

# INTERMISSION

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HOUSTON, TEXAS 77042  
713-784-6620

WWW.CHRISTTHESERVANT.NET



## Live Free

TAKE HOLD OF THE LIFE THAT REALLY IS LIFE  
1 TIMOTHY 6:18-19

### STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

During this time of year, we put extra emphasis on being Christian stewards as we contemplate our blessings and generosity.

In the opening verses of Genesis, we are told that on the sixth day God makes man and woman in God's image. Because we are made in God's generous image, blessedness and goodness are part of our spiritual DNA. In embracing a practice of generosity, we are becoming the people God created us to be.

The word steward comes from the Greek word *oikonomia*, which means "manager" or "caretaker of the household." We are called to care for God's household. A biblical steward understands that all belongs to God. When we recognize that the entirety of life is a gift from God, we are less likely to hold on so tightly, as gifts are intended to be shared.

As we consider our financial commitment to the ministries of Christ the Servant for the coming year, may we resist the temptation to make anxious and fear-based choices and instead make choices that flow from trust and gratitude in God.

*"They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous and ready to share..." 1 Timothy 6:18*

Carolyn Kirk  
Stewardship Team

**Celebration Sunday is November 22. This is the day to bring your personal commitment cards to worship services as an indicator of your willingness to share your gifts.**

### THANKSGIVING DINNER

Sunday, November 22, immediately following the second service, a catered meal from Demeris of turkey and all the trimmings will be provided for our annual Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner. A sign-up sheet will be out in the narthex. If you can bring a dessert, please indicate so on the sheet. A free will offering will be taken to offset the cost of the catered luncheon. It is important to sign up so that we have an accurate count of those attending.



**Disaster**



**Response**

**Be a standby volunteer to help our church family and neighbors if a disaster occurs.**

**Watch for more information soon.**

## COUNCIL COMMENTARY

For the October 8 Council meeting we decided to postpone most of the routine reports and topics to allow time to begin developing the 2016 budget. As you know, Council will present to the congregation a proposed financial and leadership plan during the annual congregational meeting. That meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 6. The Nominating Committee is also working to fill vacant positions for which candidates will be announced.

We began the budget discussion with some trepidation due to the uncertainty in Houston's financial climate. As of the September financial report we had a slight deficit -- meaning our income is a little below what we have spent. However, based on historical trends, contributions typically increase in the fall and it's possible we can still see healthy income before year-end. We're hopeful that if there is any shortfall it will not be overwhelming.

So, considering our slight concern, Council unanimously agreed to not present to the congregation any increased spending in the proposed 2016 plan.

On an uplifting note, we were encouraged by Pastor's laudatory remarks about our strong current church staff. He is proud of them and grateful. Not only are their skill sets and work ethic impressive, but together there is a cooperative synergy that helps set the tone for the many aspects of our Worship at Christ the Servant. Clearly, we want to reward and retain this if at all possible, although it will be a challenge given the necessity of frugality. Fortunately, we have a safety net of financial security, built with God's help by past caretakers of the church's money. If we are wise and careful, we will "be okay!"

There was only one other announcement at the October meeting – the stewardship campaign. As we all become immersed in deliberations over personal and business economics, let us not forget that stewardship is not merely about scrambling numbers on paper to come up with a pledge amount. Our response to God's call goes beyond the fiscal responsibility of giving monetarily. The messages you will hear in this year's drive, led by Carolyn Kirk, will remind us that as stewards of the Love of God, we have the ability to relieve burdens – our own and others' -- merely by giving of ourselves.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Riggs  
Council President

## SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Joan Gardell, Kristin and Bruce Palfreyman, their children Kasey, Anna and Jacob and the rest of their family. Their husband, father and grandfather, Dick Gardell, went to his eternal home in Christ on October 25. The Gardells have been faithful members of CTS for more than 25 years. Please remember the entire family in your prayers.



## WORSHIP & MUSIC

Enter His gates with thanksgiving,  
and His courts with praise.

Give thanks to Him, bless His name. Psalm 100:4

During November there is a trend on Facebook to post something you are thankful for each day. It's fun to read everyone's posts and see what they are thankful for. At first I was unsure about participating because I didn't know if I would have enough things to be thankful for to last a whole month. Then I remembered the words to a song I heard:

*Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!  
Count your blessings, name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

During this month of Thanksgiving, count your blessings each day and you will be surprised to find how easy it is to thank the Lord for what He has done. Even when you feel that all is lost find the blessings amidst the disappointments.

Upcoming Dates:

Advent Mid-Week Services: December 2, 9, 16 both  
at noon and 7:15 p.m.

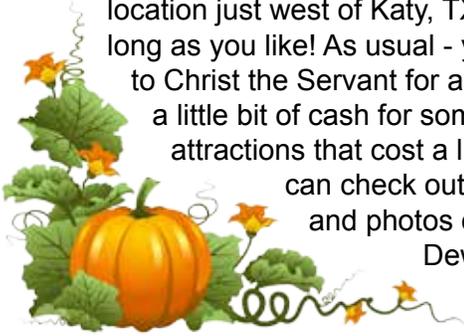
December 27<sup>th</sup>: One service only at 10:00 a.m.

Yours in Christ,  
Tami Porras  
Worship & Music Chairperson

## YOUTH AND FAMILY NEWS

### Dewberry Farm

Attention families with children pre-K through 5th grade! **Sunday, November 8th** is the last day that Dewberry Farm is open for the season, and it's a great opportunity for us to celebrate Fall and have some fun together! Bring the family out for a day in their pumpkin patch, corn maze, petting zoo, zip lines, pedal carts, slide mountain and much, much more! If you haven't been before, you simply must come and check this place out. We will leave after the late service, and travel separately to their location just west of Katy, TX. You stay as long as you like! As usual - you only pay \$5 to Christ the Servant for admission! Bring a little bit of cash for some of their other attractions that cost a little bit extra. You can check out their attractions, and photos of the Farm at [DewberryFarm.com](http://DewberryFarm.com). Hope to see you there!



### Advent Faith Together Workshop

Spiritual practices are more meaningful when families learn to do them together. 30 years of research tells us that the most significant spiritual influences in a child's life aren't a Pastor, Youth & Family Minister or Sunday School Teacher. It's actually mom, dad, grandma and grandpa! Sunday, November 15th is our Faith Together Workshop for families at Christ the Servant. It's our official Youth & Family Ministry kickoff of the Advent Season. We're inviting all our kids and their parents and/or grandparents to gather in the Fellowship Hall during the 9:30 a.m. hour (no classes will be held that day) to explore how we might make our celebration more purposeful using crafts, family devotions, and interesting weekly activities. You'll come away from the workshop with something hand-crafted that your family can use during Advent, and a plan to use it together! Mark your calendars now, and plan to stay (or arrive early) for the Sunday School hour that day.



### Lutherhill Retreats!

The following weekend retreats at Camp Lutherhill are taking registrations now. Please check the Youth & Family Ministry bulletin board outside the choir room near the couches and sign up for the ones you'd like to attend! All retreats cost just \$35 per person!



Advent Family Retreat - December 11-13  
 Mother/Daughter Retreat - January 29-31, 2016  
 Sr. High Retreat - February 19-21, 2016

### NYC Mission Trip - Summer 2016!

Families of Jr. and Sr. High Students! Mark your calendars now for next Summer's Family Mission Trip to NEW YORK CITY. We are scheduled to serve on the island of Manhattan from July 18-23, 2016 (give or take a day on either end for travel, TBD) through the Seafarers International House (a ministry of the ELCA). This year we're not just inviting students, but encouraging parents to attend this event with their kids! These are the memories that last a lifetime, so don't miss this opportunity to serve together!

### SAT and CAT

After numerous attempts to gain momentum with the separated teams, I'm admitting defeat and merging them together again. SAT and CAT will now collectively be called the Family Advisory Team (FAT), and will meet at 6 p.m. on the following days through the end of 2015:

November 3  
 December 8

### Thank you!

Finally - I'd like to offer a word of sincere thanks for the congregation's cards, letters, messages and prayers during my recent illness. The support of this community is something I know that I can count on, but will never take for granted. It means so much to my family to have godly men and women to walk beside me during the thin places of life, and we continue to be grateful. I don't know how people go through life without a community like this to journey with. Going forward, I promise to take care of myself so that our time together might be long and productive!

20 people trained in CPR for both adults and infants, plus the use of AEDs, and received certification from the American Heart Association.



Rally Day fun September 20



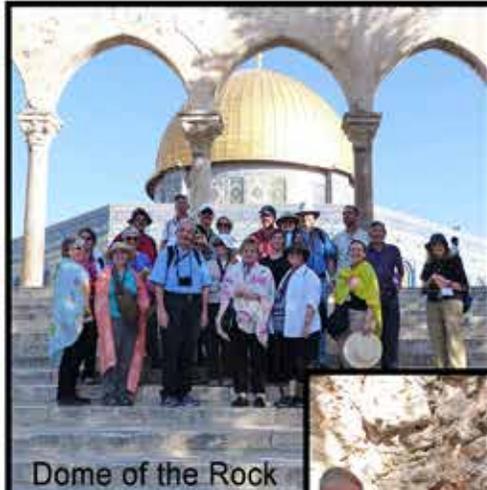
Dead Sea



Fresh olives



Rest at Masada



Dome of the Rock

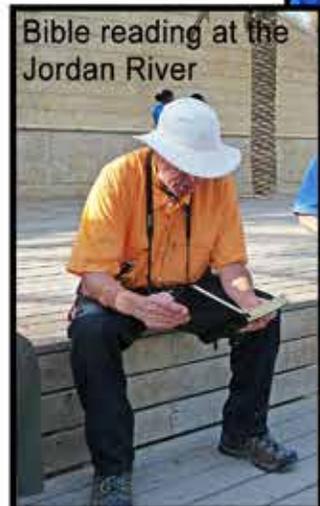


Via Dolorosa



Sunset over the Sea of Galilee from Hippos

October Israel Study Trip



Bible reading at the Jordan River



Bible reading at the Western Wall



## CARE TEAM

This is the third in a series to tell what your Care Team does - calling on the telephone.

Telephoning can involve more complexity than sending cards, in scheduling and making a contact and in sharing over the telephone with someone we may or may not know well. Usually we receive some guidance from Pastor or Betsy as to whether or not a call is appropriate for a particular care receiver. Telephoning is reaching out in a personal way and involves faith that the Holy Spirit will help us find the words.

**Pam Mobley** writes: Calling on the telephone is an "Up close and Personal" way of caring to let the church members know that we (CTS) are missing their presence at church, and are interested in how they are doing, following surgery, injury, bereavement or absence from church for awhile. Reaching out by calling brings satisfaction to me, and I often hear happiness in the voice of the member I am calling. They express thankfulness knowing that we care, miss, and are praying for them.

Calling gives them a sense of being connected to our church family. Telling them we are praying for them, are interested in their daily lives, and asking if they have other needs is important. Sometimes we are the only caring voice they hear, that day - it's like giving a "hug" over the phone. We listen and are not judgmental, and at times provide a lifeline to the outside world, or laugh and catch up on church events. I do enjoy calling our care receivers.

Next month – visiting a care receiver.

Arnie Kaestner

Let Go  
by William and Nancy Martin

The first step in caregiving is to let go of our ideas about what it means to be a helpful, compassionate caregiver. These mental images set standards that easily lead to disappointment, frustration, and self-doubt. The direct experience of care giving is new every moment and leads us in unfamiliar directions. We gather experience along the way, but with each encounter we must show up, stay present to what is actually happening, and see what occurs. Care giving is about letting go of our ideas and making room for two people who are here in this place, in this moment. It is the freedom to be who we are and to open our hearts to ourselves and to those in our care.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

David **Aguilar**, friend of Bitsy **Muse**

Bob **Barr**, nephew of June and Harvey

**Jacobson**

Karen and LeRoy **Bauer**

Alice **Bonkowsky**, mother of Lily **Sweet**

Eric **Booth**, brother-in-law of Ron **Herbanek**

Keith **Boxx**, son of Betty **Boxx**

Sam **Brown**, father of Elizabeth **Brown**

Reid **Burrell** and the **Burrell Family**, friends of  
Vanita **Homer**

Haily **Callihan**, grandchild of Karen and LeRoy  
**Bauer**

**Joan Gardell and Family**

**The Hagen Family**

Pilar **Harkless**

Rev. Arlyn **Hausmann**, brother of Vanita **Homer**

Roxanne **Hymel**, friend of Michele **Byrnes**

Vivian **Johnson**

Rosamond **Landry**

Jason **Leif**, friend of the **Stallwitz Family**

**Lourdes and Pepe**, friends of Tom and Sandy  
**Wills**

**Penny**, four-legged family member of Tom and  
Sandy **Wills**

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

Deb **Prive**, friend of Karen **Murawski**

Cathy **Roberson**, daughter of Jodie **Davis**

Beverly **Rosson**, sister of Susan **Givens**

Larry **Rosson**, brother-in-law of Susan **Givens**

Gordon **Rountree**, uncle of Ron **Hatcher**

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

Kelly **Nickels**, sister of Carrie **Stallwitz**

Doris **Stange**

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

Marcy **Williams**

Barbara **Winter**, friend of Betty **Boxx**

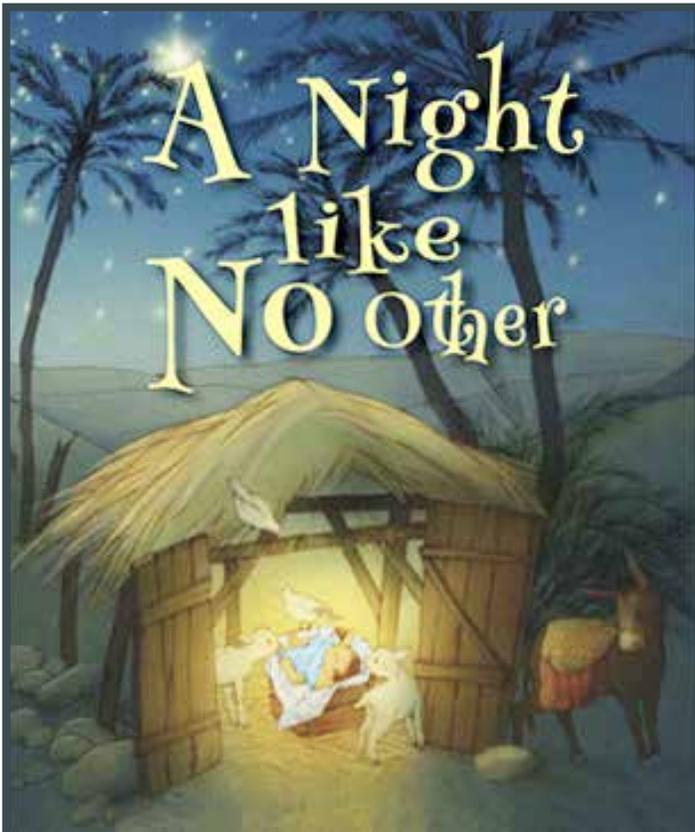
Robin and Mark **Wolfley** and family, friends of  
Ruth **Klinger**

**Zachary**, grandson of Bitsy **Muse**

Sandy and Ricky **Wilson**, aunt and cousin 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:

713-784-6620 or [ctsoffice1@comcast.net](mailto:ctsoffice1@comcast.net)



*Remember that ONE, SPECIAL night--  
a night like no other!*

## ANNUAL ANGEL BREAKFAST

Saturday, December 6  
9:00 am - 10:30 am

For more information:

Vicki Rudolph-Williams 713-703-9155  
Denise Carlson 281-236-0174  
Karen Murawski 281-253-1331

## FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF SEPT. 30, 2015

	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Income	\$477,619
Total Expenses	\$495,015
Deficit	(\$17,396)



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Denise Carlson  
Andy Iversen
- 3 Kylie Richard
- 4 Monte Richard
- 5 Holly Heil  
Lily Sweet  
Carson Taylor
- 6 Philip Sweet
- 7 Bryant King
- 8 Laura Hanson  
Emma Hammett
- 10 Betty Boxx  
Chuck Cook
- 11 Dorcas Ukpe  
Paul Williams
- 12 Jennifer Sterle  
Eve Cooper
- 13 Doris Stange
- 15 Margery Wheeler
- 16 Arnie Kaestner  
John Puder
- 19 Doug Hanson  
Michael Sweet
- 21 Tyler Herbanek  
Jo Ann Olds
- 23 Paul Richard
- 27 Russell Reider, Jr. (Rusty)
- 28 Betty Hassinger  
Gary Hiestand  
Gloria Reider



## NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Doug and Julie Hanson
- 7 Kevin and Jackie Scace
- 12 Gary and Mary Hiestand
- 13 Brian and Julie Heil  
Erik and Mary Beth Teegerstrom
- 21 James and Claire Ellison
- 26 Paul and Vicki Williams





# NOVEMBER 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 12:30 Confirmation Class	2 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	3 7-7 Election Voting 6:00 FAT 7:00 Bible Study-Creative Service	4 7:30 AA Journey	5 5:30 WHAM ESL	6 11:00 WHAM ESL	7
8 Elementary Children and Families- Dewberry Farms	9	10 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:00 Worship & Music Meeting	11 7:00 Men Who Love Spaghetti 7:30 AA Journey	12 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:00 Council	13 11:00 WHAM ESL	14
15 9:30 Faith Together Advent Workshop	16 3:30-6:30 Homeless Ministry	17 5:30 WHAM ESL 7:00 Bible Study-Order	18 7:00 Opportunity Endowment Fund 7:30 AA Journey	19 5:30 WHAM ESL	20 11:00 WHAM ESL	21
22 12:30 Congregational Thanksgiving Dinner 	23	24 5:30 WHAM ESL	25 7:30 AA Journey	26 Thanksgiving - Office Closed 	27	28 9:00 Altar Guild
29	30				 <p>Sunday Worship 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Christian Education-Sunday Classes for all ages 9:30-10:30 a.m.</p>	

This newsletter and a calendar of church activities are available on the CTS website at:  
[www.christtheservant.net](http://www.christtheservant.net)

**December newsletter information deadline is:  
November 15**

Please submit information and articles in **MSWord documents** to Laura Wilhelm at [lvwilhelm@comcast.net](mailto:lvwilhelm@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](mailto:ctsoffice1@comcast.net)

Editor's note: My apologies for the delay in getting the newsletter out this month. I had the wonderful opportunity to go to Israel and see the Bible come alive, and did not return until after the newsletter deadline.

## CHURCH STAFF

**PASTOR**  
The Rev. James Giannantonio  
[jrgiannan@gmail.com](mailto:jrgiannan@gmail.com)

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**  
Betsy Riggs  
[ctsoffice1@comcast.net](mailto:ctsoffice1@comcast.net)

**DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY**  
Jason "JT" Thomas  
[jasonthomas0619@gmail.com](mailto:jasonthomas0619@gmail.com)

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**  
John Krueger  
[ctschoir1@comcast.net](mailto:ctschoir1@comcast.net)

**NURSERY CAREGIVER**  
Amanda Howell  
Michelle Sanchez

**SUNDAY CUSTODIAN**  
Sulma Cruz

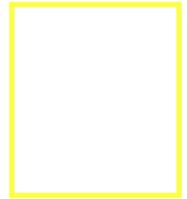
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## 2015 COUNCIL MEMBERS

**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	Nursery Attendant	Amanda Howell
CanCare Representative	Susan Kramer		Assistant: Michelle Sanchez
Care Team	Arnie Kaestner	Opportunity Endowment Fund	Carrie Stallwitz
College Ministry	Linda Shoemaker, Linda Siegele	Personnel	Karen Welborn
Disaster Response Team	Mike Karas	Prayer Chain	Judi Leisk
Family Aid Ministry	Carolyn Giannantonio	Property	Brent Brown, Ron Herbanek
Fellowship Committee	Rosalie Fontenot	Sound Team	TBA 8:00 Service
Greeters	Donna Schneider		Brent Brown-11:00 Service
Homeless Ministry	Shirley Downing	Stewardship	Carolyn Kirk
Ladies Dinner Group	Mickey Walters	Ushers	8:00 Russell Farmer
Lawn Care	Russell Farmer, Kevin Petterson		11:00 Pat Welborn
Lectors, CTS Players	Carolyn Kirk, Matt Grant	WHAM Representatives	Arnie Kaestner, Marilee Dittrich
Liturgical Assistants	Mary Beth Teegerstrom	Worship and Music	Tamara Porras
		Youth Fellowship	Michele Byrnes, Vicki Williams