

# INTERMISSION

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

WWW.CHRISTTHESERVANT.NET

## HOMELESS MINISTRY

Homeless ministry. Have you ever thought how it works? Here's a short summary of how this ministry has been happening at CTS for over 35 years

Christ the Servant has been serving our homeless for over 35 years by distributing food to those in need. Many have participated in this service over the years. Since Covid, we have made quite a few changes in how the distribution takes place. It is now very organized as to where we go to distribute the food and who prepares the sandwiches, puts together the snacks, and makes the distribution. All distributions are done in the daytime, as we feel this is safer than distribution in the evening. We have set times to prepare the food on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month. At times, those scheduled may not be available; we will then call on other volunteers to take their place. Carolyn Giannantonio purchases the food while Rosalie Fontenot creates the schedules and oversees the packing.



### Distribution sites

At this time, we distribute sandwiches and snacks to 4 facilities: (1) The TX Bunk House, (2) The DeGeorge Hotel, (3) San Jacinto Apartments, and (4) Villas at Bayou Park.

### Schedule of Volunteers

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 10:00 am:**

Jim Giannantonio delivers 72 sandwiches and 3 cases of water to TX Bunk House. Ken Smith delivers 68 sandwiches and 2 cases of water to San Jacinto Apartments. Team preparing sandwiches: Paul Siegele, Kathy Riggs, Mike Sweet, Rosalie Fontenot

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, 3:00 pm:**

Mike Davenport delivers 48 snack packs to DeGeorge. Carrie Stallwitz, Carolyn Giannantonio or Mike Sweet deliver 20 snack packs to Villas at Bayou Park. Pat Welborn delivers 48 snack packs to various locations. Team preparing snack packs: Steve Dittrich, Julia Dittrich, Rosalie Fontenot

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 10:00 am:**

Jim Giannantonio delivers 72 sandwiches and 3 cases of water to TX Bunk House. Mike Davenport delivers 100 sandwiches and 2 cases of water to DeGeorge. Team preparing sandwiches: Mike Davenport, Kathy Hauelsen, Joan Nilsen, Rosalie Fontenot

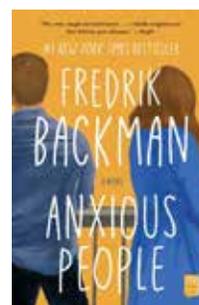
#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 3:00 pm:**

Ken Smith delivers 34 snack packs to San Jacinto Apartments. Carrie Stallwitz, Carolyn Giannantonio or Mike Sweet deliver 20 snack packs to Villas at Bayou Park. Pat Welborn delivers 48 snack packs to various places. Team preparing snack packs: Sophia Manning, Denise Carlson, Rosalie Fontenot

*If you have any questions about this ministry, please feel free to ask any of the team listed above.*

### Book Club

On May 7, we will discuss *Mrs. Entwhistle*, by Doris Reidy. One reader described the novel as stories about "an endearing character and her challenges in today's world as a senior citizen." The cover of the novel warns that "Once you're over the hill you pick up speed."



Our discussion on June 25 will be on *Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman. Written in an unusual style, it will captivate you, make you laugh and cry as you read about people just like you who are just doing the best they can to be grown-ups and to understand the "unbelievable amount that we're all supposed to be able to cope with these days."

If you are interested in sharing your love of reading with friends, please join us!

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Our Women's retreat "In His Hands" during the weekend of April 1st at Camp Lone Star was certainly a powerful and rewarding experience for Tina Blockhus, Carolyn Kirk, Karen Welborn, Nancie Blair, Linda Siegele, Kathy Hauelsen, Julie Heil, Linda Iversen, Anne Marie Fritz, Phylis Karas and myself.

Rachel Norris from Joy Pottery not only created beautiful pottery on her wheel right before our eyes but also shared her moving testimony on how God has molded her and how she has "trusted and obeyed".

We experienced an outdoor communion service in a beautiful setting, line danced, decorated rocks, exercised, sang praise music, played charades, feasted on chef inspired food, marveled at the bluebonnets, ate smores around a campfire within a "tree sanctuary" and enjoyed fellowship with each other and with God.

I'd like to thank my wonderful committee Tina Blockhus, Carolyn Kirk, Karen Welborn and Linda Iversen for continually being the "wind beneath my wings" and to all attendees who enhanced our retreat just by showing up and for bringing all the medical supplies that were sent to Ukraine. My Ukrainian contact Viktoriya Rawlins was immensely grateful!





### Kentucky Derby bingo with lunch

May 11th, Noon till 2

Once again, we will be hosting “Brookdale Assisted Living” for a Kentucky Derby Bingo that will include a “Kentucky Fried Chicken Lunch”. We are hoping MORE of our CTS members will participate in this “service project” that is held each month just by showing up! The residents of Brookdale so love the fellowship and interaction with others so it’s a great way to share God’s love and have some fun! Since Kentucky Derby is famous for “hats”, please feel free to wear one but certainly is optional!



### Road trip to Bryan/College Station

Thursday, May 19th

We will be going to Messina Hof winery in Bryan to enjoy a wonderful “John 15 Scripture Tour” of their vineyards, have a wonderful lunch at their restaurant and then visit our Retreat presenter Rachel Norris’ beautiful pottery shop “Joy Pottery”.



Here’s the details:

Meet May 19th at CTS 8:30 AM

Lunch will cost approximately \$20

Return to CTS around 4 - 4:30 pm

If you’d like to join us, please sign reservation list so we have adequate transportation.

Sign up sheet will be in narthex!

Questions?? Contact Marsha Bower 281-381-0515 or lb16434@aol.com

### CHURCH STAFF

#### PASTOR

The Rev. James Giannantonio  
jrgiannan@gmail.com

#### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Betsy Riggs  
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#### PASTORAL INTERN

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](http://www.christtheservant.net)

**June-July newsletter information deadline is:**

**May 15**

Please submit information and articles in **MSWord documents** to Laura Wilhelm at **lvwilhelm@comcast.net**

Information may be edited to available space.

## UKRAINIAN SUPPORT UPDATE

*Christ the Servant Lutheran Church supports churches in eastern Slovakia which are aiding refugees. Following is the story of one refugee family receiving support from the Sol' parish:*

Good afternoon, my name is Maria. I am 28 years old. My husband Mykhailo and I are raising two sons, Yuri 3 years old, and Vadym 9 months old. We live in the town of Snyatyn. We have our own house.

On February 24, I was awakened by a call from my husband who was at work. He said that the war had begun. He told me to gather the children, collect the necessary things and go to the basement. There were rockets. The windows and doors shook. We are very scared of a threat of missile strikes.

On that day, two airports in different cities were shelled in our region, one of which is 40 kilometers from our house. Smoke rose from the area of the airport. The children and I stayed in the basement into the night. After several hours of alarm, the children are scared, crying, and so are we.

So, we decided to go abroad. My husband and family remain in Ukraine. My brother who was in the ATO zone (CTS: Anti-Terrorist Operation Zone, a reference to eastern regions with separatist rebels) since 2015, again goes to protect us and defend the country. My father also defends the country.

It was hard to decide to leave with small children, but it's for their safety. I had to leave everything behind - husband, parents, brothers, family, friends - leave everything earned, bought, built by labor, job, everything achieved. It is impossible to take with you all that is dear to the heart.

We rode by bus. The road was long. We stood in traffic jams for a long time. We stopped at checkpoints. We reached the border in 9 hours. The children were tired. Volunteers met us at the border to offer help, warm tea and food for children and us women. We crossed the border quickly. At the border checkpoint of Vyšné Nemecké in Slovakia, both border guards and volunteers greeted us warmly. They gave us food, hygiene products, and helped us to get to the village of Sol'. We arrived at the church house at 1:30 at night where the pastors greeted us.

We are fine here. We are all happy to thank the pastors. They care very much for us. We really want peace in Ukraine and to return home. The children are crying for home. We want everyone to be healthy and live in peace.

We are sincerely grateful for your help and support in such a difficult time for us, a time of war that brings fear, pain, separation, loss and death. Unfortunately, it affects so many.

We pray for peace in Ukraine   

*As of April 21<sup>st</sup>, the United Nations Refugee Agency reports 4.9 million people have fled Ukraine. Since the start of the war, 349,286 have crossed the Slovakia-*

*Ukraine border, mostly at checkpoint at the village of Vyšné Nemecké. The population of Slovakia is 5.3 million people.*

*Bishop Peter Mihoč Of the Eastern District of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession (Lutheran Church) in Slovakia sent the following report to Rich Ruskan recently (edited, punctuation original):*

We provide assistance in four ways:

- Border assistance - provision of humanitarian aid - daily costs up to 1000 € / currently there is a lower border crossing of about 2500 people a day
- Central supply depot - provision of humanitarian aid for border crossings and for organizations in Ukraine - export of food, medical and hygienic aid to Ukraine - in the appendix you will find a thank-you note from one of the organizations to which we provided humanitarian aid.
- Transit - provision of transport from the border to accommodation facilities - fuel costs, and provision of a 9-seater car.
- Accommodation facilities - we currently have about 1,200 people accommodated in various places of our church. Meals and accommodation are provided free of charge to the Ukrainian people at the expense of the church. This is the second month in a row that is costly to maintain this situation in the long run, especially if we do not know how much conflict in Ukraine will last. The average cost per person is 10 euros / food overhead costs of accommodation daily. It is a high amount. Currently, everything is paid from charity and collections in local churches which, however, are spent.

We are currently setting up a new kindergarten class for Ukrainian children. We have provided € 5,000 from our own resources for the equipment and reconstruction, but we need another € 6,000 for salaries for Ukrainian teachers who could teach in the months of May, June and July. We will review the situation for September.

The possibilities of using funds are varied. Our accommodation facilities were not ready for long-term housing of people. We only use camps for young people and children. There are no washing machines, refrigerators, dryers, kitchen equipment. All of this is currently the subject of a search for funding. In one large facility, we need to renovate the kitchen, as it does not meet the needs of 45 accommodated refugees.

Thank you for your interest and willingness to support our activities towards the Ukrainian people. Thank you for your prayers and spiritual support. I hope that these difficult times for the Ukrainian nation and the world will end soon and God's power will give Ukraine the gift of freedom, peace and love.

## GRADUATIONS



Caleb Findley, son of Michele Cummings and grandson of Michael and Linnay Cummings graduated from Southwestern University with a Bachelor of Science in biochemistry and a minor in health studies. Caleb has also been honored with a membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

Congratulations Caleb!

*If you have a family member graduating this year from high school or college, send your information to the Editor so we can celebrate with you!*

## LADIES DINNER GROUP

Please join us!  
 Wednesday, May 11  
 6:00 pm  
 Feng Ling  
 11010A Westheimer



We're having too much fun there to change places!  
 A sign-up sheet is in the narthex or contact Mickey Walters at waltersmic@aol.com

## FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF MARCH 31, 2022

General Ministry Contributions	\$142,808.00
General Ministry Expenses	\$126,289.00
Difference	\$ 16,519.00

Special Ministry contributions excluded.

## CONDOLENCES

We wish to extend our sympathy to Cliff Mabry and his family. Ed Mabry went to his eternal home in Christ on April 21st.

Also, our sympathy is extended to Tim Murawski and family. Tim's father Ron Murawski went to his eternal home in Christ on April 16th.

We pray God provides comfort and strength during this difficult time.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Karen Bauer  
 Julie Burt  
 Family and Friends of Nancy Chapman  
 Sharon Cotta, mother of Christy Iversen  
 Judie Deeds  
 Jane Fontenot, grandma of Miley Rose  
 Christy Iversen  
 Cliff Mabry and Family  
 Tim Murawski and Family  
 Cathy Roberson and Debby Weaver, daughters of Jodi Davis  
 Marjorie Swartz, mother of Julie Heil  
 Frank Welsh, friend of Mike and Phylis Karas  
 Zachary, grandson of Bitsy Muse

## MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 June Jacobson
- Eilyn Vincent
- 7 Russell Farmer
- 8 Karen Murawski
- 9 Teresa Dickman
- 10 Marilee Dittrich
- 11 Michael Cummings
- 14 Jonathan Mfungo
- 20 Susan Kramer
- 21 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



## FROM THE INTERN'S DESK

### A BIG THANKS!

Since it's likely to be the last one I get to celebrate with you, I want to thank everyone who helped make Easter Sunday 2022 a wonderful time. Thanks to those who provided the food, and whose work in the kitchen and fellowship hall made sure that breakfast turned out AMAZING. Thanks to Pastor Jim, whose teaching on the resurrection of the body is still sparking conversations among us! Thanks to everyone who donated Easter Candy (SO MUCH CANDY), our wonderful confirmation class who helped stuff it into the eggs! Special thanks to Neema, Ashley, Ema, Noah and Christopher who came to help stuff eggs on Good Friday, as well! Finally – thanks to our families who came out and brought such energy and life to our celebration that morning. The swarm of little ones running around to collect eggs, the more-crowded-than-usual sanctuary during worship, and even the congregation of kids for the children's sermons were all perfect examples of the renewed life and resurrection that Jesus demonstrated.



### MISSION MOMENTS

You know, I never thought I'd say this, but – after our most recent budgeting process, I became very interested in the idea of mission and outreach giving. After hearing some of the discussion about it at our annual meetings, I decided to educate myself a little further. You might be surprised what I was able to learn! As it turns out, our annual budget *doesn't really even come close* to revealing just how generous our congregation is, and just what kind of impact we are having on the community. If my math is correct (a risky proposition), I estimate that through our Opportunity Endowment Fund, special offerings, and yes, even our annual budget, we contributed an amount greater than 30% of our yearly budget to mission and outreach. It's a dirty little secret that everybody should know. So, I set to work on a little storytelling project that I'm hoping to share with you.



When I was a kid, my mother was a professional volunteer at our church. She led a variety of mission and outreach projects, and every so often she would write an article or stand up in a service to highlight one of them. At our church we called these, "Mission Moments". My little storytelling project seeks to do something similar to that. I'm putting together some short videos and articles to highlight some of the wonderful ministries that our congregation has supported in recent years. I hope that putting faces and stories to the projects that we have funded with our offerings will result in a new sense of

excitement about our place in God's mission, and our continued generosity!

When the stories are ready, you'll receive them in an email, and they will have a special home on our website where you can look back through them if you want. The first one should be hitting your inbox any day now, and when it does, you'll be able to view it at <http://christtheservant.net/mm>.

### CONFIRMATION

Due to a schedule shakeup caused by Mother's Day (Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>), we've moved our monthly confirmation class from the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday (May 15<sup>th</sup>).



This month our students will continue the story with an episode called "Commands" that invites them to consider the questions around the giving of the Law to Moses at Mt. Sinai. We'll meet in the Conference Room at 12:30 p.m., and lunch is provided.

### SUMMER CAMP

Are you interested in spending a week of your summer at Camp Lutherhill? Limited spots are still available for individual campers of all ages. During the following weeks, Lutherhill is hosting a week of camp for anybody who has completed 1<sup>st</sup> grade all the way through their LYLE counselor apprenticeship track for High Schoolers:

- Week 1: June 12-17 (features Jr. High Adventure Camp)
- Week 6: July 17-22 (features Jr. High Adventure Camp)
- Week 7: July 24-29

If a different week works better for you, take a look at their site and see they are hosting your age group that week, or find one that does! If you need help navigating the registration process, contact J.T. for a walk-through. If you need help with the cost of camp, please let J.T. know. Generous donors have already come forward hoping to assist.



## CALENDAR ITEMS

May 7 - Book Club

May 7 and 24 – 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. -Election

May 11- 12:00-2:00 - Women's Ministry Kentucky Derby  
bingo

May 11 - 6:00 - Ladie's Dinner - Feng Ling

May 12 – 7:00 p.m. – Council

May 15 - 12:30 p.m. - Confirmation

May 19 - Women's Ministry trip to Messina Hof

May 30 – OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY

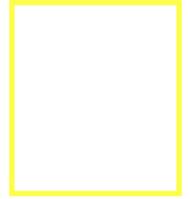


Jesus' ascension to Heaven depicted by John Singleton Copley in *Ascension* (1775)

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MAY 2022

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Houston, Texas 77042

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## 2022 COUNCIL

President: Dale Dickman

President Elect :	Karen Carter	At Large:	Tina Blockhus
Secretary:	Zach Edwards	At Large:	Karen Welborn
Treasurer:	Mickey Walters	At Large:	Sophia Manning
At Large:	Neema Makia		

## 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	Adam Jones
Care Team	Karen Welborn	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
Ladies Dinner Group	Mickey Walters	WHAM Representatives	11:00 Pat Welborn
Lawn Care	Russell Farmer, Kevin Petterson	Women's Ministry	Ken Smith
Lectors	Chandler Wilhelm	Worship and Music	Marsha Bower
Liturgical Assistants	Chandler Wilhelm		Lori Wood