

INTERMISSION

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

WWW.CHRISTTHESERVANT.NET



COUNCIL CORNER

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on December 7. We elected officers/ council members and approved our 2015 operating budget of \$611,727. The budget presented was amended by \$1,000 as we voted to increase our support of Lutheran College Ministry from \$1,500 to \$2,500.

Council members for next year are:

President – Kathy Riggs
Vice President – Kevin Scace
Secretary – John Shoemaker
At-Large – Bruce Palfreyman
At-Large – Rosalie Fontenot
At-Large – David Stallwitz
At-Large – Bill Blair
Treasurer – Mickey Walters
Financial Secretary – Ron Herbanek

Opportunity Endowment Committee members:

Carrie Stallwitz, Chairman
Monte Richards
Joanne Dumler
Laura Wilhelm
Pastor Jim
Mickey Walters

We thanked outgoing council members for their service: Tina Blockhus, Matt Grant, Karen Welborn, and Carolyn Kirk.

At our final meeting for 2014, we reviewed some of the year's highlights – addition of our new staff

member Jason (J.T.) Thomas, our successful participation in God's Work Our Hands (and our commitment to participate again next year) and our thankfulness for the generosity of our members, leaving us with a financial cushion going into 2015.

Carolyn Kirk
CTS Church Council

CANCARE NEEDS YOUR HELP

CanCare will be stuffing packets for the 2014 Houston Marathon/Half Marathon and 5K on Friday, January 9 and Saturday, January 10 at Christ the Servant Lutheran Church. We will be stuffing approximately 30,000 packets and would appreciate any help you can provide. Shifts are:

Friday - 9-12, 12-3, 3-6,
Saturday - 9-12, 12-3, and 3-6.

It is not necessary for you to show up for an entire shift.

This is a fundraiser for CanCare, a network of trained volunteers including cancer survivors, family members of cancer survivors and medical professionals who provide emotional support to others facing cancer. If you would like to be part of this fun event, please contact Nan McCreary at nanmccreary@earthlink.net or 281-497-7927.

YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

Sunday School Returns!

After a short break for the holidays - Sunday School is BACK on starting at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, January 11th!

We have an amazing set of teachers leading classes for children of all ages. Even if your child has never participated in a class before, they are welcome to join us for an hour of Bible Storying, crafting, and snacks. Come for the 8 a.m. worship service and stay for Sunday School, or come for Sunday School and stay for worship at 11 a.m.! There are also classes available for adults at the 9:30 hour! Classes that are sure to peak your curiosity and grow your faith. As always, there's fresh coffee being served in the fellowship hall, as well!

CAT, SAT, and SS Teachers!

No, it's not a Dr. Seuss book - it's time to start envisioning the future of Youth & Family Ministry at CTS! We're doing that by empowering several new teams and getting their input on our master plan in a couple of meetings early in the month:

SS Teachers are meeting on **Thursday, January 8th at 7 p.m.** in the Conference Room to touch base one last time before we start a new semester on January 11th! We've got a great new online delivery system for our lessons and crafts that should make preparation much easier, and classes more fun!

SAT is the Student Advisory Team - a new team that will advise me on all things Middle School, High School, and College! The SAT will meet during the former Youth Fellowship Team's meeting time - **Tuesday, January 13th at 6 p.m.** in the Conference Room. We'll be dreaming big about what we want from ourselves and our students and what God wants for us all.

CAT is the Children's Advisory Team. This is a new team, born out of the Youth Fellowship team, responsible specifically for Preschoolers and Children. The new team will meet on Thursdays before Church Council meetings,

starting **January 15th at 6 p.m.** to discover God's vision for our little ones!

Lutherhill Sr. High Retreat February 20-22, 2015

We are called to justly serve our neighbors, compassionately love, and to intentionally walk with our God. At the Sr. High Retreat weekend we will explore the theme, "Act, Love, Walk," through inspiring worships, small group discussions, and Lutherhill activities. Students in 9-12th grade are invited to grow in their faith during an awesome, fun-filled weekend. The weekend's activities include:

- Three sessions with our speaker for the weekend followed by small group discussion facilitated by Lutherhill staff
- A band that will lead praise and worship music throughout the weekend
- Afternoon activities such as the ropes course, arts & crafts, and archery
- A Polar Bear Swim and S'mores

As per our policy - the cost for this retreat is only \$35 for each student who wants to attend. If you are interested in a scholarship to cover the \$35, please mention it to J.T. or Pastor Jim. Sign up today on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

BIG THANKS to everyone who participated in our November and December fundraising efforts. Whether you bought Tupperware, crosses and gifts, jars of baked goods, or had your gifts wrapped - you played a generous part in getting our students and adult sponsors one step closer to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit 2015. I'm sure everyone needs a break from being marketed to, but rest assured that after a short respite, you'll hear from us again!

Also - many thanks to everyone who contributed supplies to our Seafarer Boxes for the Seaman's Center at the Port of Houston. Our children and youth Sunday School classes were able to fill nearly 40 boxes to overflowing with socks, playing cards, soaps and supplies! Way to go, church!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Sandra **Barr**, sister-in-law of June and Harvey
Jacobson

Karen **Bauer**

Eric **Booth**, brother-in-law of Ron **Herbanek**
Reid **Burrell** and the **Burrell Family**, friends of
Vanita **Homer**

Norma **Dodenhoff**, mother of Louise **Hauser**
Michelle **Ernst**, friend of Bill and Nancie **Blair**
Gary **Ernsting**, brother of Susan **Kramer**
Heidi **Farmer**, sister-in-law of Russell **Farmer**
Tena **Goedecke**, step-mother of Kurt **Goedecke**
Curtis **Goedecke**, father of Kurt **Goedecke**
Jim **Harley**, friend of Paul **Richard**

Roxanne **Hymel**, friend of Michele **Byrnes**
Michael **Small**, nephew of Louise **Hauser**
Vivian **Johnson**

Rosamond **Landry**

Julie **Martin**, sister-in-law of Larry **Henderson**

Mary **Merriwether**, family friend of Ron and
Marti **Hatcher**

Jeff **Hoffmeister**, relative of Susan **Kramer**

Walter **Milke**, brother of Bob **Milke**

Alicia **Porras**, mother-in-law of Tamara **Porras**

Charles **Ross**, father of Pam **Krueger**

Valarie **Schick**, granddaughter of Bill and Nancie
Blair

Mary Ann **Shabunas**, mother of Mary **Hiestand**
Doris **Stange**

Barbara **Stelly**, mother of Michelle **Stelly**

Shelby **StPierre**, friend of Michele **Byrnes**

Marjorie **Swartz**, mother of Julie **Heil**

Bettie **Taylor**, friend of Bitsy **Muse**

Pat **Welborn**

Paul **Williams**

Zachary, grandson of Bitsy **Muse**

Richard, Sandy and Ricky **Wilson**, relatives of
Phylis **Karas**

If you would like to add a name or remove a
name from the Prayer List, please call Betsy
or email her at the church office:

ctsoffice1@comcast.net or 713-784-6620

SAVE THE DATE! NEW DIRECTORY COMING!

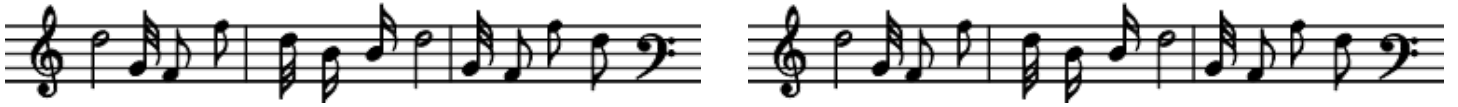
Photographs for the new edition of the CTS
Directory will be taken February 4-7, 2015.
Keep one of those days free to get your
picture taken!

You will start receiving phone calls and
emails regarding sign-up details from the
Photo Directory Team. You will be able to
schedule your appointment online at our
website www.christtheservant.net or at
sign-up tables in the Narthex on Sundays
beginning in January. You won't want to
miss the opportunity to help us create a
new photo directory at CTS.



FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2014

	<u>Nov 30, 2014</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Income	\$59,886	\$584,987
Total Expenses	\$39,697	\$546,738
Surplus/Loss	\$20,189	\$38,249



WORSHIP AND MUSIC



“When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.”

Matthew 2: 10-11

Epiphany...something hidden that's revealed...
At Christmas God appears as man and ... at Epiphany man appears before the world as God .

At Christmas we celebrate a historical event, the birth of Jesus. Epiphany, however, doesn't celebrate an event but presents an idea that Jesus, who was born in Bethlehem is recognized by the world...and the world recognizes him as God.

During the season of Epiphany we should search for how the glory of God is revealed in our lives, shining in the dark places and making them glow with the brilliance of promises made and kept. The strength of God is revealed in our lives, helping us stand firm through times of trouble and leap for joy through times of great faith. We must take this with us as we travel through the uncharted days and months ahead...that's Epiphany!

A prayer for Epiphany: With a bright star of old you led the wise men to Jesus, Lord God. And they worshiped him. With your bright shining grace, lead me on to Jesus once again. Lead me closer. Let me see him with more detail. Let me

watch him, through the Scriptures, heal me, help me and raise me from a dull following to a dazzling faith. Let me worship him with greater gifts. Amen.



Final installment...

In the past two months, we shared the first portions of a recent article containing some valuable information we'd like to share with the congregation. Here is the third section on why hymnals are important symbols for worshipping congregations:

15 Reasons Why We Should Still Be Using Hymnals

by Jonathan Aigner at www.theologyinworship.com

11. Hymnals preserve the aesthetics of the Sanctuary. There is rarely a good place to hang a screen. Even worse, when installed into older spaces, the result can be a visual nightmare. Don't be mistaken. It may be a secondary issue, but it's also a theological one. Here is a particularly painful before and after example from Second Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.

12. Hymnals confront us with "new" songs. We tend to go back to our favorite songs too often.



It's easy to fall into a rut. I recently looked back at a year's worth of bulletins, and was a little embarrassed at how much we had sung several hymns. Not that there was anything wrong with the hymns, but the congregation needs to be stretched to learn unfamiliar songs. When I was a kid, I enjoyed learning to play my favorite hymns on the piano from my mom's 1975 Baptist Hymnal. Along the way, I would run into hymns that weren't my favorites. After a while, while flipping through the book, I would run into these hymns again and again. Finally, I would stop and take a look. Often, these "new" hymns turned out to be great sources of encouragement to me, even though they were once unfamiliar and foreign.

13. Hymnals give validity to new hymns. New hymns are often defined by the company they keep. When new hymnals are published, if they're done well, they will introduce us to newer songs to be added to the ranks of hymnody. The fact that these songs are now sandwiched

in between hymns like "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty" and "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken," adds to their validity.

14. Hymnals make songs less disposable. Okay, obviously you can throw a hymnal away if you want. Text on a screen is there one second and gone the next. There's no visible permanence. But hymnals are symbols of consistency. They give life and breath to the great songs. They demonstrate that what we sing is worth keeping around.

15. Hymnals give congregational singing back to the people. Congregations watching screens are at the mercy of whoever is sitting behind the computer. Holding hymnals symbolizes the fact that the voice of the congregation is the primary instrument in corporate worship.

Are hymnals perfect? More to the point, is there a perfect hymnal? No. Still, we lose out on much benefit by getting rid of them.



CANCARE NEWS

Sung Hie Song recently graduated from Can-Care volunteer training held at Methodist Hospital. She will be assisting at Methodist with care giver support and Korean referrals. We are very pleased to welcome her as a new member of our team.

Pat Hogan-Korge, Director of Training and Susan Kramer, Christ the Servant member of the Board of Representatives.

Congratulations and thanks to Sung Hie!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Trey Iversen – child
- 3 Gabriel Lares – child
- 6 John Mfungo
- 7 Renee Guillroy
- 9 Joan Herbanek
Bruce Palfreyman
Clara Shoemaker
- 16 Tina Blockhus
Joan Gardell
Mike Saunders
Joan Nilsen
- 19 Donald Mahan
Sharon Stultz
- 21 Anyu Ulomi
- 22 Lon Hileman
Nuru Mvungi
Heiwet Keflom
- 23 Caitrin McGibbon
Marcy Williams
- 24 Phyllis Richard
- 31 Sandy Wills
Dylan Ulomi - child



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
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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

John Krueger
ctschoir1@comcast.net

NURSERY CAREGIVER

Laura Ripkowski

SUNDAY CUSTODIAN

Sulma 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

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.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



- 7 Chandler and Laura Wilhelm
- 9 Richard and Denise Carlson





JANUARY 2015

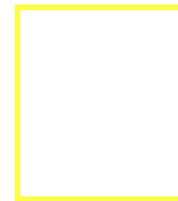


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Worship 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.	Sunday Christian Education 9:30-10:30 a.m. classes for all ages			1 Office Closed	2 11:00 WHAM ESL	3
4	5 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	6 5:30 WHAM ESL  Epiphany	7 7:30 AA Journey	8 7:00 Sunday School Teachers Meeting	9 9:00-6:00 CanCare Marathon Packet stuffing 11:00 WHAM ESL	10 9:30 Altar Guild
11	12	13 5:30 WHAM ESL 6:00 Student Advisory Team 7:30 Worship & Music Meeting	14 6:00 Ladies Dinner Group- Beck's Prime 7:30 AA Journey	15 6:00 Children's Advisory Team	16 11:00 WHAM ESL	17
18 12:30 Care Team	19 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	20 5:30 WHAM ESL	21 7:00 Men Who Love Spaghetti- Piccolo's 7:30 AA Journey	22 7:00 Council	23 11:00 WHAM ESL	24 10:00 Snack Pack Assembly
25	26	27 5:30 WHAM ESL	28 7:30 AA Journey	29	30 11:00 WHAM ESL	31 

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JANUARY 2015

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

Phone 713-784-6620
FAX 713-784-4742
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2015 COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Kathy Riggs
Vice President: Kevin Scace **At Large: Rosalie Fontenot**
Secretary: John Shoemaker **At Large: Bruce Palfreyman**
Treasurer: Mickey Walters **At Large: Bill Blair**
Financial Secretary: Ron Herbanek **At Large: David Stallwitz**

COMMITTEE CHAIRS, GROUP LEADERS, CONTACT PEOPLE

Acolytes	Mary Beth Teegerstrom	Memorial Service Coordinator	Linda Iversen
Adult Christian Ed	Mary Beth Teegerstrom	Men Who Love Spaghetti	Roger Cutler
Altar Guild	Lori Wood	Opportunity Endowment Fund	Carrie Stallwitz
CanCare Representative	Susan Kramer	Personnel	Karen Welborn
Care Team	Arnie Kaestner	Prayer Chain	Judi Leisk
College Ministry	Linda Shoemaker, Linda Siegele	Property	Brent Brown, Ron Herbanek
Disaster Response Team	Mike Karas	Sound Team	TBA 8:00 Service
Family Aid Ministry	Carolyn Giannantonio	Stewardship	Brent Brown-11:00 Service
Fellowship Committee	Rosalie Fontenot	Ushers	Carolyn Kirk
Greeters	Donna Schneider		8:00 Russell Farmer
Homeless Ministry	Shirley Downing		11:00 Pat Welborn
Ladies Dinner Group	Mickey Walters	WHAM Representatives	Doug Hanson, Phylis Karas
Lawn Care	Russell Farmer, Kevin Petterson	Worship and Music	Tamara Porras
Lectors, CTS Players	Carolyn Kirk, Matt Grant	Youth Fellowship	Michele Byrnes, Vicki Williams
Liturgical Assistants	Mary Beth Teegerstrom		