing and tennis. Tillie and her husband, Michael Freeburger, also a physician, live in Fair Oaks Ranch and John M. and his wife Shelli O'Sheen, live in Macon, Georgia, where he is a Law Librarian at Mercer University.

There are five grandchildren for John to keep up with. Tillie and Michael's two, Sean and Laura, are independent young adults; Laura, following in the family footsteps, is an obstetrician. Son John's children, Caitlin, in college, and Marin and Tim in high school, round out

for some of their meetings which will include the leaders of the various ministry groups that are instrumental in the function of the church. Alternating meeting dates will have the Ministry Leaders join the Bishop's Committee to share input and ideas.

Since some of the groups share in common service such as worship, education, music, hospitality, evangelism, communication, and pastoral care, the leaders will be broken up into groups moderated by a Bishop's Committee member.

At the first meeting in September, the leaders shared with each other how their ministry group operates in providing service to the workings of the church. This was quite revealing because most had not realized who and what was involved in the other ministries.

The second meeting in November had the groups discuss how their ministry service contributes to the growth of the church.

These meetings are making everyone aware of the contributions these ministry groups make to the success of Holy Spirit.

YOUTH GROUP

by Taylor Bailey

Sunday, October 16, was a very busy evening for the youth of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. The middle school students went to Amazing Jump, a warehouse full of trampolines and high energy games, in an attempt to run their energy down while the high school students attended Sunday Night Live (fondly known as SNL). SNL is an event put on by Episcopal San Antonio churches with music,

the family.

Because he is so tall, John is hard to miss in the Holy Spirit congregation. But, his dedication and contribution to this church is hard to miss, also.

A CELEBRATION OF BLESSINGS

Every year, Episcopal Churches gather together in honor of the annual Stewardship Drive. This year, Holy Spirit came together, not so much to ask of everyone, but to celebrate the many blessings the church has received in the past twelve months toward the fulfillment of a quarter century dream.

The congregation of Holy Spirit gathered at the Braun Station West Clubhouse on Sunday afternoon. The community center and its facilities provided a great place to gather and allowed a separate space for the younger generation who were supervised by Karen Callihan and Tonya Kramer and other volunteers. The party room was festively decorated and fall was in the air. The evening was perfect for the children to play outside and for some of the adults to sit on the veranda off the party room.

The date, October 30, gave the children a chance to preview their Halloween garb and they were invited to get together on the tennis courts to play games and have some **Trick or Treat** fun. The little "characters" were an enjoyable sight to see.....reminding us that they are our future.

Hosted by the Stewardship Committee, chaired by Christina Bush, the membership was served banquet style by members of the committee. The meal, catered by Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant, included lasagna, spaghetti, salad and rolls with great Italian cookies for dessert.

Entertainment was provided throughout the evening by Gene Dowdy's musical group and members of the Holy Spirit choir/orchestra. Along with the great music, the after dinner program included testimonies from Christina Bush and Gene Dowdy. More music followed and the committee passed out the pledge cards for 2012.

Not only was this a great celebration of blessings, but also a reinforcement of the task ahead for the Church of the Holy Spirit. Working together, may 2012 be another year of blessings.

small groups, and renditions of skits from the actual SNL.

Following Amazing Jump and SNL the middle school and high school students met up at Cheesy Jane's in celebration of the great night had by all!

Sunday, October 30 was another great evening for the youth at the Celebration of Blessings Dinner. The youth enjoyed being able to stop and relax, and simply enjoy each other's company (they also enjoyed the cupcake walk and cupcakes after the smaller kids left!). They included in our conversations that they are ready for another lock-in , which conveniently is in the planning process!



FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

The first graduating class of Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University was honored with a cake at the coffee hour after a November Sunday Service.

Fourteen members of the Holy Spirit congregation have been attending weekly classes for fourteen weeks and everyone was pleased with the outcome. As a group, they paid off over \$30,000 in debt following Ramsey's program.

The next Financial Peace University Class at Holy Spirit will be in the spring.