

THE SCROLL



CHRIST THE KING
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST THE KING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE CHRISTMAS GIFT

BY: P. CLAY HOLLAND, *Executive Minister*

When I was seven years old, Archie Manning was my hero. At the time, Manning was the quarterback of the then-hapless New Orleans Saints. But I grew up with my dad regaling me with stories of Archie's heroics on the field as the quarterback of the Ole Miss Rebels. I was constantly fascinated by this man from a small town in Mississippi who got knocked senseless for a couple of hours every Sunday but never complained and always came back to play his hardest.

It was for that reason that I wanted the Christmas of 1978 to be the Christmas of Archie Manning. I asked for a black jersey with #8 on the back, and a genuine New Orleans Saints football helmet. Then I waited.

On Christmas morning I opened the first package: a black jersey with #8 on the back. After a couple of packages containing socks and underwear, I moved on to the larger box. There I found a shiny gold helmet with a meticulously painted (painted!) fleur de lis on both sides. It was amazing, and I spent the better part of a month running around the house and the yard in that helmet.

It was not until much later that I learned that my mother and father had not been able to find a New Orleans Saints football helmet for my Christmas gift. This, being the days before the Internet, made creativity a preeminent virtue. My mother purchased a plain white football helmet, gold spray paint, and black acrylic paint and painstakingly painted it to perfectly resemble a Saints helmet. To this day, I can't imagine how long it took her to paint perfect replicas of the Saints logo on both sides of the helmet.

As I've reflected on that Christmas gift, I realized what made it so special was that it was thoughtful, sacrificial, and given out of love. My mother could have given up; rather

she thought through her options and made a plan. Her plan required the sacrifice of time, money and energy: three resources that were not exactly abundant in our house. She was willing to make this sacrifice because she loved me and wanted to provide something for me that I could not provide for myself.

Even though you will hear me say ten or more times this month that gifts are not the essence of Christmas, this gift brings to mind the ultimate gift our Heavenly Father gave us in sending Jesus into the world.

The gift of Jesus was thoughtful. In fact, Ephesians 1 tells us that before the foundations of the world God planned to send his Son into the world. The gift of Jesus was not a haphazard "last straw." It was God's reasoned plan for all time.

The gift of Jesus was also sacrificial. The word for God becoming man is "incarnation," and there is no more sacrificial act in the history of the universe than the incarnation of Jesus Christ. In becoming man Jesus subjected himself to the brokenness of the very world he created. He suffered humiliation, disease, fatigue, loneliness, and abandonment even to the point of a horrific death on a cross. The incarnation, far from being "cute," is shocking in its level of sacrifice.

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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols

Childcare available for children ages 3 and under

10:00 p.m. Communion

Be a Bringer –

Invite your friends, family and neighbors to worship with us at Christ the King on Christmas Eve.

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COMPANY IS COMING! ARE WE READY?

BY: CLAIRE CATON

The bevy of Christmas activity has begun, bringing with it a seemingly endless list of errands, last-minute home improvement tasks and menus to plan. Company – be it friends or family – is set to arrive, and from laundry to decorating, we all scramble to get ready so that our guests will feel comfortable and welcome in our homes.

Many would claim, “Thank goodness this routine only happens during holidays!” Imagine what it looks like to play this role on a weekly basis? But did you know that many new people attend Christ the King every Sunday?? From the set up of the facilities to the welcome table to hospitality in the Grove, we are striving to create an environment that welcomes and refreshes our guests every week. Many members serve as greeters, ushers, and on the hospitality team, but you don’t need a special job description to help us fulfill the

mission of being a warm and welcoming church.

In a church our size, we may not know who’s new or who’s a regular, so we would encourage all of you to treat everyone as if you were welcoming invited guests into your home. First time guests often come alone and enter a sanctuary full of strangers. Eye contact, a friendly smile, a personal introduction and a simple hello are easy ways to let them know we’ve been expecting them and are glad that they came. We would love for every Christ the King member to observe

two simple rules on Sunday mornings: the five minute rule and the ten feet rule.

Please spend the first five minutes before and after services seeking out new faces to greet and get to know. It’s always easier to socialize with friends we’ve missed during the week, but our guests can come away with the perception that there isn’t room for them relationally in our church. The ten feet rule reminds us to at least make eye contact and say hello to those who are within ten feet of us. If you don’t know the person by name, take a minute to introduce yourself. The person you greet may be hurting and searching for God during the Christmas season. Maybe your warm smile will melt the cynicism of someone who has not been to a church in years.

Church research has shown that people make up their minds about returning to a church within the first 11 minutes after entering the building. That means that they haven’t even heard a sermon yet. Company is coming...what kind of welcome will they receive?

If you have a heart to help us make Christ the King the warmest and friendliest church in Houston, consider joining the welcome ministry and email us at ruth@christtheking.com.

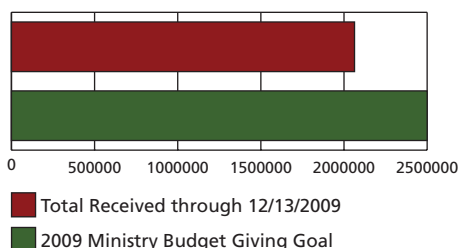
Claire Caton is a member of Christ the King.

END OF YEAR GIVING

Thank you for your generosity throughout this year in supporting the mission and ministry of Christ the King. We’re deeply grateful for your confidence in what the Lord is doing among us and through us to bring honor to his name and powerfully extend his kingdom in Houston and beyond.

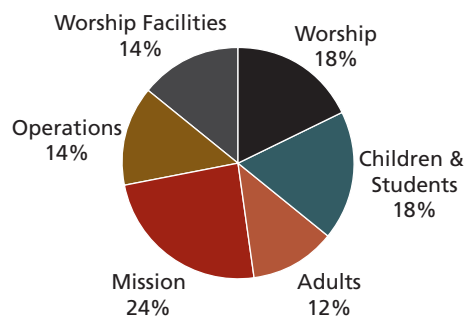
As we approach year’s end, our financial need remains significant. As of Sunday, December 13, we still need to receive \$436,716 to meet our 2009 Ministry Budget. Please pray for the Lord to provide.

Ministry Budget 2009



To give online now please visit www.christtheking.com/giving.

2009 Ministry Budget



To view our 2009 Mission Partners funded by our Ministry Budget, visit our website at www.christtheking.com/our-missionaries. The church’s 2008 audited financial state-

ments are available upon request at the church office. For other questions regarding our ministry budget, please contact Adrienne Fry at the church office.

End of Year Giving Deadline. For contributions to be recorded in 2009, they must be received in the church office by December 31, postmarked or given online by December 31, or given in the offering plate by December 27. You may want to consider a gift of appreciated assets. For information regarding stock transfers, please contact Adrienne Fry at the church office.

EXTEND Update. Total gifts to EXTEND received to date are \$9,807,594. Total outstanding pledges are \$3,832,387, including outstanding pledges for 2009 of \$1,537,917. If you have any questions about your 2009 pledge, please contact Adrienne Fry at the church office. To give online now to EXTEND, please visit our website at www.christtheking.com/giving.

NEW MEMBERS



Caleb and Tiffany Adkins



Carrie Allen



Genie Anderson



Esther Blama



Michael Bryant



Claire Caton



Milton and Frances Dawolo



Kenny and Monika DuBose



Massa Farley



Austin and Amber Fatheree



Brian and Catherine Fox



Valerie Gabriel



Brian Gerwig



Rob and Lori Hendricks



Jared and Erin Huffman



Kacie Jaksa



Ted Jones



Matt and Anna-Grace Lair



David Lugo



Billy and Betsy McMillan



Marcello and Cheryl Minotti



Andrew Paine



Brooks and Sarah Shughart



Matthew Utecht



David and Katherine Velasquez

CHURCH TOWN HALL MEETING

Please join us
Sunday, January 10 at 6:00 p.m.
in the sanctuary of
Westminster United Methodist Church
(5801 San Felipe) as we worship,
pray and dream together
about the unique missional opportunity
the Lord will place before us in 2010
with our church's move to
the new facility on Silber Road.
Childcare will be provided for ages 8
weeks to Kindergarten.
Questions?
Contact Mary Grace Rogers
at 713.892.5464.

Men's & Women's Ministry

The Men of Christ the King held their first ever Men's Advance (sometimes known as a "retreat") on November 13 and 14 at the Retreat at Artesian Lakes near Cleveland, Texas. Greg Thompson, Senior Minister of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, Virginia, spoke about friendship in a world of isolation. We were very encouraged by the turn-out, and we hope it was an encouraging time for all the men who attended.



Greg Thompson
Teaching



Batch Batchelder and Leo Schuster



John Trapp, Eric Priest, and Joe Deegan Lead
Worship



Artesian Lakes Sign



Ultimate Frisbee



Ultimate Frisbee

Wednesday, December 9 the women of Christ the King gathered for our annual Christmas Dinner. With tables decorated by volunteer hostesses and dinner catered by Collina's and Crave Cupcakes we enjoyed a night of fun and inspiration during this busy holiday season. We had the joy of welcoming Megan Croft to join us as our speaker. Megan is a marriage and family therapist in private practice in Nashville. Her husband Stacey is the RUF campus minister at Vanderbilt and a former Student Director for Christ the King. Megan eloquently inspired us to remember the importance of taking time to truly adore the gift of the birth of Jesus this Christmas.



Linna Mooring and Cecille Shannon



Holly Batchelder and Sol Edwards



Lindsay Lanham, Megan Croft, Susan Ogle and
Tracy Lou



Centerpiece

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study meets on a weekday morning or in the evening in order to provide a place for women to grow spiritually through Bible study and prayer. Each study either meets in small groups or in a combination of large and small groups for teaching and discussion. The Women's Bible Study also provides a warm and inviting environment for people new to Christ the King to get "plugged in" and learn more about the church.

During the winter/spring of 2010, we will have two studies available: *Happily Ever After* presented by Barbara Spell from January 11- March 9 and *Hebrews* with Clay Holland from January 11- April 26 on Monday mornings at 10:00 am at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Please register online at www.christtheking.com. Questions? Call Jane McCord 713-524-5723.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Mark your calendars for February 19 & 20 and break away for a time of rest at the San Luis Resort in Galveston, Texas. We will be reuniting with our Christmas Dinner speaker, Megan Croft to learn more about how we can truly rest in the Lord. Registration will begin online on December 21 and at church on Sunday, January 3. The deadline for registration is January 25. Cost is \$95 for double occupancy and \$70 for quad. For questions, please contact Alicia Garza at 713.805.4723 or agarza3940@comcast.net.

FALL RETREAT AND BIBLE STUDIES

The student ministry at Christ the King has been blessed this fall with a number of different opportunities for our youth to grow in their walk with the Lord. Both age groups went on separate retreats this fall to Stony Creek Ranch. The middle school studied the Lord's Prayer, and the high school learned about managing and redeeming time. Our weekly Bible studies have also been a constant among both groups. Middle school spent the entire semester learning about "The Biggies" which included a discussion on the fundamental questions of our faith. The high school spent time in a discussion based study on Biblical relationships, followed by a five week study on the "Doctrines of Grace." Our students have spent significant time this fall in fellowship with each other through prayer and the Word, and we pray that God would continue to bless us with his goodness as we approach the spring semester.



Bethany Cavanaugh and Lauren Neblett



Mary Caroline Schuster and Amy Cavanaugh



*Mary Elizabeth Heard,
Grace VanLoh, Hannah
Davis, and Elizabeth
Olinde*



*James Whitehead,
Preston Heard, and
Thomas Whitehead*

BUILDING PROGRESS



Worship Space (Main Entrance on Left)



Large Truss Placed on Worship Space



Worship Space Steel Completed



Concrete Block Walls are Built in Worship Space



Educational Wing (Main Entrance Center)

ETTA TAYLU: A STORY OF GOD'S GRACE

BY: JESSICA BISHOP

When Etta Taylu came to Houston six years ago, she had survived what most of us will only ever encounter in movies like “Blood Diamond” or “Hotel Rwanda.” Civil war had torn apart her native country of Liberia, leaving many dead and displacing entire families.

War broke out in the early 1990s when Charles Taylor’s rebel forces began fighting the Liberian government of President Samuel Doe. One day, soldiers arrived at the Taylu house and took away Etta and her husband at gunpoint. At the jail, they questioned Etta, releasing her only after sticking a knife in her stomach. She returned home to find her house on fire and her six children gone. To this day, she does not know what happened to her husband.

Etta was then put into a rebel-held detention center where she found several of her children. After three months, government forces attacked the compound and rounded the prisoners into one room to shoot them. Etta and her kids escaped through a broken window and made their way on foot to the

capital city of Monrovia, surviving the journey through the bush by foraging for food.

They lived in Monrovia in relative safety for a few years until the war flared up again. Once again, the rebels threw Etta and her children into prison with others of the Krahn ethnicity (the same ethnicity as the former president, Samuel Doe). Etta was now tempted to give up: life had been such a struggle. She remembers gathering her children together and praying, “Lord, I’m tired. Now it’s time to die. Let me die here with my children.” At that moment, she heard a loud BOOM! BOOM! Someone was tearing down the doors of the jail, and she thought, “Okay, Lord. Here it is.” What followed was not her death, but forces from the neighboring country of Guinea who rescued them. They escaped by ship to Guinea and eventually came to the United States in the summer of 2003.

Etta, three of her children, and one grandchild were the first of many refugees from Liberia to resettle in the city of Houston. A few weeks after their arrival, a

group of students from Christ the King met her family on a mission in Houston. They arranged a Sunday morning carpool, and Etta’s family began coming to Christ the King. Through this connection, many other Liberians have come to the church as they make their new home in Houston.

Etta credits God with her survival and says he brought her directly to Christ the King. She grew up the daughter of a pastor and says, “I know there is a God in heaven, he is a living God who sent his son to die for our sins. He has walked with me and answered my many prayers, even though I ‘don’t know book’ (cannot read or write).” Her story is an incredible testimony to a God who delights in healing the broken-hearted and who draws to himself a church from every “tribe, tongue, and nation” on earth.

Jessica Bishop is a member of Christ the King.

If you would like to know more stories like Etta’s and help serve the Liberian community, contact Brad DeLoach at the church office.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Baptisms

Luke Guy Alonso, Jonah Frederick Dolibois, Mikayla Grace Elam, Ettalina Toe, Gwyneth Toe and Moses Weah were baptized on September 20.

Penelope Jo Diamantopoulos, Elisabeth Jane Liuzzi, Peter Matthew Liuzzi and Mary Eloise Liuzzi were baptized on October 18

Valerie Gabriel was baptized on November 8

Births

Justine Ophelia and Roman Sebastian were born to Chara and Sam Gafford on September 18

Paden was born to Blake and Ryan Arnould on Sept 21

Edward Christian was born to Tricia and Tad Wade on October 5

Samuel Victor was born to Victor and Victoria Cole on October 29

Walter Lee Coffey was born to Jaime and Patrick Coffey on November 2

Abigail Grace was born to Renee and John Pisklak on November 5

James Harris was born to Annamarie and Chris Dewhurst on November 24

Communions

Caroline Marie Cook and Cara Kathryn Schwinger celebrated their first communions on October 18

Marriages

Marion Gammil was married to Kurt Keller on October 25

Michelle McNamara was married to Mike Hon on November 27

Alicia Reagan was married to Christopher Jachmich on November 28

Aimee Clement was married to Garret Johnson on December 12

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to Kathleen Kahil in the loss of her husband

Our sympathy is extended to Michelle and Rob Hays in the loss of Rob's grandmother

Our sympathy is extended to Sara and Bret Oliver in the loss of Sara's grandmother

Our sympathy is extended to Betty Liang in the loss of her grandmother

Our sympathy is extended to Mary and Jonathan Smith in the loss of Jonathan's father

Our sympathy is extended to Stephanie Van Wagner in the loss of her father

Our sympathy is extended to Melissa and Jason Holton in the loss of Jason's grandfather

Our sympathy is extended to Christine and Robin Elston in the loss of Christine's mother

Our sympathy is extended to Sarah and Reese Hazel in the loss of Reese's brother

Our sympathy is extended to Lisa and Reagan Swank in the loss of Lisa's grandmother

Our sympathy is extended to Elizabeth and Steve Rizzotti in the loss of Steve's father.

WELCOME JARED, ERIN AND KNOX HUFFMAN!

This past November, the Lord gave Christ the King a great gift when the Session called Jared Huffman to be the Assistant Minister for Discipleship and Congregational Care. The Session has called Jared Huffman to be an Assistant Minister at Christ the King. Jared's main responsibilities are in the areas of Discipleship and Congregational Care. Jared graduated from Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri with degrees in theology and pastoral care. He comes to Christ the King after having served internships at Kirk of the Hills Presbyterian Church in St. Louis and Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church in Lookout Mountain, Tennessee. Jared is also a graduate of Covenant College, where he was a member of the varsity soccer team.

Jared is married to Erin, and they have a 5-month-old son, Knox. While in St. Louis, Erin taught freshman English at Westminster Christian School. Please warmly welcome the Huffman family to Houston and Christ

the King and pray for Jared as he transitions into his new role. We are so grateful to the Lord for bringing them to serve among us.



Erin, Jared, and Knox Huffman

The Christmas Gift

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Finally, the gift of Jesus was given in love. John 3:16 says it best: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

This Christmas, I would encourage you to stop and ponder the gift of Jesus. Meditate upon the fact that God does not randomly throw ideas at the wall until one of them sticks. Rather, he is thoughtful and intentional. As you encounter manger scenes, think about the incredible sacrifice that led Jesus to break into the very world he created. Then, especially when you are feeling lonely, depressed or doubtful, consider God's love in sending Jesus to rescue his world from sin. Christmas really is about a gift after all.

Church Office:

777 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 340
Houston, TX 77056
713.892.5464
713.892.5470 (Fax)
info@christtheking.com
www.christtheking.com
Office hours: Monday – Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm

Worship:

Sunday mornings at 9:00am & 10:30am
Houston Community College Southwest Campus
5601 West Loop South
Houston, TX 77081
Just off I-610 south of the Galleria

Christ the King is a self governing, self-supporting congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

Worship Location



MISSION STATEMENT

Christ the King Presbyterian Church exists to worship, know and serve the King so that he is honored and his reign is powerfully extended in Houston and beyond.

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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