



SEPTEMBER 2016

The Vine

A Publication of St. Michael and All Angels' Episcopal Church – Longview, TX

September Communion Schedule

September 4 – Max Reynolds

September 11 – Bob Schelling

September 18 – Judith Daniel

September 25 – Judith Daniel

Let's Eat!

Sunday, September 4:

**1st Sunday Restaurant Run:
The Butcher Shop**

Sunday, September 11:

Potluck Luncheon in Parish Hall

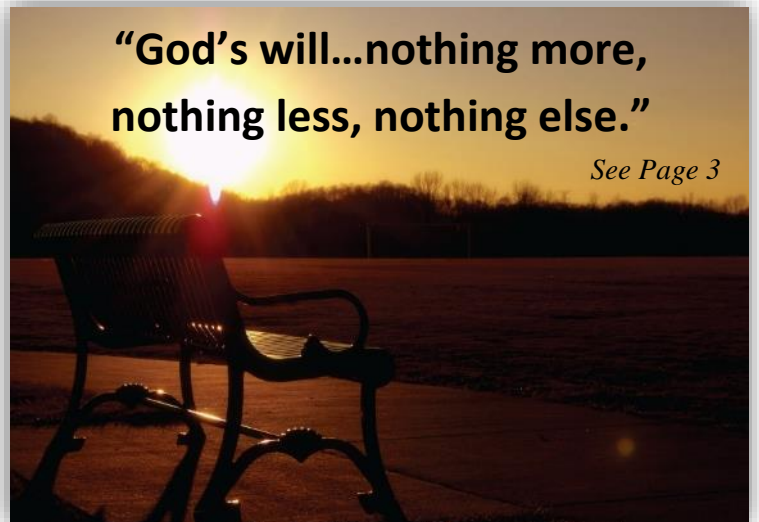
**Back to Regular Worship Schedule
on Sunday, September 4**



**Sunday Morning: 9am Sunday School
10am Worship Service**

**"God's will...nothing more,
nothing less, nothing else."**

See Page 3



Can you Find All the Angels? Throughout this issue of "The Vine" there are at least TWO Angels (like the one on the right) on each page (and sometimes more). See if you can Find All the Angels.





What Did You Think of Summer Sabbath?

It is said that variety is the spice of life. So why shouldn't that apply to church? I believe there are two words that should never, ever be used when describing a church – staid and stodgy. This summer we began a summer worship schedule that moved the Sunday morning communion service to Saturday evening with a light dinner in the parish hall before the service. What a great idea! We get to enjoy food and fellowship and then enter the sanctuary for a worship filled communion service. We've got good things going on at St. Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Church. As we Episcopalians well know, if you serve food, they will come.

Bill Keese

I loved the Saturday evening meal and communion. Maybe we can have it once a month during fall/winter.

Barbara McClellan

I attended every Saturday night except when I was on vacation. I enjoyed the different Priests as they brought a new perspective to the service. I work on Saturdays and having a whole day off to take a mini vacation was a treat. It would be nice to have a Saturday Sabbath once a month.

Linda Gast

Due to our selected priest moving on short notice, and with the condition that we could have a priest every Saturday for communion, I was in favor of Saturday services. The priests who served us were very good, appreciative and wonderful personalities. However, for the long term benefit of our church family, we need to have our own rector and return to regular Sunday communion services. Saturday communion services were well attended, and Sunday Morning prayer services were not.

Frank Supercinski

I really like the Saturday night service. Great idea and completion of plan. Let's do it again!

Judy Burlison

Sunday has always been church for us, we love it. Saturday's don't work for our family. We thoroughly enjoyed Summer Sunday service. Jeff did great job. Also, just listening to J.J. Glave read a lesson really made the service. Very sweet, casual time. We did miss friends.

Carolyn Deakins

Loved Saturday night services! Would like to keep them!

Shellye Burlison Clodfelter

I have number of friends that have migrated to St. Michael's. When I saw an opportunity to attend on a Saturday night I decided to slip in quietly and check it out. It has been a rich and rewarding spiritual experience. I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it.

As Christians, we really need to get out of our respective denominational boxes and recognize that we are members of a community, the Body of Christ, the Kingdom of God. You have a warm hearted group of people that have literally "rolled up their shirt sleeves" and gone to work for God. Thanks for sharing your spirits with me.

Bill Schroeder

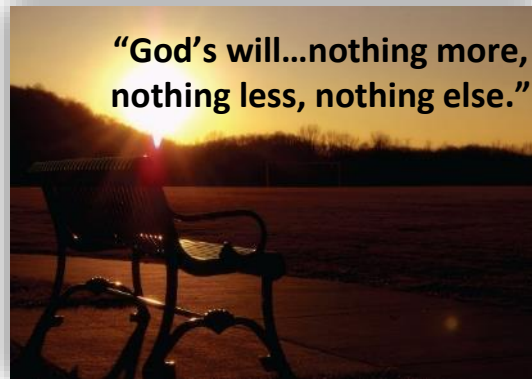
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From Sr. Warden Laura Buckner

The summer came and went....is it just me or is time passing faster and faster?

On behalf of your Vestry, I sincerely thank you all for your continued support of St. Michael and All Angels' as we continue to explore God's plan for our church community. The Summer Sabbath was difficult for some and a welcome change for others, but at the end of the day please know your Vestry felt God's guidance in that decision and appreciated your support of our attempts to follow His lead.

We're back to our regularly scheduled services, and continuing to seek God's guidance for direction. Your vestry held a day-long retreat at the beginning of August, facilitated by a wonderful leader from Renovare in Dallas, Jon Bailey. It was a terrific day filled with silence, contemplation, conversation, and much prayer; our theme for



the day (a theme we've adopted for our meetings going forward) was "God's will...nothing more, nothing less, nothing else."

One decision we made that day was to begin the process of searching for and hiring an office assistant to take some much needed responsibility and work load off Jeff Richardson. We are in the interview and hiring process now and believe this change will be a positive one

in many ways. Additionally, we continue to

seek God's guidance in our search for a Rector, a spiritual leader for our church community. We are in conversation with the Diocese and are hopeful we can find the right solution soon.

In the meantime, we continue to look to each of you for encouragement, support, and participation in the life and work of our church. For a small community, we've got a lot of love and passion, and we've got a lot going on!

Backpack Blessing – Saturday, August 20



On Saturday, August 20, Fr. Max Reynolds "Blessed the Backpacks." Rhys, Gabriel, Norah, Ellie, Laura, Jane, George all came forward and Fr. Max blessed each one of them. They each received one of Fr. Max's special angels that he makes by hand.

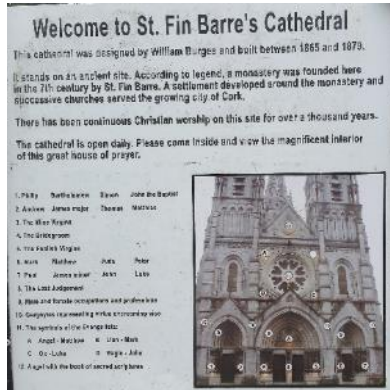
God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, Page 829

Our St. Michael's Angels Summer Travels



Linda Gast
Ireland, August 2016



St. Fin-Barre's Episcopal Cathedral Cork Ireland



Cobh Ireland. Last port of the Titanic. Also the port that survivors were taken to from the sinking of the Lusitania. Departure port of immigrants to America, Canada and Australia. My vacation.

Through a stroke of good fortune, and a generous cousin, I got to go on a Road Scholar trip on the Queen Mary II to England. This was a trip to study English mystery writers, such as Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie, and Colin Dexter. We had lectures on the ship, then went to see places of interest in London and the surrounding area. This photo was made at one of my favorite places, and was "Lemons into Lemonade." Our "coach" broke down in a little village 40 miles from London. Two hours later, another coach from London arrived. We roamed around small village, some had a spot of tea. As you see, what I had was served in a wineglass! Several village people came to have their afternoon pints-they could barely understand our Texas accents (6 on the trip were from Texas), but were friendly and kind. Flowers everywhere. Wonderful trip.



Barbara McClellan, England
August 2016



For some, it was a "stay-cation!" Paige, Norah, Laura, Jordan: Rodeos, face painting, princess dresses and hot air balloons.

Our St. Michael's Angels Summer Travels



Bill Keese – Have Camera, Will Travel

I've been doing my fair share of traveling this year. My philosophy is travel as much as you can, as far as you can, while you can, because life wasn't meant to be lived in one place.

I went to Ireland in March to visit the Emerald Isle. Ireland is a beautiful country with friendly and gracious people who really do like Americans, something you don't find in many countries today.

In Early-May I rode Amtrak from Longview to Chicago where I stayed several days and did all the tourist stuff since this was my first visit to Chicago. It's a fascinating city with a rich history.

In June I went to Salt Lake City, Yellowstone National Park, and the Grand Tetons. I had been to Salt Lake City as a youth

with my parents, but this was my first time to visit Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons.

In July I took an 8-day trip from Longview to Los Angeles, California on the Amtrak Texas Eagle, then up the west coast along the Pacific Ocean to San Francisco on the Amtrak Coast Starlight, and then to Chicago on the Amtrak California Zephyr, and then back to Longview on the Texas Eagle. I traveled 5,663 miles over 12 states. I loved every mile of the trip. I've become what railroad people call a foamer – someone who foams at the mouth in excitement every time they see a train. Yeah, that's me.

I'm going back to Chicago on the train at the end of this month (September) for another visit. It seems I have some unfinished business with Al Capone.



After kissing the Blarney Stone in Ireland.



On the Dingle Peninsula in Ireland.



Tour guide in Ireland.



At the Grand Tetons



On the Skydeck on top of Harris Tower in Chicago



Boarding the California Zephyr



At the Art Institute of Chicago

Light and Life: A Midweek Fall Retreat

September 19-21, 2016, Monday - Wednesday at Gilmont

NOTE: YOU CAN GO FOR ANY SINGLE DAY FOR ONLY \$50

Retreat pace is fun for any age... also a wonderful weekday renewal experience for church staff.



"In our society we have become fond of our 'words.' As we get older, we realize that we have said just about everything and we have certainly heard just about everything. There is nothing new under the sun. Yet, there is still a yearning in our soul to be in fellowship with one another. Being involved in a group that is sitting in silence while working with their hands is golden. It is just simply good for the soul. The point is not to produce great works of art, but rather to be in communion with our own inner light, our quiet creative selves, and to let that light shine. This is one of God's great mysteries and what we hope to experience while in Retreat."

- Rev. Betsy Lockhart

Rev. Betsy Lockhart will lead group conversations, worship and stained glass projects.

More about our Speaker: Rev. Betsy Lockhart is the Teaching Elder at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Mansfield, Texas. She is a stained glass artist, writer, organic gardener, and caretaker to a 200lb Great Dane named Cyrus. Betsy believes that if you ask any artist about what is important, they will tell you that "light" is their most valuable tool. Before we pick up a brush, pencil, needle, camera, paint, or anything else, we move toward the light which is within and the light which surrounds. As a stained glass artist she thinks about how her work will interact with light and it is that interaction that inspires her work. The best moment for Betsy is when she holds a piece up and lets the sun shine through it. Her work is a celebration of God's first creation.

Kay and David Castles are back by popular demand! Through this engaging 3 hour class you will experience the beauty and fascination of basket weaving.

Rev. Marissa Greentree, from Healing Harts of Longview will lead us in Intuitive Painting.

Linda Gast will be joining us at Gilmont for the first time in September, leading Tai Chi for balance and coordination - for participants with any level of mobility.

Staff member, Marie Nelson, will lead photography and nature walks.



[Click for Midweek Retreat Webpage](#)

[Click for Midweek Retreat Flyer](#)



What Did You Think of Summer Sabbath?

Looking back at this Summer's worship schedule I need two hats to express my views. Individually, Charlyne and I loved the Saturday meals and services. We got to know other members of the congregation better during Saturday meals and Sunday mornings were free for either travelling in light traffic or just to kick back a little. We would prefer Saturday evenings exclusively year around on a personal level. Our attendance Saturdays was the same or greater than Sundays would have been. We only attended Sundays when scheduled to help. Wearing the Vestry hat now, we were between a rock and a hard spot when no priests were available this Summer. The Vestry unanimously felt God's tug to add Saturday Eucharist and Dana booked all the Summer Sabbath priests in one afternoon. Some members did not attend on Saturdays so I'm glad the regular Sunday services will resume in September and I fully support that. I appreciate everyone's prayerful support for the Vestry. It has been felt. I, like many of you, have been on many committees, but this Vestry is the best I have ever experienced in so many ways because we let God lead us.

Bryan White.

Episcopal Church Women

What is ECW?

Our purpose as the Women of the Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Texas is to empower each other to live the life for which Christ called us by sharing His love through outreach, fellowship and spiritual growth. And how do we do this? Through awarding scholarships and empowering the youth of the Church, hosting lunches, sponsoring garage sales, organizing and attending retreats, supporting one another through life's challenges, and numerous other activities.

Isn't this a group for my mother? And what's this I hear about casseroles?

It's a group for half of the membership of our church, including you *AND* your mother. All women in the Episcopal church are members by birthright. The strongest of ECWs consist of a diversified membership with women of all ages and backgrounds coming together to share their time, treasures and talents to further the efforts of our churches and missions. We're just as good at happy hours or breakfast meetings as we are with casseroles.

We have also created networking opportunities for professional women, helped with child care issues, awarded scholarships for the college bound and have provided the elderly with challenging and rewarding ways of staying involved and active in their community.


The ECW is a group for all women, from all walks and backgrounds of life, those with and without children, those with careers in and outside the home, women in school, dropouts, those considering a first degree or working in a graduate program. We're cradle Episcopalians and women who've just walked in the door. We are the women of this church and we are **YOU**. Come join us!

COMING IN OCTOBER FOR ECW:

"Jesus is a Girl's Best Friend!"
"I am with you always" Matt. 28:20

Episcopal Diocese of Texas 115th Annual Retreat for Women

Save the Date! October 14 – 16, 2016



Hosted by St. James Houston & The Diocese of Texas ECW Board

Friends - Friendships are made, rekindled. **Relax** - Take a stroll, enjoy your morning coffee, or stay up and chat with friends while you relax and rejuvenate. **Workshops** - There will be another full offering of workshops to interest women from all stages of life. **Food** - Come relax in the Piney Woods of the peaceful Camp Allen setting where the staff takes care to prepare a delicious weekend of dining. **Worship** - There's always time to collect your thoughts in prayer and retreat. **Shop** - the customer vendors beautiful wares for holiday gifts or a special personal treat!

Registration Opens September 1st, 2016.

Keynote Speaker
Jan Bethancourt
 Motivational Speaker &
 Author of...
"Eat Chocolate with Breakfast!"

ECW Annual Retreat Page and Online Registration



St. Michael

& All Angels' Episcopal

909 Reel Rd.

Longview, TX 75604

www.smaalongview.org



09/02 Michael Buckner
09/03 Ruby Hahne
09/06 Rhys Duncalfe
09/07 Monty Retallack
09/11 Terisa Kirschke
09/18 Matthew Burke
09/19 Robyn Murphy
09/21 Mary Lynn Dawes

09/21 Grace Richardson
09/23 Kyle Glave
09/27 Helen Daniel
09/27 Kim Woodbury
09/28 Regina Nesbitt
09/28 Mary Terry
09/30 Jordan Jackson



09/06 Don & Belinda King
09/11 Chad & Jana Jackson