

# the SPIRIT

A Newsletter from  
The Church of the Holy Spirit  
San Antonio, Texas

September, 2011



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### Welcome Rev. Kelly

The latest addition to the growing staff of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, the Rev. Kelly S. Conkling, was formally introduced to the congregation, on Sunday, August 21, when she gave the sermon, described by those who were privileged to hear it as moving, heartfelt and inspirational. That morning there was a noticeable excitement in her becoming a part of the new adventure Holy Spirit is so close to fulfilling.

Kelly will be serving as Asst. Vicar for Pastoral Care and will be at Holy Spirit an average of 10 hours a week and be part of two Sunday services. She will serve as the Officiant on one of the Sundays, and will deliver the sermon on the second. As time permits, Rev. Kelly will work directly with several existing pastoral care ministries, as well as develop an overall vision for pastoral care at the Church of the Holy

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER REVIVED

As we grow, there is a need for communications for the Church of the Holy Spirit to grow accordingly, and with this September issue brings the revival of *The Spirit* Newsletter.

In the past, *The Spirit* was a combination of announcements and personal stories, but since upcoming events are e-mailed out each week in a different format, the purpose of *The Spirit* will now be devoted to putting a face on the congregation by reporting on its events and introducing its people.

Barbara Cavazos will still be responsible for publishing the newsletter and continue to write copy, but she will be inviting parishioners to also contribute. Pictures will be a part of the publication, so, if you have pictures or articles you feel would enhance the newsletter, please submit them to her.

Distribution of *The Spirit* will also be different in that it will no longer be e-mailed, but posted on the Holy Spirit Website. A direct link to the website will be on the weekly announcement after the newsletter has been posted. There will be hard copies on the Welcome Wagon on Sunday mornings for those who do not use the internet. Upon request, shut-ins and others who are unable to come to Sunday services can be mailed a copy.

Spirit. As Asst. Vicar, she may also be called upon to fill in at other capacities, as needed.

Kelly is married to the Rev. Allan Conkling, who is rector of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in Bandera, where they reside. They share four daughters and seven grandsons. Kelly is also the sister of long-time Holy Spirit member, Stacy Dowdy.

Rev. Kelly is a cradle Episcopalian, raised in the Diocese of West Texas in George West. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Visual Arts from Sam Houston State University in 1977 and her Master of Science in Art from Texas A&M Kingsville in 1990. After teaching art in public school and junior college for ten years, she moved to Austin in 1994 to begin her studies at the Seminary of the Southwest.

Since her Ordination in 1997, Kelly has served as Rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Abilene, Associate Rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, San Antonio, and Assistant Rector of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, San Angelo. Over the last four years she served as Interim Rector for two Parishes and continues to work with the Bishop's Office in the Diocese of Northwest Texas.

We welcome Rev. Conkling to the Holy Spirit Family.

## **YOUTH NEWS**

**BY TAYLOR BAILEY**

As summer rolls to an end, we are preparing to begin the new school year and

## **Getting to Know You at Holy Spirit**

*by Barbara Cavazos*

### **ALICE BABINE AND MARSHALL BADGER**



When Alice Babine and her family moved to San Antonio in 1996 the first church they visited was St. Michael's Episcopal Church on Culebra. They found that the members there were so "incredibly friendly, we never looked elsewhere." When the possibility of St. Michael's and Holy Spirit coming together as one Body of Christ, Alice was on one of the teams that explored what this would mean to their Christian community as it was. After much deliberation and prayer, Alice felt that the blending of the two congregations was the "right thing" and is comfortable with the decision.

Alice played the keyboard at St. Michael's. When she joined the Holy Spirit Music Department shortly after the St. Michael's congregation "moved over" she not only added dimension to the group with her talent, but her presence and familiar style during Sunday Morning Worship was the first example for everyone that it was going to be a cooperative transition.

Alice was born in Mojave, California and when she was 8, moved with her parents to the Fort Worth area. She was 12 when the family moved to Louisiana, where she attended college and in 1981 simultaneously graduated and was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army. She married another soldier and as the norm for an active duty military family, lived in other places of the world, to include Korea and Maryland.

Alice was blessed with a son, Travis Thornton Babine and a daughter, Marshall Athena Badger. The family moved back to San Antonio in 1996 where she eventually retired and went to work with Civil Service at Lackland AFB.

Travis graduated from Castle Hills First Baptist School and enlisted in the Marine Corp shortly after. Tragically, 18 months later, in August of 2009, he was killed in action in

with that comes a new year for the youth group! Over the past few months and Spring Semester, the youth group has taken a trip to the food bank, preparing meals for children, had a lock-in in which the youth collected canned goods to donate to the Food Bank, as well as also attending Youth in Action- the youth retreat that takes place as part of the Annual Diocesan Council.

In September, Confirmation classes will be starting for all high school students. As part of this class the youth group will participate in a Service Scavenger Hunt. They will break up into teams and go to congregation member's houses doing odd jobs such as planting flowers, weeding flower beds, raking leaves etc.

Here's what's coming up!

9/11

Confirmation classes start

9/17

Service Scavenger Hunt

10/30

CANVAS Youth Program

***For more information concerning the youth group please contact Taylor Bailey at [youth@chssatx.org](mailto:youth@chssatx.org).***

## **2011 GRADUATES MOVE ON TO THEIR FUTURES**

Graduation last May will take its toll at Holy Spirit as four of Holy Spirit's fine young people head off for college. We have watched most of them grow up right under our sacred roof and it will be different not to see them

Afghanistan. Despite the devastation that the family experienced, Alice's faith and courage gave her the incredible strength she needed to endure and is a tribute to the son she loved and whose memory she honors daily.

Marshall is completing her senior year at NESAs (Northeast School of the Arts on the Robert E. Lee campus) where she is developing her multiple talents as an artist. After graduation, she plans on continuing her studies and is looking for the right college for the arts.

Although Alice's love for music has been lifelong, she first became involved in worship music when she was deployed to Hungary in 1998 for six months, and had her flute shipped to her in order to play during chapel services. She is a dedicated member of the Holy Spirit Music Department and is also active in other aspects of the church community.

While not at work or church, she enjoys paper crafting, explained as making greeting cards, and scrap-booking. She also enjoys playing computer games with Marshall and finds it a good way to get to spend one-on-one time with her. Alice has a sister in San Antonio, but their mother is not so close, residing in Idaho. Having an additional support system in her church family has been important to Alice and now it has increased two fold.

Alice says her major goal is "to live fully into the life and plans that God has for me, whatever they may be". Our goal is to let her know how much she is appreciated and how happy we are that God's plan brought her to Holy Spirit.

## **Prayer Shawl Journey**

*by Diana Thorp*

The journey a prayer shawl would make is not something I thought about when this ministry first started in late August of 2008.

A shawl is made of the softest yarns available and sealed with the many prayers said during the construction process. The Sunday Blessings are only the beginning of this amazing journey.

Our shawls have been sent border to border and coast to coast and beyond. We have recipients in Mexico who were experiencing illnesses and the loss of loved ones. We have sent them on the long journey from South Texas to various parts of Canada and to England, praying for the safety and care of the travelers. Numerous shawls have found their homes in San Antonio and other parts of Texas. They have also been sent to LA, OK, IL, IN, PA, NY, CO, ID, CA, GA, FL, MI, MS, NM, and AL. The greatest journey of all was the one that went to heaven! One very special lady loved her shawl and would not

every Sunday, sitting with the youth group, singing in the choir and doing a commendable job as acolytes.

David Callihan, who graduated from Warren HS, is attending Texas Lutheran College in Seguin.

Carolynn McCarthy graduated from Clark HS and is going to Blinn College in Bryan/College Station.

Franny Villarreal's beautiful voice will be missed from the choir as she moved from Brandeis HS to Sam Houston State in Huntsville.

Aaron Wall, who also is a graduate of Brandeis is attending Northwest Vista College.

We also have a college graduate in Steven McCarthy, who just completed his studies and earned his degree from Florida State University. Steven is back with us for a while, working with his father's company until he finds the job of his dreams.

All of these students have been an asset to Holy Spirit and we watch them go off with pride in our hearts, hoping they will always consider Holy Spirit home.

## **Holy Spirit Blue Grass Style**

*by Gene Dowdy*

"What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms..." Those words from one of the many praise-filled hymns sang at our inaugural (annual?) Bluegrass Mass describe the enthusiastic and spirited worship at Holy Spirit on

part with it. It was a comfort to the end and was cremated with her. A prayer shawl's journey has no limitations.

It's important to know that prayer shawls are not only for the sick and stressed but also for joyous reasons. We have presented to those with Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings, new babies and friendships. It's all about the special someone you want to give one to. Also, there is no age limit. Our recipients have been from infants to 90 plus years old; men and women; girls and boys.

The first year of our ministry, I had a little boy ask me if I would make him a prayer shawl. In his words "after all I pray a lot and could really use one". He was 4 years old and was very taken with the process of a prayer shawl ministry. I spoke to his Mom and she confirmed he was very faithful with his prayers and would love to have one. The Sunday Blessing happened to be his 5th Birthday and the excitement in his eyes and the look on his face, as his name was called to come forward and receive his prayer shawl, is a vision I will never forget.

The blessings continue with my prayers being answered. Norma Bingham joined our ministry in the fall of 2008 and quickly followed by Jo Ann Kelly-Pannkuk. Both ladies continue to support our ministry with their beautiful creations. We have since been blessed with a number of new members, Jan McMillan; Marcia Smith, Mike Foster, Kiki Foster, Judy Francis, Denise Minor and Paula Shilling. Last year, Katy Reiner's mom graciously sent a prayer shawl to help support our needs. All are welcome and if you don't have a craft talent.....we can teach you one!

In conclusion, I would like to thank those that have supported our ministry with their very generous donations. And a special thanks to all the ministry members who unselfishly give their time and talents to provide the beautiful prayer shawls we bless. With the support of all, the journey of the prayer shawl will continue for many years to come. To date we have blessed 174 prayer shawls. May God Bless you all.

## **THE SUCCESS OF "DINNER AND A MOVIE"**

*by Jeanne Loggie*

Neither rain nor sleet nor hail. . . nor HEAT, could keep the friends and family of Church of the Holy Spirit from gathering together for food, fellowship, and fun! About 100 of us arrived at our new space on Bandera Road for "Dinner and a Movie". The Men's Group grilled up burgers and hotdogs and the potluck of sides and desserts provided our usual feast.

Members of the Sacred Space Team and many others put extensive (and a very successful) effort into mapping a life-size vision of our new church - it was like walking a labyrinth of the future Church of the Holy Spirit! A tour was conducted by

Pentecost Sunday.

When Jason and Rebecca first asked me to put together an ensemble to lead worship music in a bluegrass style, I considered asking my professional music friends to join me for this "gig." However, Holy Spirit Episcopal Church is loaded with talent! I realized we could do this with members of the congregation. I was so grateful to work with Rebecca, Katie, Jason, Jay, Gage, Greg, Alice, guest-bassist Tim, and the Holy Spirit Choir! Week in and week out, they pour out their hearts in leading us through worship music, and it was a joy to join them.

Most importantly was how strong and joyful the congregation sang that day. I'll never forget the rhythmic clapping, the loud singing, and the big smiles all around the ranch sanctuary that day. I truly look forward to continued work and worship with you all.

*If you missed the mass or just want to enjoy it again, click on the link below*

[See Blue Grass Mass Video](#)



**PACK THE BACKPACK FOR GOOD SAM KIDS**  
*by Rose Damon*

ECW members Linda Hadley, Jeri Shaner, Marcia Smith and Rose Damon were accompanied by Fr. Jason and Craig Damon on August 4th to the Good Samaritan Family Services to pack "backpacks" for students

members of the Sacred Space Team beginning at the entrance to the church amongst the pews and approaching the altar, as well as finding the restrooms, nursery, kitchen and other areas. This gave those of us visual learners much insight into what our new space will look like and feel like amidst a beautiful natural surrounding.

After dinner, popcorn was served and we watched a delightful movie, "How To Train Your Dragon", about how a willingness to look at things with a different perspective results in unity to restore good among a community and beyond. What a fitting way to describe Holy Spirit's mission statement!

The evening darkness brought a bit of relief from the heat but we the true refreshment came from being together with a true vision of a new home filled with family that we love. Thanks so much to all of you who put so much effort and withstood such grueling heat to make this event a huge success!



**FLICK CHICKS CELEBRATE FIRST YEAR**



The Flick Chicks of Holy Spirit celebrated their first year of

returning to school. Thanks to donations from our church members, we were able to supply 260 erasers and 260 packs of notebook paper. A \$50 cash donation was also made to Good Sam to help with additional supplies needed for the high schoolers. Jeri Shaner, a retired teacher, wins the gold star for teaching us how to pack two backpacks at the same time!

existence with record attendance for a film and the induction of an *el gallo* into the group. Members have been anxiously awaiting the San Antonio premier of *The Help*, so it wasn't surprising that a large group was anticipated. When it became apparent that our numbers might qualify us for a group rate at Bandera Pointe's Silverado Theater, Larry Whatley was talked into joining the group. He wanted to see the movie bad enough to brave being the only rooster among a group of "chicks."

However, at the last hour two people had to cancel, and so in the interest of evangelism (and saving \$1.50 on each ticket), Julie Hogenauer headed to the parking lot to intercept two couples also on their way to see *The Help*. They agreed to come in with our group in exchange for getting the discounted ticket price. Her mission was successful and, in addition, we told them about our group, our church and invited them to come to Holy Spirit. Who knew the Flick Chicks would become evangelists?

The Flick Chicks started last September and have enjoyed seeing 20 matinees together over the last year. When Hollywood offers enough quality films, they attend movies on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month at the showing closest to the 1:00 hour. It has turned out to be an enjoyable experience that provides the opportunity to get to know each other better and have fun together. There have even been a few trips after the movie to a local eatery for coffee, appetizers or libations after the movie.

Movie selections are chosen by members of the group and the selection of the week is announced on the Monday before the specific Thursday. If you would like to be put on the notification list, please e-mail Barbara Cavazos at [bscavazos@yahoo.com](mailto:bscavazos@yahoo.com) Anyone is welcomed to come and now that Larry has set the example, roosters shouldn't be afraid to join us.