

INTERMISSION

OPPORTUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

The Opportunity Endowment Fund is very happy to report that grants were awarded to the following worthy organizations this year:

PERIWINKLE FOUNDATION - \$2,500

Periwinkle develops and provides programs that positively change the lives of children, young adults and families who are challenged by cancer and other life-threatening illnesses and are cared for at Texas Children's Hospital.

NABOR HOUSE COMMUNITY - \$5,000

Nabor House Community invests in the development of low-income children and their families by providing quality, affordable early childhood centers within in a Christian environment.

LUTHERAN IMMIGRANT REFUGEES SERVICE "The Storybook Project" - \$2,500

LIRS has been a champion for refugees and migrants from around the Globe. The "Storybook Project" will provide migrant children a book designed and written especially for them to offer comfort and hope.

GULF COAST SYNOD DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM - \$5000

This dynamic team responds to the immediate needs of individual and churches who have experienced property damage from devastating storms providing much needed repairs and restoration.

LILY'S TOY BOX - \$2,500

This non-profit was developed by "Lily" a young girl in our community who wanted needy children to receive Christmas presents. So far, 15,000 toys have been distributed over the past few years.

If anyone desires more information or is interested in these most worthwhile organizations, please contact any of us on the OEF committee and we will be happy to respond.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Bower
OEF committee

HOMELESS MINISTRY

The Feed the Homeless program has continued as a strong program throughout the past year. We have had to downsize somewhat due to circumstances beyond our control; but we have continued to bring food to Tuam and De George centers, along with food distribution to others that are homeless. Volunteers are scheduled for preparing and distributing the food, with a lengthy volunteer list to go to when a substitute is needed. We distribute food to both places the 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month. Volunteers are in small groups preparing the food; and the preparation of the sandwiches and snacks are done on different days. We have found this to be more efficient than doing everything at one time.

In addition, on May 20 we distributed snacks and water for 335 children and teachers at Walnut Bend Elementary.

We are looking into more opportunities for service, and we are excited at the chance of expanding our program to help feed the hungry.

We have a box set out in the Narthex for white socks. If you feel you want to help in this endeavor, we will distribute them when enough have been collected.



LADIES DINNER GROUP

Please join us
Wednesday, June 9
6:00 pm
Palazzo's
19455 Briar Forest



A sign-up sheet is in the narthex
or contact Mickey Walters at waltersmic@aol.com

COUNCIL NOTES

The Christ the Servant (CTS) council's most recent meeting was held on Thursday, May 13th. Congregation members are welcome to review the more detailed minutes of each meeting, found in a binder on a table in the narthex. The council's two new at-large members, Karen Welborn and Tina Blockhus, began their council terms at the May meeting.

CTS' insurance provider, Church Mutual, has decided not to renew the church's insurance policy upon expiration. Please note that this decision on the part of Church Mutual was made as an effort to reduce their overall exposure to the Houston region, and not because of any action/non-action on the part of CTS. The council wishes to thank Ken Smith for lending his insurance expertise to identifying a new insurer and negotiating a new policy. A new policy will be in place prior to June 1st, 2021, which means CTS will have no lapse in its insurance coverage.

For those who did not see the e-mail communication from the council president, the CTS congregation voted not to pursue a PPP loan from the U.S. Federal government. Attendance at Sunday services, both in-person and via online streaming, has reached 2019 levels, which represents an improvement from 2020. As mentioned in prior newsletters, the online streaming option will be continued at CTS for the foreseeable future so all can worship comfortably.

Youth and Family Ministry activity included the resumption of confirmation classes, though half the class participated via Zoom. JT expects to complete his CPE shifts at M.D. Anderson by the close of May and will begin his pastoral internship in July. Finally, JT is looking at possible dates for the youth to attend Luther Hill; however, some assistance may be required from the CTS congregation to defray the costs of attending. Please look for future possible communications in this regard.

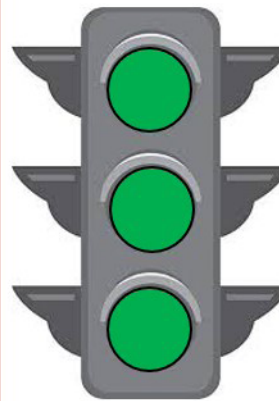
Pastor Jim and Barry Rava will attend the annual synod meeting to be held virtually on May 21st – 22nd. Also, Pastor Jim was approached by the administration at Walnut Bend Elementary School to determine if the CTS congregation would be willing and able to provide the students and teachers with snacks and water during state-mandated testing later this month. The council wishes to acknowledge that Pastor Jim is celebrating 46 years in ministry.

The council discussed the recent CDC-issued guidance regarding the use of masks indoors and outdoors for those who have been vaccinated. In light of the new guidance, vaccinated congregation members worshipping in person are free to choose whether or not they will wear a mask. For unvaccinated members, the council encourages the continued use of masks when choosing to worship in person. The council recognizes there are many variables

involved in individual decisions regarding masks, and therefore respectfully asks all members to respect decisions made by others. Again, online streaming of CTS services will continue to accommodate those unable, for whatever reason, to participate in person.

Prayerfully submitted,
Karen Carter, Council Secretary

CTS Financial Dashboard Through APRIL 2021



YTD Contributions

\$ 181,465

on track for income

YTD Expenditures

\$ 162,758

4.0% below budgeted expenses

Cash Reserve

7.3 months coverage of average monthly expenses

Excludes programs outside of General Fund (OEF, Homeless Ministry, Memorials, Pastor Disc Fund)

YTD Status versus Budget or Cash Reserve Goal

- At or better than forecast or >6 month cash reserve
- <5% worse than forecast or 3-6 month cash reserve
- >5% worse than forecast or <3 month cash reserve

Contact Treasurer (Susan Collins) with questions

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 Russell and Gloria Reider
- 12 Dale and Teresa Dickman
- 15 Frank and Deb Lehoski
- 16 John and Ena Puder
- Dale and Alene Olson
- 20 David and Judie Deeds
- 27 Russell and Marina Farmer
- 28 Pastor Jim and Carolyn Giannantonio



YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

HAVE YOU SUBSCRIBED?

Why haven't you subscribed to our YouTube Channel?

It's easy! Just click the "Subscribe" button underneath any of our videos on the YouTube site.

It's convenient! You'll be notified by email whenever we go live. Never search for a link again!

It's cheap! So cheap, in fact, that it's ABSOLUTELY FREE.

It helps! We currently have a little over 100 subscribers, but we need more. It's not vanity or ego – the more subscribers we have, the more functionality we will be allowed – which allows us to reach more folks!

Even if you are attending services in-person and don't participate in live streams, we could still use your help getting our subscription numbers up. As the channel grows, you can expect to see more content uploaded – not just streaming worship – and we know you'll want access to that.

THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE

Service is at the heart of who we are at CTS. Recently you may have noticed a concerted effort to invite new volunteers to serve in several areas of our congregational life. Will you consider living our name with passion and purpose by giving your time in one of these two areas:

Nursery Assistant – We are in need of adult volunteers who are willing to assist Sandra, our Nursery Coordinator, on Sunday Mornings from 11a.m. – 12:15 p.m., during our late service. We want to be able to always have safe, available childcare for our members and visitors so that they can worship without anxiety. Our congregation's Safe Haven Guidelines dictate that we always have at least 2 caring adults in a room with children. With the help of 1 person each Sunday, we can accomplish this. Ideally, volunteers for this position have attended our last in-person child safety training class in March of 2019, or completed online Abuse Prevention training course via SafeGatherings.com. The latter is easy, free, and convenient. Ask J.T. how you can do this today! Nursery Assistant volunteers will find a link on the front page of our website to an online sign-up sheet.

Sound and Video Team – We currently have a small crew of folks who have been trained to run either our sound, or our live stream during Sunday Worship, or both. We'd like to expand that team beyond those few individuals and give more people the opportunity to help broadcast our message to the masses. Don't be intimidated by the technology! It's not as hard as it seems, and we won't set you loose on it until you've been trained and become comfortable. This would be a great opportunity for people of all ages to

serve together. Please contact J.T. to learn more, or to schedule a time for a little bit of training (Sunday mornings are ok!)

RALLY DAY/SUNDAY SCHOOL

Is it too early to talk about Rally Day? I hope not, because it's been more than a year, and I am chomping at the bit! As we anticipate opening things back up, I'd love to announce that Rally Day is scheduled for Sunday, September 19th, 2021. It's time to ramp things up the way we used to! What that means is that Sunday School will start the following week, September 26, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. Mark those calendars, dust off your Bible and your Sunday Shoes – It's time to RALLY!

A CHANGE IS GONNA COME...

It has been my honor and my pleasure to serve you these past 7 years as your Director of Youth and Family Ministry. Has it really been 7 years? It seems like only yesterday I was struggling to learn your names and find my place in your community. Although my role in the community has changed drastically during this past year – as we emerge from the pandemic, it will be necessary for my role to change again. As part of the Seminary journey that CTS has so generously supported and allowed me to go on, I am required to do a year-long pastoral internship. While most people leave their current congregation to do this, I'm blessed to be able to stay and have that experience with the folks I love at Christ The Servant. What that means is that, although you'll continue to see my face around (and probably more frequently!), I'll be taking on some new responsibilities and letting go of some old ones. What exactly those responsibilities will be is still being determined. Whatever the changes are, I hope we can navigate them together in order to make a better pastor out of me, a better community out of CTS, and a better world out of this current one.

Jt Thomas
Director of Youth and Family

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Michael and Linnay Cummings
- 8 Barry and Gabby Rava
- 9 Ron and Dana Herbanek
- 11 Demi and Zach Edwards
- 13 Peter and Dana Lares
- 19 Rev Stephen and Theresa Kelly
- 30 Jim and Joanne Dumler



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WOMEN'S MINISTRY EVENTS! SAVE THE DATES!
It's time for us to gear up, reconnect and reengage our Women's Ministry program!

We have missed being together very much so here are some activities we have planned for you.

BINGO IS COMING BACK!

CTS FELLOWSHIP HALL
Wednesday, September 8th at
1:30 PM

We partner with Brookdale Assisted Living so that their residents may enjoy an outing and have some fun with us so it's a community outreach program also.

All CTS members and guests (men and women) are invited to come to this fun afternoon and we do have fun!

Prizes, refreshments and fellowship



DAY RETREAT and RENEW

CTS FELLOWSHIP HALL
Saturday, October 2nd
9 AM to 2 PM

Program plans will be announced soon.

You can expect a timely Christ Centered program along with fellowship and just a great way to get to know your fellow sisters in Christ.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Karen Bauer
Sharon Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen
Barb Elstad and family
Jane Fontenot, grandma of Miley Rose
Donald K. Hiestand, father of Gary Hiestand
Mary Hiestand
Ron, father of Tim Murawski
Geri Novak, aunt of Tim Murawski
Cathy Roberson & Debby Weaver, daughters of Jodie Davis
Mary Shabunas, mother of Mary Hiestand
Marjorie Swartz, mother of Julie Heil
Frank Welsh, friend of Mike and Phylis Karas
Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Megan Carlson
- 3 Colleen Blockhus
- 4 Leah Japhet Mfungo
- 7 Barbara Elstad
Jacquelyn Siegele
Taryn Siegele
Michael Siegele
- 9 Reece Stallwitz
- 10 Kristin Palfreyman
- 16 Cayden Rweyemamu
- 19 "JT" Jason Thomas
Nayibe Carrillo
- 22 Ocean King
- 26 Linnay Cummings
- 28 Roger Cutler
- 29 Kurt Goedecke
Rev Stephen Kelly
- 30 Bill Olds
Cheryl Skillman
Karl Schrader, Jr.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Michelle Stelly
Anansia Ndanshau
Ruby Quintero
- 4 Debbie Timmerman
- 8 Jim Dumler
- 9 Brent Brown
Rich Ruskan
- 12 Avery Scace
Kristin Siegele
Raul Olvera
- 13 Ashley Kawila
- 14 Carolyn Kirk
- 17 Rev Kathy Hauaisen
- 18 Frank Lehoski
- 19 Xander Feldt
- 24 Julie Heil
- 27 David Deeds
- 29 Michele Byrnes
- 30 John Frank



CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR

The Rev. James Giannantonio
jrgiannan@gmail.com

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Betsy Riggs
ctsoffice1@comcast.net

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Jason "JT" Thomas
jt@christtheservant.net

NURSERY CAREGIVER

Sandra Ani

SUNDAY CUSTODIAN

Sulma E. Cruz

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE

713.784-6620

CHURCH OFFICE FAX

713.784-4742

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

www.christtheservant.net

August newsletter information deadline is:

July 15

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

2020 FLOWER CHART

There are still openings for flowers in 2021! The 2021 Flower Chart is hanging in the Narthex. Sign up for the Sundays you want. Single bouquets are \$27. To donate both arrangements, the cost is \$54. Sundays still available for the rest of the year are:

June 13
July 18
August 1
September 26
October 3, 31
November 7, 28
December 5, 12, 19



If you cannot fill out the sign-up chart in person, feel free to call Betsy in the office and tell her which day or days you would like.

BABY NEWS



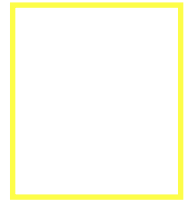
Welcome baby Samson Shafer Welborn, born Thursday, May 20 to parents Elizabeth Shafer and Evan Welborn and big sister Olive. Proud grandparents are Karen and Pat Welborn.



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JUNE/JULY 2021

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
2400 Wilcrest Drive
Houston, Texas 77042

Phone 713-784-6620
FAX 713-784-4742
www.christtheservant.net



2021 COUNCIL

President: Barry Rava

President Elect:	Dale Dickman	At Large:	Zach Edwards
Secretary:	Karen Carter	At Large:	Neema Makia
Financial Secretary:	Emma Chanimbaga	At Large:	Karen Welborn
Treasurer:	Susan Collins	At Large:	Tina Blockhus
Treasurer Elect:	Vicki Rudolph-Williams		

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
CanCare Representative	Susan Kramer	Opportunity Endowment Fund	Kurt Goedecke
Care Team	Pat Korge and Mary Puccini	Personnel	Ken Smith, Shirley Downing
College Ministry	Tina Blockhus	Prayer Chain	Marti Hatcher
Disaster Response Team	Ron Herbanek	Property	Brent Brown, Ron Herbanek
Family Aid Ministry	Carolyn Giannantonio	Sound Team	TBA 8:00 Service
Fellowship Committee	Rosalie Fontenot		Brent Brown-11:00 Service
Greeters	TBA	Stewardship	Chandler Wilhelm
Homeless Ministry	Carolyn Giannantonio, Rosalie Fontenot	Ushers	8:00 Russell Farmer
			11:00 Pat Welborn
Ladies Dinner Group	Mickey Walters	WHAM Representatives	Ken Smith
Lawn Care	Russell Farmer, Kevin Petterson	Women's Ministry	Marsha Bower
Lectors	Chandler Wilhelm	Worship and Music	Lori Wood
Liturgical Assistants	Chandler Wilhelm		