

# 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

### *Visit with former CTK Rector, Jim Abernathy*

The weekend of September 17<sup>th</sup>, four parishioners, Deb Tisch, Debbie Lee, Rosemary Sullivan and Theresa Reed, set out on a road trip to Palacios, Texas. The purpose of the trip was to spend some quality time with Father Jim Abernathy, former rector of Christ the King. Fr. Jim took the group on a tour of historical landmarks in the area. One of the most interesting was Christ Church in Matagorda, which is the oldest Episcopal church in Texas, established in 1838. The group was treated to lunch at the historic Hotel Blessing Coffee Shop in Blessing, Texas, built in 1906. Lots of fun stories, good company and good food were had by all.



### October 2011

The Rev. David Nelson

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### *It's HARVEST Time Again*



Although stewardship is a full-time opportunity, we tend to focus on it as the year draws to an end. In recent years, our theme has been centered around the harvest and celebrating the bounteous gifts God has given us, and how we can give back to God in thanksgiving.

This year will be no different. *Read more about "Ripe for the Harvest" on page 4...*

#### **Outreach Report:**

- ✓ We delivered 155 items to CUIC on August 24<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ We raised \$856 for NETS FOR LIFE – enough for 71 nets!

## *From the Desk of David*



Father David Nelson

As a priest, I have heard many 'war stories' from Christians (or ex-Christians) who have had negative experiences with stewardship campaigns. I have noticed two general tendencies from the leaders of stewardship campaigns that tend to turn people off. Here they are:

### *1) "If only you gave more..."*

The obviously problem with this approach is that it is judgmental. The speaker falsely assumes to know the financial situation and spiritual commitment of each member. At any given parish there is a great mixture of giving habits. Some give at or above 10%, others closer to 5%, some give occasionally, and others not at all. Making 'blanket statements' about the stewardship of the entire congregation is unwise. Those who give a lot resent such comments, while those who give little feel embarrassed or ashamed.

### *2) "If only you gave as much as so and so..."*

This approach resembles how parents may tell their children, "If only you would be more like your brother or sister..." Few of us are inspired by this method. More typically, people feel their offering is not valued. The other problem with this approach is that it opens the door to feelings of self-righteousness from those who give the most.

So what are we to do? Looking at Jesus, he was able to maintain a wonderful balance in life. He was gentle with those whom the world labeled as lesser: children, sinners, tax collectors, etc. At the same time, he was tough on those the world labeled as greater: religious leaders, self-righteous people, etc. Jesus both accepted and challenged the people around him. That is why Jesus can be accurately pictured as a gentle shepherd and an angry man with a whip cleansing the temple! I hope that our stewardship efforts will reflect the acceptance of Jesus while staying true to the challenging nature of following Jesus. Holding that balance in a stewardship campaign is difficult, yet we are called to be true to the way of Jesus.

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*"I hope that our stewardship efforts will reflect the acceptance of Jesus while staying true to the challenging nature of following Jesus."*

This year we are going to continue the Ripe for the Harvest campaign. As you may know the commitment cards include various different ways to offer your gifts to God. There is room for each person to share their celebrations, pains/concerns, and dreams. Please see Shawn Sanders article "It's Harvest Time Again" for more details about last year's results, the progress made in addressing the concerns, and information about this year's Ripe for the Harvest. I have found the information from last year's campaign to be an invaluable resource in understanding the joys and concerns of our parish. Thank you to all who participated. I hope our stewardship campaign will be a joyful celebration of the many blessings God has given us.

Yours in Christ,  
Father David Nelson†

## ~~CALENDAR OF EVENTS~~

- 10/2, 10/16 & 10/30 The **Youth Group** will meet at the church at 6:30 pm.
- 10/4 The **Breakfast Brothers** are meeting at IHOP in Atascocita at 8 am. Bring a friend.
- 10/9 What a special treat during both services and the Sunday School hour – local children’s author Hilary Sellar will be presenting to our congregation!
- 10/13 The **Daughters of the King** are meeting at the church at 7 pm. All ladies are invited to join us.
- 10/15 Join us at the church for a special **“Ripe for the Harvest”** evening and Stewardship Kick-Off Dinner!!
- 10/16 We are serving breakfast at LOTS. We are meeting at the church at 6 am to carpool.
- 10/22 It’s a Pizza Party for the Family Circuit Crowd! 6 pm at the Buras house, sign up on the board.

*Special Enrichment Classes:*

**Confirmation Class:** Sundays in October at 9:15 am  
**‘A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23’:** Wednesdays in October at 6:30 pm

~ October 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2</b> 8 am Service 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Service Noon 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Lunch 4:15 pm Choir Practice 5:30pm Blessing of the Animals 6:30 pm Youth Group	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8 am Breakfast Brothers @ IHOP	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm ‘A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23’ Bible Study & Compline	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8 am Service 9:15 am Presentation by Hilary Sellar 10:30 am Service 4:15 pm Choir Practice	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30 pm ‘A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23’ Bible Study & Compline	<b>13</b> 7 pm Daughters of the King	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:00pm Ripe For the Harvest Stewardship Kick-off Dinner
<b>16</b> 6am Breakfast at LOTS 8 am Service 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Service 4:15 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm Youth Group	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7 pm Vestry Meeting	<b>19</b> 6:30 pm ‘A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23’ Bible Study & Compline	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 6:00 pm Family Circuit Dinner Pizza Party hosted by the Buras family
<b>23</b> 8 am Service 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Service 4:15 pm Choir Practice	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30 pm ‘A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23’ Bible Study & Compline	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8 am Service 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Service 4:15 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm Youth Group	<b>31</b>	<b>Notes:</b>				



## ~~RIPE FOR THE HARVEST~~

*Continued from page 1...*

On Saturday evening, October 15, we will gather at the church for our kick off dinner and "Ripe for the Harvest" campaign, part 2. The dinner is provided free of charge by the church and all members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to attend and participate. RSVP information will be sent in various forms, including separate first class mail and e-mail updates. The meal is being catered by Italiano's near the church and will feature lasagna, spaghetti, salad, bread, dessert, tea and wine (for the adults). All you have to do is show up and eat and enjoy fellowship with other members and friends of the congregation. Following the meal, we will have a brief discussion on a stewardship related topic by table groups, then a brief description of the Ripe for the Harvest program and hand out commitment cards.

Ripe for the Harvest is a way for us to share our Celebrations, Dreams and Concerns as a tool to assist the vestry and rector on things we are doing well and things that need to be addressed.

In 2010, the top 3 celebrations were the pipe organ, the renovations in the narthex (parish hall), specifically the tile floor and paint, and the stained glass window over the altar.

The top dreams for 2010 were for congregational growth, new offices/classrooms, a playground and a nursery. Of these top 4 items, two are noticeable improvements: increases in growth and the nursery. The other two are in the discussion phase.

The top concerns or pains for 2010 included the following: parking lot surface, service music, sanctuary carpet, outdated web site and the fundraising burden on a small congregation. Of these items the web site has been updated and is maintained regularly by a member of the congregation, Rachel Taylor (sharing her time and talents). We have a phenomenal committee of volunteers and vestry members bringing energetic and creative ideas through our fundraising committee, chaired by Rachael Shedeed (who deserves a big thanks and recognition for her time and talents).

Other areas where Ripe for the Harvest has had effect on the church are as follows:

### Dreams:

- ✓ We have experienced growth as a congregation, in committees and in outreach.
- ✓ We have purchased new vestments for the chalice bearers.
- ✓ We have had a kitchen organization party.
- ✓ We have officially opened our nursery!!

### Dreams that are in the next tier of consideration:

- Children's Chapel - in the planning stages, with a goal of early 2012.
- Parish Hall
- Ice Machine - anyone interested in donating/funding?
- Growth in Choir - in progress and everyone is welcome to join!

Concerns: We have addressed the following concerns/pains over the last year:

- ✓ We have a new (and current) website.
- ✓ Our fundraising committee is active and successful.
- ✓ Communication with the congregation has improved with weekly e-mail reminders and a newly formatted monthly newsletter.
- ✓ We have found a permanent (and wonderful) rector, Father David Nelson.
- ✓ Volume from altar - the sound system & speaker have been repaired in narthex and a new speaker was installed in the nursery.
- ✓ Sanctuary lighting - in progress for altar spots.
- ✓ Choir practice/Sunday school conflict resolved with choir practices now at 4:15 pm on Sunday afternoons.
- ✓ Street signs - in progress for new signs on each end of Pinehurst Trail Drive.
- ✓ Sunday school attendance has increased.
- ✓ Acolyte seating arrangement has been established.
- ✓ The "tragic table" has been removed from the narthex and replaced by a fitting donation.
- ✓ The [rector/vicar] pictures in the narthex have been moved over the windows of sanctuary.

As you can see we have accomplished a lot over the last year, but we still have a long way to go! And, we value your input and hope you will participate in the process, both by sharing your dreams, celebrations and concerns and by stepping up where you can contribute with your time, talents and treasures.

Ripe for the Harvest cards will be available starting after the kick off dinner on Saturday, October 15, through Sunday, November 20, at the conclusion of worship. Please feel free to submit your thoughts. The stewardship team will compile the results and post them within two weeks. From there, the rector and vestry will address the issues accordingly.

Over the course of time between October 23 and November 20, several people will share during worship how God has blessed them and what stewardship means to them. On Sunday, November 20, which is our feast day of Christ the King, we will have our ingathering and blessing of commitment cards at both services. Please pray for what you can contribute to the church in 2012 and remember: "All things come from Thee O God..." 1 Chronicles 29:14.

**God bless us all and Christ the King Episcopal Church, Atascocita.**

*Summary results continued on page 6...*

## ~~OUTREACH REPORT~~

Over the last several months, we have come together and served our brothers and sisters who are living among us as well as those who live around the world. In addition to the food that we collect for our local food pantries on a regular basis, we dug a little deeper this summer to help those in need. Please take a moment to read how we, as a church have been serving our brothers and sisters during the last several months.

[Lord of the Streets \("LOTS"\)](#). In June, we collected men's clothing for LOTS. George and Barbara Spence delivered a car load of clothing to LOTS following our very successful clothing drive. Many thanks to George and Barbara! We also served breakfast at LOTS in June, and those of us who served returned home with thankful hearts for the amazing ministry of LOTS.

[Humble Area Assistance Ministries \("HAAM"\)](#). In July, we collected baby items for HAAM. Donna Dalton delivered 120 pounds of baby items to HAAM. Many thanks to Donna!

[NetsforLife](#). In August, we collected money for the purchase of mosquito nets to assist with the prevention of malaria in the remote regions of sub-Saharan Africa. Each net costs \$12. The Diocese of Texas partnered with NetsforLife and Episcopal Relief and Development and requested that each family in the diocese donate at least one net to this worthy cause. We collected \$856, which was enough to

purchase approximately 71 nets! Thank you so much for your generous support of this very worthy cause.

[Food Pantries](#). In addition to all of the above outreach projects, you have continued to give so generously to feed those in need who are living among us. During the period of July - September, we delivered approximately 140 pounds of food to HAAM and 155 food items to Churches United in Caring!

As you can see, we have had a very busy summer of outreach. It is now time to focus on the remainder of this year.

[LOTS](#). In October, we will be collecting personal hygiene products for LOTS. LOTS has specifically requested the donation of toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and deodorant. There will be a box in the narthex where you can drop off these items.

[HAAM](#). Looking ahead, we will again be collecting food for HAAM's Annual Season of Sharing. Every year, HAAM puts together food baskets of donated food items and delivers them to those in need during the holiday season.

Thank you so much for your continued generous support of our outreach projects!

*Carol Martin  
Outreach Coordinator*



## ~~2010 RIPE FOR THE HARVEST FOLLOW-UP~~

Summary of results and progress made over the last year.

*Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts with us and helped us achieve so much!*

<b>Pains/Concerns</b>	<b>68</b>
Parking lot	8
Service Music	7
Sanctuary carpet	5
Website	5
Fundraising	5
Exterior lighting	4
Communications	3
Congregation Fellowship	3
Permanent Rector	3
Pews	3
Landscaping	2
Volume from Altar	2
Monthly Newsletter	2
(Lack of) Pipe Organ Recognition	2
Financial Situation	2
Replace Sanctuary lights	2
Choir practice/Sunday School conflict	2
Street signs	2
Sunday School	2
Acolyte Seating	1
Narthex table	1
Bathrooms	1
Narthex pictures	1

<b>Dreams</b>	<b>63</b>
Congregation Growth	20
New Office/Classrooms	6
Playground	6
Nursery	5
Children's Chapel	3
Parish Hall	3
Ice Machine	2
Growth in Choir	2
Growth in Committees	1
Growth in Outreach	1
Covered Entry	1
New Vestments	1
New Sanctuary	1
Island Space	1
Theme park guidance	1
Microwave	1
West Side Parking Lot	1
Rear Altar	1
New Church Location	1
2nd Building	1
Kitchen Organization	1
"Sick member" visits	1
Stained Glass in all Nave windows	1
Recycling program	1

<b>Improvements - Pains</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Improvements - Dreams</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59</b>

## ~~Did You Know?~~

- Our [BOOKS & BROWNIES FAIR](#) yielded \$856! A special thanks to Rachael Shedeed, our fundraising committee, the youth group, the Daughters of the King, and the wonderful volunteers that helped make the day a success!
- Mark your calendars now; we have [2012 LOTS dates for serving breakfast!](#)
  - February 26<sup>th</sup>
  - June 24<sup>th</sup>
  - October 28<sup>th</sup>
- There is an immediate need for [hygiene items at LOTS](#). We are collecting donated items during the month of October. There is a box in the narthex for donations.
- [Vestry Members & Council ELECTIONS](#) will be October 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Do you love to take photographs? Are you fascinated with all the wonderful activities we have going on at Christ the King? Maybe the new newsletter has you thinking how much you would enjoy writing feature stories, or maybe you have a hidden talent for spotlight interviews? Do you have ideas you would love to see in the newsletter? If you would be interesting in participating on an informal "[publicity](#)" committee, please see Rachel Taylor, or email [rtaylor2325@yahoo.com](mailto:rtaylor2325@yahoo.com)
- Have you noticed the new [church family photo directory](#) on the wall? If we missed taking your picture for the wall, please let Rachel Taylor know and we can schedule a time to take your family's picture. Also, Edie McDaniel, church secretary, has all the photos electronically. If you would like a copy, get her your email address!
- The Diocese of Texas would like you to know you can easily sign up for their "[Diolog](#)" magazine and [a weekly email](#) of things going on in the Diocese and what the other churches are doing. Here is all you need to do: Go to [www.epicenter.org](http://www.epicenter.org); scroll to the bottom of the website, look at the last column on the right, 6<sup>th</sup> link down to subscribe to E-newsletter. The rest is just step by step. It is a great way to stay in touch, get weekly news and see what all is going on.
- We are forming a [children's choir](#) at Christ the King! We need at least 8 children to start the choir. If your child is interested, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.
- Have you met our new [nursery attendants](#), Betty Geraci and Patricia "Tricia" Puryear? We are glad they are here. Stop by and introduce yourself and welcome them to our family!
- Look for upcoming events sponsored by our fundraising committee:
  - Children Art Christmas Cards – results and sellable items by October 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - 'Breakfast with Santa' – December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8 am – 10 am
  - 'Shopping Night Out' – December

## ~~MEET OUR STAFF~~

### CHRIST THE KING STAFF MEMBERS

Reverend David Nelson, Rector	<a href="mailto:ctkrector@embarqmail.com">ctkrector@embarqmail.com</a>
Edie McDaniel, Church Secretary	<a href="mailto:christthekingepiscopal@embarqmail.com">christthekingepiscopal@embarqmail.com</a>
Drew Balog, Organist	<a href="mailto:ctkmusic@embarqmail.com">ctkmusic@embarqmail.com</a>
Amy McDaniel, Youth Minister	<a href="mailto:ctkyouth@embarqmail.com">ctkyouth@embarqmail.com</a>

All 4 Staff Members can be reached via phone through the main church line: (281) 852-1990

### CHRIST THE KING 2011 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.

Rosemary Sullivan, <i>Senior Warden</i>	(512)450-8116	<a href="mailto:rosemary@collinsostrom.com">rosemary@collinsostrom.com</a>
Aaron Holbrook, <i>Junior Warden</i>	(713) 851-7178	<a href="mailto:holbrookfarm@hotmail.com">holbrookfarm@hotmail.com</a>
Stephen Buras	(225) 223-8112	<a href="mailto:stephen.buras@cebridge.net">stephen.buras@cebridge.net</a>
Robert Lunson	(713) 204-7581	<a href="mailto:robertlunson@gmail.com">robertlunson@gmail.com</a>
Carol Martin	(713) 504-1852	<a href="mailto:cmartin@winstead.com">cmartin@winstead.com</a>
Shawn Sanders	(832) 527-0778	<a href="mailto:bellzandwhistles@aol.com">bellzandwhistles@aol.com</a>
Rachel Shaye	(281) 507-4475	<a href="mailto:drshaye@entouch.net">drshaye@entouch.net</a>
Russell Strickland	(832) 671-2928	<a href="mailto:russd211@msn.com">russd211@msn.com</a>
Rachel Taylor	(713) 703-4099	<a href="mailto:rtaylor2325@yahoo.com">rtaylor2325@yahoo.com</a>
Robert Keller, <i>Church Treasurer</i>	(713) 885-7280	<a href="mailto:baileyblvd@msn.com">baileyblvd@msn.com</a>
Rosalie Pyle, <i>Clerk of the Vestry</i>		<a href="mailto:rosaliepyle@gmail.com">rosaliepyle@gmail.com</a>

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 August 2011 Financial Statement. *We are 72% to budget in pledges for the year.*

#### Operating Fund

Beginning Balance	\$53,896.74
Revenue	+\$19,110.51
Expenses	-\$15,944.08
Ending Balance	<b>\$57,063.17</b>

#### Building Fund

Beginning Balance	\$5,483.86
Revenue	+\$1,00.00
Expenses	-\$0
Ending Balance	<b>\$6,483.86</b>

## ~~OUR CHURCH IN PICTURES~~

The Adults Family Circuit was at it again!  
This time enjoying a pasta dinner  
at George & Barbara Spence's house  
on September 17<sup>th</sup>!



What a great turn out on Rally Day, August 28<sup>th</sup>, which was also 'First Communion' for the little ones!



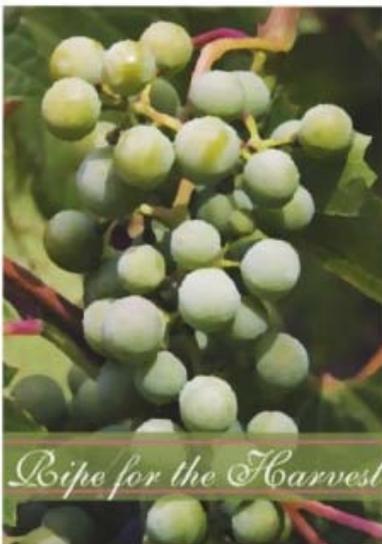
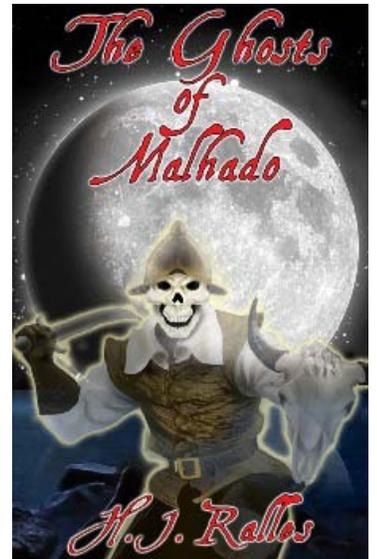
## ***Hilary Sellar Presentation***

We have a special treat for the congregation of Christ the King:

“H.J Ralles” is a children’s author and will be visiting with us!

**Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>  
8 & 10:30 am services  
and during the Sunday school hour**

We are fortunate to have Hilary in our community.  
*Proceeds from all book sales this day will benefit  
CTK*



## ***Ripe for the Harvest Dinner***

Make plans to join us for a special evening of fun, food and fellowship!  
Italiano’s dinner and table discussion kicking off our  
[Stewardship Campaign](#)

**Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>  
6:00 pm at the church**

*Please RSVP with the church*

*And let us know if you need any special assistance  
in transportation to attend the event*

## ***Family Circuit ‘Pizza & Play’ Party***

It’s time for a little family fun!  
Assorted board games and card games provided.  
At the home of the Buras family.

**Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
6:00 pm**

**\$5 per person, \$3 children 10 & under**  
*Sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board*





10/7	Rachael Shedeed	10/22	Dick Simmons
10/9	Lynda Rought	10/24	Billie Bailey
10/13	Glenn Smith	10/25	Debra Hale
10/14	Teresa Simmons	10/28	Avis Nance
10/15	Brad Painter	10/31	Albert Maende
10/17	Charlie Martin	10/31	Harry McCluskey

### *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.**

10/2 Bill & Theresa Reed  
10/8 Robert & Jill Stegall



### *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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We're on the Web!

*Find us at:*

[www.CTKAtascocita.org](http://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**

**J**esus is Lord – Following the teachings of Christ as revealed in the Scriptures

**O**utreach – Committing to Christ-centered service

**Y**ou are Welcome – Respecting the dignity of all God's children

**F**aith and Fellowship – Growing together in joyful celebration of our faith in Christ

**U**nited in Prayer and Worship – Praising God through our liturgy

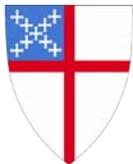
**L**ove as Christ Loves Us – Nurturing our Community

## 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](mailto:rtaylor2325@yahoo.com)



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