

## **CHAIR-ELECT REV. JUSTIN LINDSTROM'S BRINGS COMMUNITY AND SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP SKILLS TO THE BOARD TABLE**

The Rev. Justin Lindstrom brings a special set of skills to his role as a Cy-Fair Educational Foundation board member and chairman of the Public Relations Committee.

As Founding Vicar of Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church, Rev. Justin has taken on the role of spiritual leader to a congregation, and "vision caster" for the church.

He also is also preacher, teacher, leader, and trainer/coach of the disciples of the church, chief communicator of the core values of the church, and manager of administrative and financial details for the organization.

It is those characteristics that will be important when Rev. Justin steps into the role of CFEF's Chairman of the Board in 2011. He serves as Chair-Elect now.

CFEF is faced with conflicting challenges, he said.

There is a driving need to increase scholarship opportunities – and the amount of those scholarships – to students who need financial assistance in a world in which post-secondary educational costs are skyrocketing.

"I would love for us to increase the value of our CFEF scholarships so that they assist students with a greater percentage of their expenses, and I would love to see us assist teachers with more grant money so that the students receiving our scholarships have had the latest and greatest teaching concepts offered to them," Rev. Justin said.

However, the dueling challenge is the present economic climate, he said. Tough times present greater challenges for organizations like CFEF that have to raise money to accomplish goals.

"The current economy creates a big challenge for us," Rev. Justin said. "We also serve a community that is highly residential so our donors will mostly be individuals...capturing their commitment is a challenge.

"Enticing more businesses to become partners with us long-term so that the same businesses do not have to continue to carry the load of fundraising is of great importance," he said.

Rev. Justin said it is also important to establish more CFEF endowed scholarships, which can be made in the name of private individuals, corporations and organizations, in memory of individuals and in honor of individuals.

Endowments may be established in the amounts of \$20,000, \$50,000, \$100,000 or more. Each year, only a portion of the invested income earned is spent while the remainder is added to the original principal. An endowment is a perpetual gift because only the interest is used to support the Foundation while the principle continuously grows.

A scholarship will be given in perpetuity to a student who meets the requirements of that scholarship. Also, a permanent endowment wall has been established at the Richard E. Berry Instructional Center to recognize donors and/or the person for whom the scholarship is named.

"I also hope we can establish more business partnerships for our three events," Rev. Justin said.

He has served on the committees that plan those three powerhouse events: Salute to the Stars, Salute to Our Heroes and the B.F. Adam Classic Golf Tournament.

“It is important for us to continue giving students a chance to attend college and further their hopes and dreams,” he said.

Rev. Justin knows personally the role scholarships can play in a student’s life as he was able to attend college because of scholarship funding sources.

He said he was 12 years old when called to the ministry. After completing high school in Mission Viejo, California, he moved to Seguin to attend Texas Lutheran University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and History with a Secondary Education Certification.

He then enrolled in the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin and received a Master of Divinity degree. He was placed at Saint Martin’s Episcopal Church in Houston where he served as the priest for youth and their families. After three years there, the Bishop of the Diocese of Texas called on him to start Saint Aidan’s.

“It has been since I received my calling at a young age that I knew I wanted to start a church, so being given the opportunity to do so at such a young age and so early in my ministry has been a true blessing,” Rev. Justin said. “Planting a church in the Cy-Fair area has been incredible. With the great growth of the area it has been a lot of fun and it has had its challenges, all good, in that we have grown so fast.”

Rev. Justin has been married to Susan since 1996. They have two children - son, Covell, a 5th grader at Birkes Elementary; and daughter, Cooper, a 2nd grader at Birkes.

In his spare time, he enjoys working out at the YMCA, snow skiing, traveling, reading, and golfing.