

CHRIST THE KING EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WE ARE CALLED "TO BE A LIGHT, LIVING AS A WITNESS TO CHRIST'S LOVE, SERVING AND NURTURING ALL"

CTK Headlines

The Bishop visits Christ the King

It was a SUPER SUNDAY February 3rd, filled with Baptisms, Confirmations and Receptions! Bishop Andrew Doyle visited Christ the King, joining us for Holy Eucharist, a congregation reception and a special performance with our children's choir!



March 2013

The Rev. David Nelson

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www.CTKAtascocita.org

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New Hospitality Committee

Webster defines hospitality as: "The friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers." However, I think the Bible has a better grasp on the word.

Read more about our Hospitality Committee on page

Outreach Report:

- ✓ We delivered 265 items of food to CUIC last month!

From the Desk of David



Father David Nelson

Practice, Practice, Practice

A man was walking down the street in New York City and he asked, "How do I get to Carnegie Hall?"

The man answered, "Practice, practice, practice."

This story recalls one of the most basic truths of life. If you want to be good at something, you have to practice. There is no substitute for practice. No shortcuts will suffice. Practice is hard work, and it takes a lot of time before you see any results.

Most of us are comfortable applying this truth about practice to disciplines such as sports, music, or career development. When talking about the spiritual life, practice seems like an odd word. When we think about spiritual practice, some people get uneasy. They fear we are talking about some kind of works righteousness.

Spiritual practice must always be about staying focused on loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39). Spiritual practices include prayer, confession, stewardship, hospitality, service, evangelism, teaching, and many more. Spiritual practices are ways to nurture your relationship with God and others.

Lent is the season when we especially focus on spiritual practice. Jesus demonstrated spiritual practices of prayer, often getting up early in the morning to be with God or getting away when life was too busy. Peter didn't want Jesus to struggle with spiritual practices. Peter didn't think the Messiah should have to practice his spiritual faith so much (Matthew 16:22). After all, Jesus would endure sleepless nights and even a prayer to "let this cup pass." (Matthew 26:39). I think this was his way of saying that a deep relationship with our Heavenly Father requires "practice, practice, practice."

So I encourage you this Lent to practice your faith. If you keep practicing, you never know when God will call you to serve someone in need. May God bless you as you practice living out your faith.

Yours in Christ,
Father David Nelson†

"Spiritual practices are ways to nurture your relationship with God and others."

~~HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE~~

continued from page 1...

The Bible defines hospitality as:

Romans 12:11-13 - Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant. Don't quit in hard times; pray all the harder. Help needy Christians; *be inventive* in **hospitality**.

Romans 16:1-2 - Be sure to welcome our friend Phoebe in the way of the Master, with all the generous **hospitality** we Christians are *famous for*.

2 Corinthians 7:13-15 - Titus saw for himself that everything I had said about you was true. He can't quit talking about it, going over again and again the story of your prompt obedience, and the dignity and sensitivity of your **hospitality**.

Philemon 1:7 - Friend, you have no idea how good your love makes me feel, doubly so when I see your **hospitality** to fellow believers.

Hebrews 13:1-4 - Why, some have extended **hospitality** to angels without ever knowing it!

3 John 1:5-7 - Dear friend, when you extend **hospitality** to Christian brothers and sisters, even when they are strangers, you make the faith visible. They've made a full report back to the church here, a message about your love. It's good work you're doing, helping these travelers on their way, **hospitality** worthy of God himself!

I like the Romans 12 reference to being inventive (my emphasis) in hospitality. I'd say coffee and donuts on Sunday morning is expected, but maybe not inventive. Let's put on our thinking caps and prayerful thoughts forth and see what gracious offerings we can bring.

How about Romans 16 that Christ the King could be famous for our hospitality? I think word has gotten out that we are a friendly bunch, that is for certain.

2 Corinthians mentioned sensitivity of hospitality, and I believe that would include those possibly in need of a home-cooked meal delivered. No reason hospitality has to stay within the church walls!

Philemon encourages us to extend hospitality to fellow believers, and I certainly think at Christ the King we are good at that and maybe could even be better.

Hebrews entreats us that in our hospitality we could be serving angels without ever knowing it! As Jesus stated, when you serve the least of my brothers, you serve me.

3 John encourages us that extending hospitality is faith made visible. Now that's what I call evangelism at its finest.

Barbara Goodson
Vestry Member, Hospitality

~~ LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS ~~

Spring is almost in the air!!! The **YARD CREW** is looking for a few more volunteers.
Please contact Aaron Holbrook if you are interested.

There is a **HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE** at Christ the King in its infant stages!

We welcome your participation and input.

Please contact Barbara Goodson for more information:
713-657-5654 or email: barbara.goodson@cwland.com

~~ Reflections on the 164th Annual Council~~

Reflections on the 164th Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas *Que Todos Seamos Uno / That We All May Be One*

For many years, my favorite parade has been the Triumphal Scene in Verdi's great opera, *Aida*. Not anymore! This year I had the privilege of representing CTK at the Annual Council of our diocese, my first time to serve in that capacity. On Friday evening, February 8th, the Council opened with Divine service, beginning with a grand parade—no elephants or camels, but an unbelievably long column of clergy, representing each of the 173 parishes and missions participating in the Council plus a few visiting bishops from Mexico, Pakistan, Africa, and Ft. Worth. As I stood, singing *Jesus Shall Reign* and watching this impressive procession, I was overcome with emotion and humility—I am one member of CTK, CTK is one parish in a large diocese, and our diocese is just one of more than a hundred in the Episcopal Church in the United States. I felt like Galileo looking at all those previously unseen stars. Wow!

The service was conducted in a mixture of English and Spanish. This was a little confusing at times, but also a vibrant demonstration of the diversity of our diocese. The sermon was delivered by a distinguished visitor, the Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Mexico. He explained that until 20 or so years ago the Diocese of Mexico operated as a mission of The Episcopal Church USA, "our mother and our teacher." He went on to discuss the importance of the missionary role of the church, and how that has changed. In the past we sent missionaries all over the world, but now the mission of our diocese is to minister to the thousands of people from all parts of the world who have come here to Texas. Fittingly, just before the sermon we had sung the wonderful

hymn, *In Christ there is no East or West (Ni oriente ni occidentye)*.

We reconvened on Saturday for the business session of Council. The Bishop opened with some announcements. If that makes you think "ho-hum," think again! We learned that St. Catherine of Sienna (Missouri City) had accomplished the task of shedding its cocoon of mission status and has been received as a parish in our diocese! Council delegates stood and applauded to welcome the new parish. The door was flung open and the people of St. Catherine—well over a hundred of them—marched in, joyfully waving flags and singing a hymn they had chosen for the occasion, their parish banner aloft in the center of it all. Yes, it was another great parade!

Another highlight of the morning session was the Bishop's Address. Bishop Doyle, always a powerful speaker, presented his vision of the mission of our diocese today and in the future, as the population of our part of the state experiences amazing growth which "will require innovation in our mission." He proclaimed that "Christian mission thrives in a time of change," and stated that "Texas is our field to plow and sow" and "we have a foreign mission in our own back yard." He talked about some ways that our mission strategic plan needs to change, particularly with respect to the St. Luke's Health System. We must also be innovative in our evangelism, keeping our promise that "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You."

The Bishop's comments on evangelism reminded me that earlier, another speaker had given an announcement about National Back to Church Sunday, an ecumenical event scheduled for September 15th. Did you know that 3 out of 4 people say they would attend a church service if someone invited them, but the average

Episcopalian only invites someone to church once every 37 years? Hmmmm. Do we dare?

We proceeded to carry out the business of the Council. We listened to committee reports and elected people to serve on committees. We voted to approve some proposed amendments to the Constitution and Canons of the diocese, and voted to reject others. Was this exciting? Not very, but

it was our job to take care of this business, and we did our job, with diligence and dignity.

The next Annual Council will be in Galveston next February. I urge all of you to consider volunteering to stand for election as one of our four delegates.

Barbara Spence
Council Delegate

~~Recognizing & Appreciating God's Miracles~~

It is amazing to think that the first quarter of 2013 is quickly disappearing. It seems just the other day that we celebrated the amazing gift of the Christmas story and the Christ Child, and here we are in the season of Lent, preparing for the greatest gift of all, the resurrection and the promise of everlasting life.

That promise is reflected in the coming of spring. Have you noticed the pear trees and the azaleas blooming? The grass is greening and the sound of birds is all around – the purple martins will be here imminently. Rebirth is reflected in the earth in the great cycle of life that God has arranged. Take time to appreciate this miracle.

In terms of miracles, the most beautiful of all are the new lives that have become members of our church. Once again, a reminder of God's love for us and the promise of life are presented to us. It is hard to imagine, but God's infinite love for us even surpasses the love that we have for our children and families. It is indeed a miracle to experience that love and to share it with our children and those people who are dear to us.

Even as God has gifted us with all these beautiful things, there may be elements that don't seem so beautiful. I notice them in my greening grass – there are also many greening weeds in my grass! Aargh!

However, those weeds feed birds, animals, and even people.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, and in God's eyes, all these things are beautiful. We need to be aware of that as we survey our grass – and most importantly, people that we see around us. Those at LOTS and those at HAAM and those who appear on street corners are just as loveable as those people we approve of. Again, we need to be aware of the miracle and magnitude of God's love.

As we travel through this special season of Lent, look for and be aware of God's miracles. Anne Lamott has a new book out, *Help, Thanks, Wow*. It is just a small book and a quick read, but quite pithy. Her book reminds me that as we pray, we are definitely in the season of "Wow"!

So, I would suggest that this Lenten season be a time of contemplation and appreciation of all the miracles that God has showered us with and continues doing. It helps to be quiet so that we may be aware of and recognize all the wonder that God has created and given us.

Teresa Simmons
Vestry Member, Christian Education



~~NEWCOMER CORNER~~

Since this is our March newsletter, we are now in the middle of our Lenten season. Did you give something up for Lent? Or, as is popular now, did you take something on? Perhaps if you're a real glutton for punishment, you did both, as I did! But our notions of what Lent is about have deepened. My mom still gives up sweets every year, which was a real hardship for me as a child, since she did the grocery shopping. But I never could see the relationship between God and chocolate.

Lenten disciplines are supposed to weed out the clutter in our lives, and help us focus on what is truly important. And welcoming visitors to Christ the King is an important part of our service to God. But sometimes we can lose focus on WHY it's important.

New members are vital to the health of our church. But if we only welcome newcomers in hopes that they will join our church, we are missing the point and

setting ourselves up for disappointment. Welcoming is not necessarily about membership; it is about ministry. If someone only comes for one Sunday, then we have ministered to them in some way. If newcomers are with us for a while, and decide not to join, then we have contributed to their spiritual growth and discernment. What is important is that we have shared God's love with them.

Lent is a perfect time to be intentional in welcoming the newcomer. Just a smile and a handshake, with a simple "Have we met?" is all it takes. But to learn more about our Newcomer Ministry at Christ the King, please come to our planned conversations about welcoming the newcomer during the adult Sunday School hour, starting April 14th. That's after Easter, so I may even bring chocolate.

Tracy Painter
Newcomer Coordinator

~~ ALTAR GUILD ~~

We are a group of dedicated people who take care of the altar, the Lord's Table. We take care of placing the clean linens on the altar, changing the hangings for the appropriate church season color, cleaning the brass and the silver, marking the Bible for the lessons, placing the hymn numbers on the boards, and anything that is associated with the weekly services.

We work in groups of about 4 members, setting up the church usually on a Saturday morning, sometimes Friday, depending on people's availability and schedules. On Sunday morning we take care of switching between the 8.00am service and the 10.30am service, and then clean up after the 10.30am service.

We currently have 4 groups, so we are on duty about one week each month. The more people we have trained, the less frequent our duty week. We give hands-on training as a part of a group, so your training will not be complete until all weekly duties

are covered and practiced, and you feel comfortable with the procedures.

When the church season demands it, then the on-duty group for that week may be responsible for mid-week services, like Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, etc. We also prepare for Weddings, Funerals, and Baptisms, which may also occur during the week. Two times a year we have a big clean up when all members are requested to attend to help with the cleaning of the candle sticks and all brass within the church.

If you would like to join this dedicated group, then please call me, Sue Acaster, 281-728-3927 or e-mail me at racaster@comcast.net. We look forward to welcoming you to the group!

Sue Acaster
Altar Guild





~~CALENDAR OF EVENTS~~

- 3/3 First Sunday Lunch immediately following the 10:30 am service. Everyone is welcome!
- 3/5 The *Breakfast Brothers* are meeting at IHOP in Atascocita at 8:00 am. Bring a friend!
- 3/9 **Brotherhood Retreat - "It's a Man's Job."** 8:00 am at the church.
- 3/14 The *Daughters of the King* are meeting at the church at 7:00 pm.
- 3/10 & 3/24 The **Youth Group** is meeting at the church at 6:00 pm.
- 3/19 The *Vestry* is meeting at the church at 7:00 pm.

LENTEN SEASON

Lenten Bible Study: Wednesday evenings, February 20th – March 20th from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
Palm Sunday Services: Sunday, March 24th, 8:00 am & 10:30 am
Maundy Thursday Service: Thursday, March 28th, 7:00 pm
Good Friday Services, Stations of the Cross: Friday, March 29th, noon & 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday Services, Flowering of the Cross: Sunday, March 31st, 8:00 am & 10:30 am

~ March 2013 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:00 am Service 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Service 12 noon 1 st Sunday Lunch	4	5 8:00 am @ IHOP Breakfast Brothers	6 6:30 – 8:00 pm Lenten Bible Study with Soup Dinner	7	8	9 8:00 am – 12:45 pm "It's a Man's Job" Brotherhood Retreat
10 8:00 am Service 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Service 6:00 pm Youth Group	11	12	13 6:30 – 8:00 pm Lenten Bible Study with Soup Dinner	14 7:00 pm Daughters of the King	15	16
17 8:00 am Service 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Service	18	19 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	20 6:30 – 8:00 pm Lenten Bible Study with Soup Dinner	21	22	23
24 PALM SUNDAY 8:00 am Service 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Service 6:00 pm Youth Group	25	26	27	28 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	29 12 noon 7:00 pm Good Friday Services Stations of the Cross	30
31 EASTER SUNDAY 8:00 am Service 10:30 am Service 12 noon Easter Egg Hunt and Family Pictures	Notes:					



It's a Man's Job

The Brotherhood of St Andrew is sponsoring a 1-day retreat for men, to explore the role of a Christian man in today's society

Men with widely varying backgrounds share their stories

**Saturday, March 9th
8:00 am – 12:30 pm**

*Sign up sheet on the church bulletin board
All men in the community are invited*

See BARRY ROUGHT for more information



LOTS Spring Luncheon

It's the Annual
Lord of the Streets
Fund Raiser

**Friday, May 10th
11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

\$100 per seat, see Bob Keller for more information

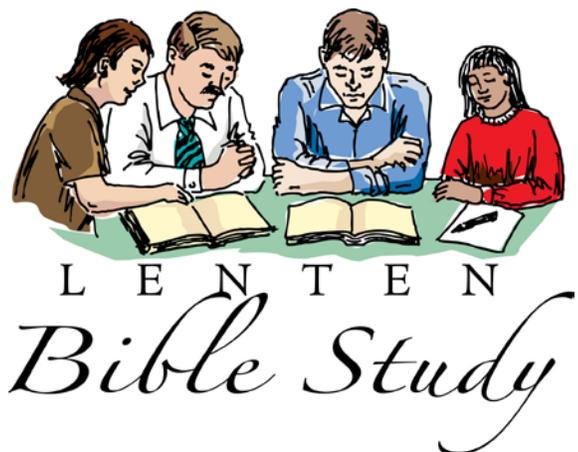


Lenten Bible Study

Join us for a Lenten Program as we share our own stories in faith. Study and Soup Dinner.

**Wednesdays, February 20th – March 20th
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at the Church**

*The study group will participate in Lent Madness:
<http://www.lentmadness.org/category/lent-madness-2013/>*





Lenten Season

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Sunday, March 31st, 8:00 am & 10:30 am



Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Egg Hunt

Calling all Easter Eggs!

Start gathering the eggs and candy.
We plan on having a large Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:30
Easter Service

Sunday, March 31st
Noon, after Easter Service

*We will be inviting the entire community,
so we want to make sure we have plenty of goodies!*

PHOTOS



Easter Family Photos

Christ the King is offering
FREE family photos
to the community!

Sunday, March 31st
After each Sunday Service

1 FREE Picture will be printed for each family

See Rachel Taylor if you want to volunteer to help with the event

~~MEET OUR STAFF~~

CHRIST THE KING STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend David Nelson, Rector	ctkrector@embarqmail.com
Edie McDaniel, Church Secretary	christthekingepiscopal@embarqmail.com
Drew Balog, Organist	ctkmusic@embarqmail.com
Amy Beesley, Youth Minister	ctkyouth@embarqmail.com
Tracy Painter, Newcomer Coordinator	tracypainter@gmail.com

All 5 Staff Members can be reached via phone through the main church line: (281) 852-1990

CHRIST THE KING 2013 VESTRY MEMBERS

Your vestry is a group of lay members elected by you, the church members, to serve with the rector as the leadership and governing body of the church. Through an annual retreat, and monthly and other special meetings, the rector and vestry are responsible to set and oversee the vision of ministry for the church, and to conduct the business of the church as required by canon or civil law. All committees, commissions, or other church groups and their ministries come under the oversight of the vestry.

Each Sunday you can find a ‘Vestry Person of the Day’ present during the services for announcements, and available before and after each service for any questions any parishioner or newcomer might have about the church or any of the ministries.

Carol Martin, <i>Senior Warden</i>	(713) 504-1852	cmartin@winstead.com
Aaron Holbrook, <i>Junior Warden</i>	(713) 851-7178	holbrookfarm@hotmail.com
Billie Bailey, <i>Evangelism</i>	(281) 381-7216	luv2lern7118@yahoo.com
Barbara Goodson, <i>Hospitality</i>	(713) 657-5654	barbara.goodson@cwland.com
John Holmes, <i>Finance</i>	(281) 948-3425	jrholmes44@gmail.com
Robert Keller, <i>Outreach</i>	(713) 885-7280	baileyblvd@msn.com
Mike McDaniel, <i>Stewardship</i>	(281) 798-8053	m.e.mcdaniel@hotmail.com
Teresa Simmons, <i>Christian Ed</i>	(713) 302-8143	teresasimmons@mac.com
Rachel Taylor, <i>Publicity</i>	(713) 703-4099	rtaylor2325@yahoo.com
Charlie Tyler, <i>Treasurer</i>	(225) 571-9214	ctyler@tsila.com
Rosalie Pyle, <i>Clerk of the Vestry</i>	(832) 677-6110	rosaliepyle@gmail.com

One of the responsibilities of the vestry, along with the rector, is managing the church’s finances. We feel it’s important that our parishioners have a sense of our church’s financial position.

Here is a snapshot of our January 2013 Financial Statement:

Operating Fund

Beginning Balance	\$65,757.50
Revenue	+\$19,727.47
Expenses	-\$22,677.67
Ending Balance	\$62,807.30

Building Fund

Beginning Balance	\$17,965.32
Revenue	+\$500.00
Expenses	-\$0
Ending Balance	\$18,465.32



3/4	Henry Lee	3/16	Mysterie Dalles-Joiner
3/4	Bill Reed	3/18	Allahyea Preston
3/5	Fiona Aston	3/19	Rod Rodriguez
3/8	Robin Dieter	3/20	Marlene Richeson
3/11	Drew Balog	3/21	Shawn Sanders
3/11	Tom Hale	3/27	Kenny Loo
3/12	Bade Baker	3/31	Theresa Reed

Birthday Prayer

Watch over thy child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever he may be. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* fall; and in *his* heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

March 2013

3/17 Tom & Debra Hale
 3/18 Bruce & Diane Newport
 3/25 Mike & JoAnne Stermon
 3/30 Don & Janice Hardy



Anniversary Prayer

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting. **Amen.**

Flowers by Laura *flowers for any occasion*

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Christ the King Episcopal Church

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(281) 852-9073

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ChristTheKingEpiscopal@embarqmail.com

We're on the Web!

Find us at:

www.CTKAtascocita.org

About Christ the King

Christ the King is a pastoral size parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. We are a compassionate, generous, outreach-oriented congregation. We serve the communities of Atascocita, Humble, Kingwood, Crosby, Huffman and Summerwood. Come visit us for Sunday Service and learn about all the wonderful things our church has to offer!

Our Mission

To be a light, living as a witness to Christ's love, serving and nurturing all

Jesus is Lord – Following the teachings of Christ as revealed in the Scriptures

Outreach – Committing to Christ-centered service

You are Welcome – Respecting the dignity of all God's children

Faith and Fellowship – Growing together in joyful celebration of our faith in Christ

United in Prayer and Worship – Praising God through our liturgy

Love as Christ Loves Us – Nurturing our Community

Weekly Schedule

SUNDAY MORNING

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist
9:15 am	Sunday School
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist with music

For newsletter comments or
submissions, email:
rtaylor2325@yahoo.com



CHRIST THE KING

19330 Pinehurst Trail Drive
Atascocita, TX 77346

