



CHRIST THE KING EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

November 2014

The Rev. David Nelson

19330 Pinehurst Trail Dr.
Atascocita, TX 77346

(281) 852-1990

www.CTKAtascocita.org

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THANKSGIVING - A TIME FOR SHARING



This year Humble Area Assistance Ministries ("HAAM") has requested that Christ the King gather boxes of mashed potatoes and cans of sweet corn to benefit their Seasons of Sharing program that provides Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday meals to underprivileged families. Debbie Lee will be delivering our contributions and will need to have your donation by Sunday, November the 9th.

Our regular donations give HAAM the capability to respond to 16,000 requests for food annually as well as assisting in paying rent, utilities and other basic living needs for those less fortunate. Food donations are accepted every Sunday throughout the year. If you would like more information, contact Debbie Lee, or visit their website at: www.haaministries.org.



**Christ the King to host the annual
Community Thanksgiving Service on
Sunday, November 23rd at 6:00 pm**

Christ the King is pleased to host this year's Community Thanksgiving Service. Make plans to come and be a part of this joyful event as we open our parish doors to members of the Atascocita United Methodist Church, Atascocita Presbyterian Church and Atascocita Lutheran Church, all of whom participate annually in this Community Thanksgiving worship service in our area.

Thanksgiving continued on page 4

From the Desk of David



Father David Nelson

“No guilt trips— just sharing my story about my joys and failures in giving thanks for God’s blessings.”

I recently preached a sermon confessing the many ways the church has used guilt trips and manipulation in order to meet the church budgets. It’s just wrong and frankly sinful.

I believe a better way to talk about stewardship is through personal testimony. When a person stands up and shares their joys and struggles with giving, our hearts are often transformed. I still hear people quoting from some of our stewardship talks from years ago from our parish members. During that sermon I also shared where our family is at in terms of giving to the church. We have given 8%, 11% and 11% in 2011, 2012, and 2013 respectively. We’re on pace for 10% in 2014.

When I came to Christ the King I never thought I would share such ‘personal’ information. I had two basic fears that kept me from sharing my percentage giving: 1) I was afraid that my pledge would be too low and my lack of commitment would cause others to lose motivation. 2) If my pledge was considered high that my sharing would sound like spiritual bragging. Notice that I created a no-win situation that led me to not talk about my personal giving.

Here is what changed my mind (and my heart). I attended a stewardship conference last year. The speaker, a Bishop named Greg Rickel, told his journey of stewardship. He noted that every dime of his salary was a gift from God and from the congregation. So he felt a responsibility to tell them what percentage of his salary he gave back to the Church. So he typed a letter and sent it to the entire mailing list. He was terrified that people would react negatively to his letter.

A couple of days later his phone rang. A woman said, “I got your letter.” After he braced for the worst she said this. “Your letter got me thinking. I looked at my giving to the church and discovered that I give more money to my cleaning lady than I give to the church.” She began to cry. Then she continued, “I love this church. My father was buried here, my children were baptized here, and many of my closest friends are here.” And, to his great surprise, she could not stop thanking him for opening up about a taboo subject. She wanted her giving to match her gratitude. She had a change of heart that was connected to her giving.

I love that story. Notice he just shared his giving. He didn’t give guilt trips or manipulations. His authentic approach convinced me to share my level of giving. I will continue to do this each year because you deserve to know (your pledges pay my salary). No guilt trips. No manipulations. Just sharing my story about my joys and failures in giving thanks for God’s blessings.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. David

~~CALENDAR OF NOVEMBER EVENTS~~

- 11/2 Stewardship Breakfast 9:00 am. EYC meets at 6:00 pm-7:30 pm.
- 11/4 The *Breakfast Brothers* will meet at IHOP in Atascocita at 8:00 am. Bring a friend!
- 11/7 Parents' Night Out 5:00 pm until 8:30 pm.
- 11/8 The *Brotherhood of St Andrew* will meet at 8:30 am.
- 11/13 The *Daughters of the King* will meet at 7:00 pm.
- 11/16 The EYC meets at 6:0 pm-7:30 pm.
- 11/18 The *Vestry* meets at 7:00 pm.
- 11/23 Community Thanksgiving Service 6:00 pm at Christ the King.
- 11/27 *Ladies Lunch Bunch* meet at noon at a designated local restaurant.

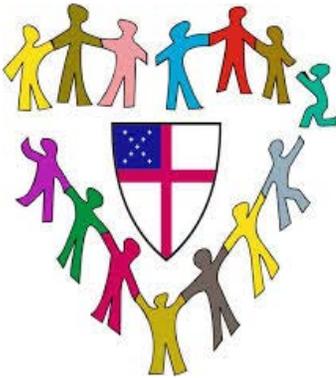
| ~ November 2014 ~ | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------|--|--|---|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 8:00 am Service 9:00 am Breakfast 10:30 am Service EYC 6:00-7:30 pm  | 3 | 4 8:00 am @ IHOP Breakfast Brothers  | 5 | 6 | 7 Parent's Night Out  5:00 pm until 8:30 pm | 8 8:30-9:30 am Brotherhood of St Andrew  |
| 9 8:00 am Service 9:15 am Choir and Confirmation Class 10:30 am Service | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 Daughters of the King 7:00 pm  | 14 | 15 |
| 16 8:00 am Service 9:15 am Choir and Confirmation Class 10:30 am Service EYC 6:00-7:30 pm | 17 | 18 Vestry 7:00 pm | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 8:00 am Service 9:15 am Choir and Confirmation Class 10:30 am Service Community Thanksgiving Service  | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 Ladies Lunch Bunch  | 28 | 29 |
| 30 8:00 am Service 9:15 am Choir and Confirmation Class 10:30 am Service | Notes: Dates to remember: Nov. 2 nd Stewardship Breakfast 9:00am; Nov. 9 th last day to give food donations to HAAM; and Sunday Nov. 23 rd Thanksgiving Community Service at 6:00 pm hosted by Christ the King. | | | | | |



~AT CHRIST THE KING THANKSGIVING IS ALL YEAR LONG~



Opportunities to give back to our community:



Lord of the Streets, often referred to as L.O.T.S., was established in 1990 dedicated to Houston's homeless. In 1993, Lord of the Streets became a special mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. Christ the King is one of the supporting parishes, giving of our time and funds. On Sunday, October 19th, a group of volunteers from Christ the King gathered at 6:15 am and traveled together to help serve a warm breakfast to hundreds of hungry, underprivileged men and women. If you ask anyone that has participated, they will tell you of what a moving experience it is to be a part of serving the hungry and needy of our community. Please consider volunteering in February to serve meals to the homeless and be blessed for the giving of your time (well spent). To learn more, visit: www.lordofthestreets.org.

FamilyTime Crisis and Counseling Center

Family Time Crisis and Counseling Center, located at 1203 S. Houston Avenue Humble, Texas 77338, provides services to families and individuals in crisis through counseling, crisis intervention, information and referral, and shelter. Christ the King gives a monthly donation to support this ministry.



Christ the King opens its doors each December on a designated Saturday to offer pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, breakfast and a craft as a special Christmas outreach to the local families in our community. This event has grown each year as the word of this loving outreach circulates. Dozens from CTK volunteered to assist with pictures, sign-up sheets, serving food and/or beverages, as well as crafts. Blessings abound to everyone that participates and it will be our only outreach event for the year. Contact Rachael Shedeed for more information: sasrks@hotmail.com.



Caring Ministry Programs

Churches United in Caring, also known as CUIC is located at 516 Church Street in Crosby, Texas. Christ the King supports its ministry with food every other month for their pantry and a monthly donation that is used for food, clothing, and financial assistance. CUIC serves the communities of Crosby, Barrett, and Huffman. They have more than 75 volunteers and is supported with the thrift shop, donations from the public, and through local churches.



Stewardship

**Tithing:
A Training Exercise for the Heart**

Excerpts from "Giving – Unlocking the heart of good stewardship"

by John Ortberg, Laurie Pederson, and Judson Poling

More

These four letters constitute one of the most powerful words in the English Language. Very smart people stay up at night trying to figure out ways to convince us that we are (or ought to be) discontent, and that we would achieve true satisfaction if we just had *more*.

All day long we are bombarded by the prophets of more. *Use me, buy me, drive me, wear me, try me, put me in your hair.* The things we can obtain just for more hair satisfaction are staggering! You can wash it, blow-dry it, condition it, color it, straighten it if it's too curly, curl it if it's too straight, wax it if it grows where it shouldn't, or Rogain it if it doesn't grow where it should. Just a little more of someone's product and you and your hair are sure to be happy.

Serving the "more monster" can never satisfy our souls. Yet in the short run, saying no to "more" can be difficult, even frightening.

No one sets out to be a greedy person, but it happens all the time – even in the church. Jesus saw it becoming an issue and made this sobering statement: "no one can serve two masters; for a slave will either

hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth" (Matt. 6:24 NRSV). Jesus did not say this to be harsh. He was just stating things the way they are. There is not room for two masters in a single heart.

What does it take to tame the monster of more? What does it take to transform a heart from greed to generosity? What we need, God has provided. It is called *tithing*.

Firstfruit tithing is one of the richest spiritual practices in all of Scripture. It provides a powerful series of reminders built into the very rhythm of our lives.

- *Every time I tithe*, I remind myself that God is on the throne. Not me. Not money
- *Every time I tithe*, I reinforce that all I have is from him. The tithe is not a tip for good service, as though God were some helper I could patronize. He is the Owner, I am the steward.
- *Every time I tithe*, I make a declaration: I will trust you, Got" – even when trusting doesn't feel easy or natural.
- *Every time I tithe*, I am reminded, even as I calculate the amount of my check, how much I've been given. I count my blessings, and in doing so, I put to death (or at least injure) the more monster in me.



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

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

CHRIST THE KING 2014 VESTRY MEMBERS – The vestry is comprised of a group of elected laity to serve with the rector as the leadership and governing body of the church. Through an annual retreat, monthly and other special meetings, the rector and vestry are responsible to set and oversee the vision of ministry for the church, its finances 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.

- | | | |
|--|----------------|--|
| Mike McDaniel, <i>Senior Warden</i> | (281) 798-8053 | m.e.mcdaniel@hotmail.com |
| Rachel Shaye, <i>Junior Warden/Stewardship</i> | (281) 507-4475 | rachel.shaye@aig.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>Outreach</i> | (281) 948-3425 | jrholmes44@gmail.com |
| Robert Keller, <i>Finance</i> | (713) 885-7280 | baileyblvd@msn.com |
| Mike McNeil, <i>Webmaster</i> | (936) 334-2498 | mmcneil@hardinisd.net |
| Rosalie Pyle, <i>Publicity</i> | (281) 360-5548 | rosaliepyle@gmail.com |
| Teresa Simmons, <i>Christian Ed</i> | (713) 302-8143 | teresasimmons@mac.com |

Vestry appointed positions: Charlie Tyler, *Treasurer* and Rachael Shedeed, *Clerk of the Vestry*

The vestry believes it is important that our parishioners have a sense of our church’s financial position each month.

Financial Statement as of September 30, 2014:

| <u>OPERATING FUND</u> | <u>ACTUAL</u> | <u>BUILDING FUND</u> | <u>RESERVE FUND</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| Beginning Balance: | \$66206.25 | \$32,104.62 | \$22,009.55 |
| Ending Balance: | \$70,063.52 | \$34,104.62 | \$22,217.88 |
| TOTAL: | \$126,386.02 | | |

ADVENT

Devotions



Billie Bailey is in need for volunteers of all ages to share their Christmas story about a special gift either given or received to compose the 2014 Advent Devotional booklet.

A sign-up sheet is on the Bulletin Board. Don't miss out on the opportunity to share your special gift story!



| | | | |
|-------|---------------|-------|-----------------|
| 11/7 | DeDe Holbrook | 11/15 | Sofia Reyna |
| 11/7 | Vivian Maende | 11/23 | Nancy Hahn |
| 11/14 | Rice Aston | 11/23 | Logan McNeil |
| 11/15 | Martin Reyna | 11/26 | Xavier Goudeaux |

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* falls; and in *his* heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

| | |
|-------|-----------------------|
| 11/4 | Alan & Fiona Aston |
| 11/13 | Gene & Paula Campbell |



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.**

EYC kicks off to a great start at CTK!



As you can see by the friendship “knot”, pictured to the right, our youth group has kicked off to a great start for the year with the careful guidance of Father David and Deb Tisch at the helm.

In November the Youth Group will meet from 6:00 pm until 7:30 pm Sunday, November 2nd and 16th. Special thanks to Deb Tisch for assisting Father David with planning, calling parents and leading the group.



Christ the King Episcopal Church

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We're on the Web!
www.CTKAtascocita.org

About Christ the King

Christ the King is a pastoral sized 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 & Choir |
| 10:30 am | Holy Eucharist with music |

For newsletter comments or
submissions, email:
Barbara.Goodson@cwland.com



Have you noticed how lovely the flower beds look now? That would be thanks to Brad and Tracy Painter, who again last month, without a word, gave of their resources in order to have the grounds at Christ the King beautified. Many may not realize that this dedicated couple routinely contributes toward keeping the plants and beds cared for out of their love and generosity for us and our Church home. Thank you so much Brad and Tracy!



According to Rachael Shedeed, it is not too early for the Elves to ready themselves for the big event at CTK Saturday, December 13th, so sign up for ways to be a giving Elf this year by:

- Sort & bag craft items for distribution.
- Set-up Friday night (decorations & photo area)
- Fill gift bags
- Donate Candy canes for Santa to pass out
- Assist with food pick up and serving

Invite a friend or neighbor. It's fun for the whole family!
For more information, contact Rachel: sasrks@hotmail.com