

Partners In Ministry

Eastern Convocation of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas

Newsletter for June 2008

Volume 10, Issue 3

Partner Churches

Cuero Grace
Edna Trinity
Goliad St. Stephens
Hallettsville St. James
Kenedy St. Matthews
Port Lavaca Grace
Refugio Ascension
Yoakum Holy Communion

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Contributions are joyfully accepted from everyone and will be used if possible.

PIM Calendars were sent out earlier and are ALSO on web page.

**5th Sunday in Cuero
11 a.m. June 29th**

Letter from the Canon Missioner:

Dear Bothers and Sisters in Christ,

The academic year is ending, seniors graduating and heading off into their future, and many of us are thinking about vacation plans and just taking a break. You deserve it; we've had a good year. Many of you have worked hard at building up your churches and spreading the Kingdom.

Most of you know of our most recent sadness and challenge. Fr. Doug Hutchings has been assigned by the Bishop to be the interim rector at St. Andrew's, Seguin. We will miss him; he has served God and us well. The immediate challenge was to fill his space on the schedule. I was a little stressed for a few days. But what the Lord takes; he also provides. We have three seminarians rapidly rising through the ranks. Dr. Robert Johnston is already serving us very well, and you are helping to train him into the ranks as a PIM priest. We have two more opportunities in our midst: Virginia Frnka (Gina) and Richard McLeon. They have volunteered to help us some this summer by leading Morning Prayer and preaching (their own sermons) occasionally. This fall they will be officially in training with us. As they will be with us for several years (God willing!), we have a personal stake in their training to be priests among us.

I see a very bright future for PIM churches. The spirit is moving among you. Many of you are seeing "outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace" such as increased attendance, increased pledges, and dedication to the "work of the church." The Church Leadership teams are developing, both Lay and Clergy. It is a real pleasure for me to work among you as the "Vision for Partners in Ministry" unfolds.

See you at 5th Sunday in Grace Church, Cuero, on June 29th.

Father John

GRADUATIONS: We wish to recognize and congratulate everyone on this list for their accomplishment!! Every graduation is a completion and the beginning of a new phase in life. As you go forward in your life, may you be blessed with joyful surprises, peaceful relationships, and great inspirations.

High School Graduates

From Cuero:

Patrick Nami
Sam Rhotenberry

From Hallettsville:

Jennie Pence

Other Graduates:

From UHV with a Master's Degree in Counseling

Leslie Padgett

Leslie has been hired by Travis Middle School in Port Lavaca as a school counselor.

Editor's Notes/Comments

Can you turn in pictures for the newsletter - **YES, Please do!!** Will I take information at the last minute for the newsletter = **YES.**

The order the churches in "Around the PIM Circuit" appear is the order in which I receive information, so it will change with each newsletter.

It is summer and I do not know if there will be enough news to generate a newsletter for July. Obviously, there will be one if there is enough information to get out. However, there is a fair possibility that the next newsletter will be in August.

Around the PIM Circuit

Ascension Refugio

The end of June brings a lot of excitement in the Naylor family. Glen and Jean Naylor will be celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary. Glen will also be celebrating his 84th birthday and maintaining his hold on the title of PIM's oldest active acolyte. The entire congregation is participating in the festivities as the Naylor's daughter, The Rev. Jan Naylor Cope, is the guest celebrant and preacher at 9 a.m. service on June 29th. While Refugio will be missed at the 5th Sunday gathering in Cuero, we will surely wish them a blessed day in all of their celebrations. The Rev. Cope is currently Assistant Rector at St. David's Episcopal Church in Washington D.C.

Grace Port Lavaca

We are on our Summer Schedule now. Our Wednesday Holy Eucharist services and the Wednesday evening Bible Study will resume after August 15th.

We are in the planning stages for our annual Swim Party, which will be during the last half of July or early August.

The new landscaping in front of the church on Austin Street is done!! Looks great!!

ANYONE IN THE AREA IS WELCOME TO COME TO FREE FISH FRY SUNDAY, JUNE 22ND at 12:30P.M. IN OUR PARISH HALL. Donations accepted to help the ARC Work Activity Center.

Grace Cuero

This year nine young people will be heading off to Camp Capers. Some are going for the first time and some are returnees.....Our Campers are: Sarah Warzecha, Kendra Schumacher, Christopher Lassmann, William Miller, Mary Kate Krueger, Amber Miller, Ethan Rhotenberry, Jade Cuellar, and Jacob Helwig. It will be a wonderful experience for all and we look forward to their letters telling everyone of their "adventure."

On June 1st we had our annual picnic at the Duderstadt ranch and it was great fun. Bill Hickey began the excitement of the day by catching a 7# (yes!! 7 pounds) bass on a chld's fishing rod in the lake. It was our traditional event but this year it was also a "good-bye for now and come back to see

us" time for The Rev. Doug Hutchings who is leaving PIM to be Interim Rector at St. Andrew's, Seguin.



Grace Church, Cuero gave him a drawing of the church and Goliad presented him with a commemorative blanket. It was wonderful to have so many people with us from other churches join us in the fellowship. The Men of the Church were the chefs for the day and prepared delicious barbecued chicken. The Holy Eucharist was held under the old oak tree for 70 people which was the most ever!

No Reports From:

Trinity Edna

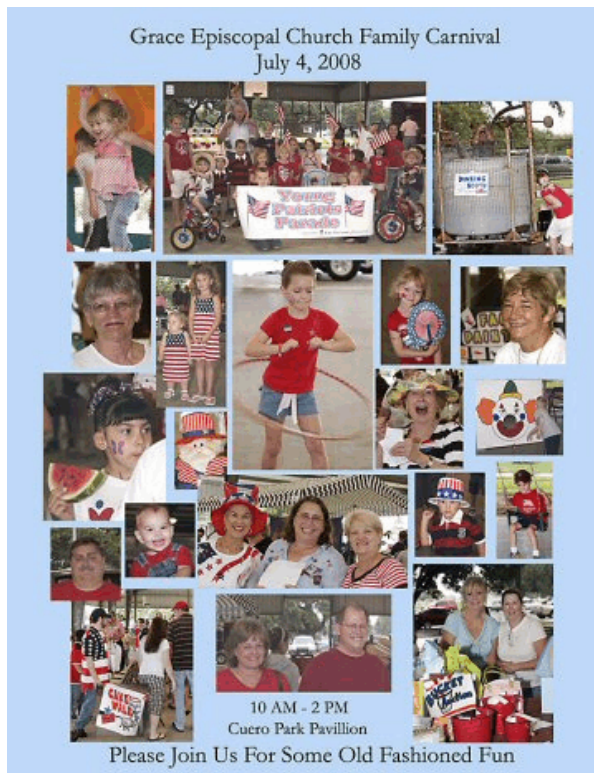
St. Stephens Goliad
but they sent in the picture of Father Doug above

Holy Communion Yoakum

St. Matthews Kenedy

St. James Hallettsville
 at PIM Council heard that they awarded
 graduating senior, Jennie Pence, a scholarship

We(Grace-Cuero) invite you to join us for our annual **July 4th Family Fun Carnival** to be held on Friday, July 4, 2008, from 10 AM until 2 PM at the Cuero Park Pavillion. The "Young Patriots Parade" will begin at 9:30 AM followed by the Flag ceremony and invocation. There will activities for the entire family: old fashioned booths such as cake/toy walk, face painting, merry-go-round, dunking booth, train ride.....just to name a few; a country store with crafts, home made jams & jellies and other specialty items; concessions; bucket auction; plant sale and raffle. Proceeds from the carnival will benefit several local charities and the Grace Episcopal Church Restoration & Renovation Fund.



From the Heart

June, 2008

Dear Colleagues and Friends in the Churches of Partners in Ministry East:

Since Father John asked me to consider joining the PIM East team, and I made my first visits “on the circuit” in December 2005, I have been delighted to be a part of such a unique ministry and have been happy serving you and our Lord together. You are each unique in wonderful ways. I have learned so much about your histories, your styles of service to your communities and your efforts to serve Christ in your special places.

You have helped me adjust to a new ministry as a Retired Priest. The travel involved was negated almost entirely by the joy of leading you in worship and establishing lasting friendships with so many of you. The relationship of priest and people can be richly meaningful and truly joyous, following the example Jesus gave us when he called his disciples “friends.”

I only realized recently how much I was missing being in a more intimate and connective relationship with a parish family again, and how much I missed this engagement in daily living during my retirement. This was my reason for accepting the assignment from Bishop Lillibridge to become Interim Rector of St. Andrew’s Church in Seguin. I will assume this responsibility on June 8, assisting this parish family during the process of choosing their new Rector.

I am truly excited about this new ministry, but, as you can’t imagine I have some anxieties. Jesus says, in the Sermon on the Mount from Matthew’s Gospel (Matthew 6:33-34) – “But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

I am convinced that service and devotion to God is above all else, and that this brings freedom from concerns about tomorrow. It is also true that Trust Overcomes Anxiety. So, I have to “practice what I preach,” and relax.

You have been very generous in your emails, calls, cards and warm wishes. That is enough to remember the past with warm recollections, and to look forward to the joys the future holds. Thank you all so much for our time together. I am sure our paths will once again be joined as we continue on The Journey.

In His Hands, Father Doug