

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

RESTORING ALL PEOPLE TO UNITY WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER IN CHRIST

August 2011

Dear Fellow Followers of Christ:

As our eyes turn from summer and back into the structure that school gives to many of us, I am very excited for all that has gone on throughout the summer. We, of course, had the wonderful celebration on our new property on Bandera Road that allowed many of us, for the first time, to be able to see and wander around our new property.

We also offered Sunday morning education/formation for our youth, grades 6-12, and for our adults through the Sunday morning Bible Study. And we held strong with Sunday attendance as so many of us continued to gather to celebrate the Risen Christ and give thanks for the many blessings given to us.

One exciting new project that began this summer is the offering of grants to sister mission churches in the Diocese of West Texas through our 6676 Endowment Fund. Our Bishop's Committee requested and the endowment board supported the offering of \$2000 in grants to mission churches for outreach and evangelism. The grant applications are due by Monday, August 15, and will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and presented to the Bishop's Committee. The overall purpose of these grants is to support our sister congregations who, as mission churches, often have very limited financial resources to encounter God's world. The grant recipients, as well as their stories, will be shared as soon as possible.

Another new direction for our congregation is the addition of the Rev. Kelly Conkling to our staff. Kelly will begin on Wednesday, August 17, with her first Sunday being August 21. She will serve 10 hours each week and 2 Sundays a month. When not preaching for, or presiding over, worship Kelly will work to build our pastoral care ministry, utilizing the gifts of interested members. Kelly brings to our church a wonder spirit and a love for serving the Lord in creative ways. On Sunday, August 21, the Bishop's Committee has designated the loose offering for an Assistant Vicar's Discretionary Fund and will match the loose offering up to \$250.

In the area of Formation, August will bring together a team of 15 leaders from our congregation who have volunteered their time and talents to participate in a program titled ["Called Back to the Well."](#) This 9 month program, through the [Oblate School of Theology](#), will allow us to look at everything we "do" here at the Church of the Holy Spirit and help define the foundational spiritual aspects of each of these programs and ministries.

The Lord continues to bless us in so many ways. In your own prayers I encourage you to give thanks for the seeds that are sown and the fertile ground that is offered for Lord's work in and through our congregation.

Faithfully,

Jason