

INTERMISSION

2400 WILCREST DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77042
713-784-6620

WWW.CHRISTTHESERVANT.NET

COUNCIL COMMENTARY

Church Council met December 13, 2018 and Minutes are posted in the Minutes Binder located in the Narthex. Following review and approval of the November Meeting Minutes, considerable discussion was had regarding the directives and desires expressed by attendees at the December 2, 2018 Congregational Meeting. Church Council is well instructed by the meeting and thanks all attendees for their frank input on many issues. All views expressed in the Congregational Meeting will form part of Council's "roadmap" for the coming year.

Treasurer Susan Collins was out of town but provided several cost items for Council's consideration. Betsy recapped Susan's monthly report.

Financial Secretary Samantha Clark led a review of her report. Samantha also shared that she has accepted a job in Wisconsin and will be moving with her family to the Dairy State. Samantha has always provided complete and insightful reports, even throughout her pregnancy, and will be missed greatly. But we take heart in knowing she is "back home" and will be a blessing to others wherever she goes.

Youth and Family Director J.T. provided some written updates. Included is his thought to recruit volunteer mentors to work with students in the Confirmation Class. J.T. is looking to increase the content in the classes, and the interaction of mentors and students could serve to form even more significant relationships between the students and other generations of adults in our Congregation.

Director of Music John Krueger provided a written report, a highlight of which is that we will switch to Setting 4 on January 20. John will be in Denver January 2-7 to be seated in the North American Academy of Liturgy. Rob Carty will play the organ for us on January 6.

Pastor Jim will be away in Rome January 3 – 15, 2019 so Church Council will next meet January 17.

GARAGE SALE NEWS!

As a relative newcomer to CTS, I am continually impressed with the number of ministries our members can support. Here is a shameless plea for help with the Garage Sale. If you can give us any amount of your time, we can find the right job for you. A high schooler from Spring Branch who helps with creating the Homeless Ministry meal bags on Monday afternoons told me she "loves" putting the water bottles into the plastic Kroger bags because it's "mindless." Actually, I love that job, too. If you want a mindless job surrounded by great people, we can let you fold clothes, tape boxes or stack books. If you'd like a little more of a challenge, you can organize clothes—S/M/L, men's/women's, children's, tops/pants/sweaters/workout clothes... You get the idea. If you really want a challenge, you can price items. How hard is it? Simply write what you would pay. If you are "wrong," shoppers will always negotiate the day of the sale. For those counting their 10,000 steps, come to Fellowship Hall and get your workout. We always need people who can test electronics to see if they are working. The first question we are asked the day of the sale for any item with a plug is "Does it work?" It would save us precious time the day of the sale if we could confidently say, "Yes!" rather than, "I don't know."

In short, there is a job for everyone. You can even do what Megan Carlson did last year and make up a job—that of traffic director. She directed many shoppers into the parking lot by grabbing their attention by wearing a graduation gown and lampshade "hat."



We are all busy, so any amount of time the day of the sale or the week of preparation will be appreciated.

Mary Puccini, CTS Garage Sale Co-chair

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jesus and the Power of Satan

Beginning on Sunday, January 6, Pastor Steve Kelly will be presenting this topical Bible Study during the Sunday School hour at 9:30. It will explore the evolution of the concept of Satan from the Old to the New Testament. In addition, we will discuss evil in God's good and gracious world. This will be a 3-4 week study. Bring your Bibles, markers, and notebooks to get the full impact of this study.



Temptation of Christ in the Desert, 1633 Woodcut, British Museum

HELP NEEDED

Can Care Marathon Packet Stuffing

Volunteers are needed for stuffing marathon packets for CanCare. The packets will be stuffed here at the church from 9 am – 6 pm on January 11-12.

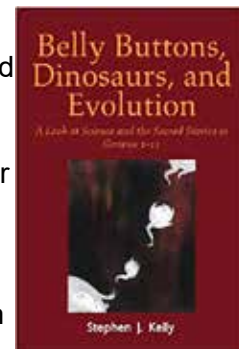
JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



- 7 Chandler and Laura Wilhelm
- 9 Richard and Denise Carlson
- 16 Richard Caldwell and Barbara Stuckey

CTS LIBRARY

Richard Carlson has been working on updating our CTS website. The list of our CTS Library books are now uploaded onto the website under Ministries. The categories are: Adult, Christian Fiction, Biography, Youth, Young Children and DVD. Check it out and borrow a good read!



Two copies of a book written by our own Pastor Stephen J. Kelly, *Belly Buttons, Dinosaurs, and Evolution, a look at Science and the Sacred Stories in Genesis 1-11*, are now in our library.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Trey Iversen
- 3 Gabriel Lares
- 6 John Mfungo
- 9 Joan Herbanek
Bruce Palfreyman
Clara Shoemaker
- 16 Tina Blockhus
Mary Becker
Mike Saunders
Joan Nilsen
- 19 Sharon Stultz
- 22 Lon Hileman
- 23 Marcy Williams
- 24 Phyllis Richard
- 30 Zach Edwards



WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS!!

The month of December was very busy and filled with fun, fellowship and inspiration! We will be busy planning more fellowship and service projects for 2019 including our Annual Retreat!! Ladies stay tuned!



18 women attended the Brookwood Open House. We had a delicious buffet lunch, were graced with a touching play presented by the residents and we shopped until we dropped!



On December 5, we had a beautiful Advent worship service with "Ballet Grace" praising God through dance and movement. Chef YO prepared a sumptuous hot buffet lunch and Pastor Jim reminded us that there are "angels among us"!



Thanks to ALL the generous donations for "PJ's for Seniors"! Instead of PJ's and the complexity of ordering so many of the same, we had to switch gears and provided beautiful gift bags (80!) chock full of useful goodies for the Brookdale residents. I appreciate our volunteer elves Anansia, Bitsy, Carolyn and Edna and my dog Billy Boy" for bringing so many smiles to everyone!

Marcia Bower, Women's Ministry

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2018

	<u>October 31, 2018</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Income	\$55,890	\$606,768
Total Expenses	\$70,342	\$713,797
Loss	(\$14,452)	(\$107,029)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Those who continue to be impacted by Hurricane Harvey
 Sharon Amundson, sister of Paul Siegele
 John Barr, brother of June Jacobson
 Karen Bauer
 Susan Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen
 Dennis and Leonard Craig, brothers-in-law of Marilee Dittrich
 Jane Fontenot, grandma of Miley Rose
 Doug Gibson, friend of Phyllis and Monte Richard
 Phoebe Gilcrest, friend of Cheryl Skillman
 Vanita Homer
 George Knabb, brother of Jodie Davis
 Ron and Theresa Murawski, parents of Tim Murawski
 Mateo Puccini, nephew of Mary Puccini
 Ray Reider, brother of Russ Reider
 Wuanita Schaper, mother of Carol Klem
 Janet Schwahn
 Mary Shabunas, mother of Mary Hiestand
 Catherine Shoenfelt
 Edna Simmons, sister of Emma Hammett
 Cheryl Spear, mother of Tina Blockhus
 Marjorie Swartz, mother of Julie Heil
 Richard Thomas, brother-in-law of June Jacobson
 Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

As I write this article, I am recovering from a weekend of concerts and the annual Advent cantata, “Bwana Anakuja” (Jesus, He Is Coming) and gearing up for Christmas Eve. I wouldn’t necessarily call celebration the birth of Christ a “low-key” event, but there won’t be much in the way of drums on Christmas Eve. Over the course of fifteen Christmases working with Pastor Jim, we have come to the conclusion that there is (or at least should be) a place for the straightforward telling of the story and singing of the songs.

Much as I hate to say it, we just don’t have the forces for singing Christmas trees or full scale Messiah performances. We do have about three dozen very dedicated people who are able to do fine work on things like an Advent cantata and beautiful Holy Week services. In the case of this year’s cantata, we were able to incorporate the Sunday School children and set the whole group up for success – even our youngest, who kept the beat going throughout with egg shakers.

Easter is very late this year, and as a result Ash Wednesday is March 6. This gives all of us a chance to catch our breath and have some actual preparation time for the next project. My own next project is continuing the transcribing and translating of Tanzanian songs. I will be away the first week of January attending the annual conference of the North American Academy of Liturgy, which has accepted me for membership. This organization carries on research in various areas attached to corporate worship.

The “Liturgical Theology” seminar, which is the group I attend, will discuss (and start) a collaborative book on the subject, which boils down to the question of “how we worship is how we believe” (lex orandi, lex credendi). Given that I will be in a room full of PhD’s, my best contribution will be talking about “how this plays in the pews.”

Meanwhile, back to reading and practicing...

John Krueger
 Director of Music

JANUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Worship 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Christian Education- Sunday Classes for all ages 9:30-10:30 a.m.		1 Office Closed	2 7:30 AA Journey	3	4	5 9:30 Altar Guild
6	7 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	8	9 7:30 AA Journey	10 7:00 Council	11 Can Care Marathon Packet Stuffing 9:00 am-6:00 pm	12
13	14	15 5:30 WHAM ESL	16 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:30 AA Journey	17 5:30 WHAM ESL	18	19
20	21 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	22 5:30 WHAM ESL	23 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:30 AA Journey	24 7:00 Men Who Love Spaghetti 5:30 WHAM ESL	25	26
27	28	29 5:30 WHAM ESL	30 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:30 AA Journey	31 5:30 WHAM ESL		

CHURCH STAFF

This newsletter and a calendar of church activities are available on the CTS website at:
www.christtheservant.net

February newsletter information deadline is:
January 15

Please submit information and articles in **MSWord documents** to Laura Wilhelm at lvhwilhelm@comcast.net
Information may be edited to available space.

PASTOR

The Rev. James Giannantonio
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OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Betsy Riggs
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Jason "JT" Thomas
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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

John Krueger
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NURSERY CAREGIVER

Sandra Ani, Michelle Sanchez

SUNDAY CUSTODIAN

Sulma E. Cruz

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713-784-4742

If you would prefer to receive your monthly newsletter via email instead of US Postal mail, please let us know by contacting Betsy in the church office:

ctsoffice1@comcast.net

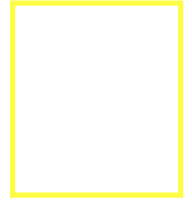
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JANUARY 2019

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Houston, Texas 77042

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2018 COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Cliff Mabry
President Elect: Chandler wilhelm **At Large:** Joanne Dumler-
Secretary: Ken Smith **At Large:** Linda Siegele
Treasurer: Susan Collins **At Large:** Chandler Wilhelm
Financial Secretary: Samantha Clark **At Large:** Bryant King

COMMITTEE CHAIRS, GROUP LEADERS, CONTACT PEOPLE

Acolytes	Inga Carlson, Michele Byrnes	Memorial Service Coordinator	Linda Iversen
Adult Christian Ed	TBA	Men Who Love Spaghetti	Roger Cutler
Altar Guild	Lori Wood	Nursery Attendant	Sandra Ani, Michelle Sanchez
Brookdale Ministry	Ken Smith, Carolyn Kirk	Opportunity Endowment Fund	TBA
CanCare Representative	Susan Kramer	Personnel	Inga Carlson, Ken Smith
Care Team	Arnie Kaestner	Prayer Chain	Marti Hatcher
College Ministry	Linda Shoemaker, Linda Siegele	Property	Brent Brown, Ron Herbanek
Disaster Response Team	Ron Herbanek	Sound Team	TBA 8:00 Service
Family Aid Ministry	Carolyn Giannantonio	Stewardship	Brent Brown-11:00 Service
Fellowship Committee	Rosalie Fontenot	Ushers	TBA
Greeters	Donna Schneider	WHAM Representatives	8:00 Russell Farmer
Homeless Ministry	Shirley Downing	Women's Ministry	11:00 Pat Welborn
Ladies Dinner Group	Mickey Walters	Worship and Music	Ken Smith
Lawn Care	Russell Farmer, Kevin Petterson		Marsha Bower
Lectors	Cliff Mabry		Lori Wood
Liturgical Assistants	Cliff Mabry		