

INTERMISSION

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

WWW.CHRISTTHESERVANT.NET

COUNCIL NOTES

The Christ the Servant (CTS) council's most recent meeting was held on Thursday, April 8th. Detailed minutes can be found in a binder on a table in the narthex.

As a follow-up to a discussion during the March meeting, the council discussed the possibility of CTS applying for loan under the current Payroll Protection Program (PPP) administered by the U.S. Federal government. Rather than call a congregational meeting at this time, a majority of the council voted to obtain the view of the CTS congregation via an online survey. The goal of the survey is to determine whether a congregational meeting is required. If the majority of the congregation does *not support* obtaining a PPP loan (as determined by survey responses), no congregational meeting will be required.

The council discussed the ongoing work to identify candidates for the Music Director position at CTS. The committee tasked with this mandate is led by Zach Edwards and will begin moving forward with this process.

A motion to approve up to \$1,700 for tree trimming and general landscaping maintenance work was approved by the council. Two quotes to complete the work had already been obtained by the time of the council meeting, and a third was in process. This work is expected to be completed prior to the warmer weather arriving.

In an effort to begin returning to activities discontinued due to Covid-19, the council discussed the return of the congregation's annual spaghetti dinner. The council is supportive of holding the spaghetti dinner this Autumn, assuming no adverse change to the current environment surrounding the pandemic. The council supported the start of the planning process for the spaghetti dinner. Finally, the council unanimously approved Tina Blockhus and Karen Wellborn as new CTS at-large

council members. We wish to thank Tina and Karen for their willingness to serve.

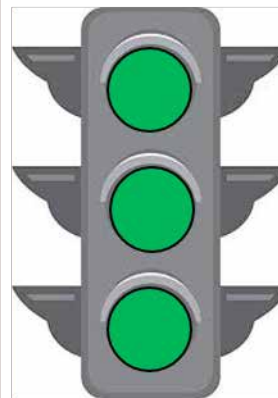
Prayerfully submitted,
Karen Carter, Council Secretary

MEN WHO LOVE SPAGHETTI IS BACK!

Men Who Love Spaghetti will meet May 12 at 7:00, at Piccolo's Italian Cafe and Cucina, 13505 Westheimer Rd. Please join us for good friends, good conversation and good food! Contact Roger Cutler at rogercutler@gmail.com to let him know you are coming.



CTS Financial Dashboard Through MARCH 2021



YTD Contributions

\$ 146,117

above forecast for income

YTD Expenditures

\$ 120,734




5.0% below budgeted expenses

Cash Reserve

7.4 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

2020 FLOWER CHART

There are still many 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, 29
 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.

CONDOLENCES

We wish to extend our sympathy to June Jaconson and her family. Harvey Jacobson went to his eternal home in Christ on April 6th. Please keep the family in your prayers.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Karen Bauer
 Sharon Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen
 Barb Elstad
 Jane Fontenot, grandma of Miley Rose
 Ruth Froebel
 Ron Hatcher and family
 Mary Hiestand
 June Jacobson and family
 Phylis Karas
 Roger Lemburg
 Ron, father 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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Eilyn Vincent
 5 June Jacobson
 7 Russell Farmer
 8 Karen Murawski
 9 Teresa Dickman
 10 Marilee Dittrich
 11 Michael Cummings
 14 Jonathan Mfungo
 20 Susan Kramer
 21 Erik Teegerstrom
 Jodi Davis
 23 Sydney Scace
 Joanne Dumler
 24 Ann Marie Fritz
 Emily Saunders
 28 Braille Ndanshau
 29 Judie Deeds
 31 Deb Lehoski



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

9 David and Carrie Stallwitz
 12 Mike and Phylis Karas
 16 Steve and Marilee Dittrich
 17 Pat and Karen Welborn
 21 Adam and Natalie Jones
 Kevin and Lynn Petterson



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Everyone Who Asks, Receives

Over the course of the spring, we have been having a wonderful time full of thoughtful discussion studying Jesus' parables. Last week, we had a particularly good discussion around Jesus' teaching of *The Lord's Prayer* in the context of the parable of *The Friend at Midnight* found in the Gospel of Luke (11:5-8). It is the story of someone awakened in the middle of the night by a neighbor who needs bread for a surprise late night visitor. The awakened man, representing God, grudgingly gets up, unlocks the door, and helps his friend. The story concludes: "at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs". This may sound like Jesus is telling us to conjure our inner Janice Joplin to nag God for a new Mercedes-Benz. Robert Farrar Capon sees it a bit differently in the following excerpts from his *Parables of Judgement*:

Once again, I am aware of the more usual "persistence wins" interpretation given to lines like "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and it will be opened to you" (Luke 11:9). But in fact, persistence doesn't win anywhere near often enough to be held up as the precondition of God's answering prayer. And I will not let you hand me the cheap, cruel bromide that when persistence doesn't win, it probably wasn't real persistence. Tell that to somebody

who asked, and sought, and knocked till her knuckles bled for a child who eventually died of leukemia anyway.

Taken literally as a program for conning God into catering to the needs of our lives, that is pure bunk: too many sincere, persistent prayers have simply gone unfulfilled. But taken as a command constantly to find our resurrection in his, it is solid gold.

Prayer is not really our work at all. Then (in the Lord's Prayer), after no more than a "hallowed be your name" and a "let your kingdom come," he tells them to pray for nothing more by way of human achievement than the food they need day by day. No spiritual attainments, no ethical perfections; just the bare necessities to keep body and soul together so they can get on, presumably, with the one thing really necessary, namely, that "good part" — that quiet union with himself in his death and resurrection.

All are welcome each Sunday morning at 9:30am either in person or via Zoom. Contact D.J. Blockhus (blockhus@earthlink.net) or Richard Carlson (RichardC@davis penn.com) for more details.

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

June-July newsletter information deadline is:
May 15

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

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

CHURCH STAFF

PASTOR

The Rev. James Giannantonio
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OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

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DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Jason "JT" Thomas
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NURSERY CAREGIVER

Sandra Ani

SUNDAY CUSTODIAN

Sulma E. Cruz

CHURCH OFFICE PHONE

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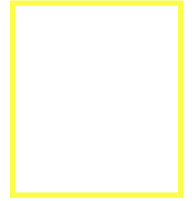
CHURCH OFFICE FAX

713-784-4742

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MAY 2021

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Houston, Texas 77042

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2021 COUNCIL

President: Barry Rava

President Elect:	Dale Dickman	At Large:	Zach Edwards
Secretary:	Karen Carter	At Large:	Neema Makia
Financial Secretary:	Emma Chanimbaga		
Treasurer:	Susan Collins		
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		