

# THE SCROLL



CHRIST THE KING  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST THE KING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## BEHOLD, HE COMES!

BY CLAY HOLLAND

In general, I have always been a heavy sleeper, but there have been evenings in my life in which sleep has eluded me. Most of these nights have been characterized by a state of high anticipation.

I could always count on Christmas Eve being a sleepless night. Usually on Christmas Eve I would eat a very large dinner and follow it with a couple of helpings of dessert. The sugar would kick in right about the time I was supposed to be winding down, and I would get in bed, close my eyes, and try to fall asleep. It almost never happened. My mind would race toward the morning when our entire family would gather around the Christmas tree, eat sausage and biscuits, and open presents. I loved Christmas, and the anticipation was enough to keep me awake most of the night.

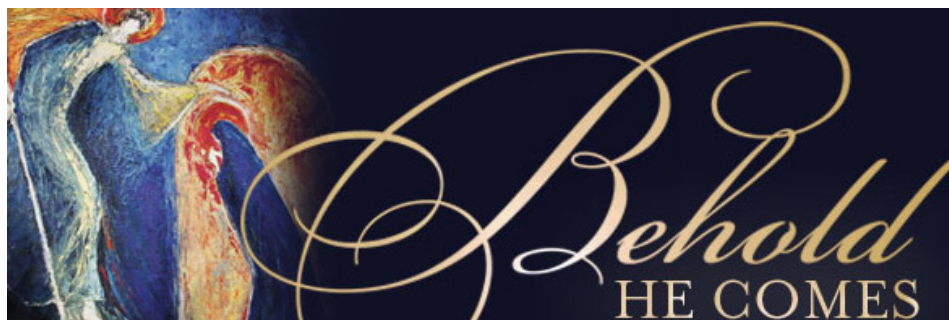
The Prophet Isaiah delivered God's message to God's people during a time of high anticipation. At the very beginning of the Bible, God promised his people that he would be their God and they would be his people, but now they were falling on hard times. The empire that King David had governed was now split in half. Foreign armies invaded and defeated them at an alarming rate. It looked as if God's promise was not going to come true. The people of Judah felt alone, and they wondered if God had abandoned them.

It was during this time that God shone light into the darkness. The book of Isaiah provides some of the clearest prophecies in the Bible related to the coming of Jesus. It was as encouraging for them as it is for us. For we, too, live in a state of anticipation. We live in a time in which we often wonder if God is going to keep his promises. During the worst of times we wonder if God has abandoned us.

God, through Isaiah, answers these questions with a resounding "No!" God has not abandoned you. In fact, he comes for you. He comes in the person of Jesus, our Savior. Though we live with uncertainty in this world, we also live with the solid truth announced by Isaiah and fulfilled by Jesus: "Behold, he comes!"

This Advent, we will be celebrating Christ's coming as we look at the prophecies of Isaiah related to Jesus. Come this Advent in your anticipation, and please remember to bring others along with you. The message of the coming of Christ into this world is the message of healing and peace. Let's share it with as many people as possible.

*Clay Holland is the Senior Minister at Christ the King.*



### ADVENT EVENTS 2011

*Sunday, November 27*

Who Is Jesus? (begins)

9:30 am - Spiritual Growth Class

*Sunday, December 4*

Advent Music Celebration

9:30 & 11:00 am

*Wednesday, December 7*

Women's Christmas Dinner

7:00 pm

*Saturday, December 24*

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 pm - Lessons & Carols

10:00 pm - Holy Communion

*Sunday, December 25*

Christmas Day Service

10:30 am



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# WATCHING GOD PROVIDE

BY VALERIE TOMPSON

Watching God provide for Christ the King over the past five years has been truly amazing. As I reflect on this time, it is remarkable how God has used different people in our church at different times.

Over the years, because of my position at the church, I have often been asked some variation of a couple of different questions. Things like, "Isn't there usually just one person that calls at year end to see what the church needs?" or, "It always seems that we are so far behind and then every year the church meets its budget. Do you think this year we may not collect what we need?" I can attest that every gift does matter, no matter what the size, and during my tenure at the church, there has not been one person

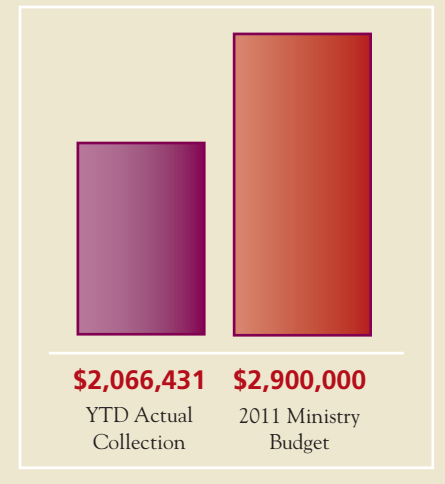
who ensures that we make our budget. In fact, there was one year that the final check to arrive in the mail got us to our projected budget goal. Another year a member who had moved sent a year-end gift that completed our goal.

The truth is, we would be foolish to presume that we will meet our goal every year just because we have in years past, but I know that God will be at work in those years just as he has been in the past. The Lord has provided mightily for our church. I am grateful for the generous hearts of so many in our congregation and also honored to be able to watch how he works through so many to extend his kingdom here in Houston and beyond.

*Valerie Tompson is the Financial Administrator at Christ the King.*

## 2011 MINISTRY BUDGET UPDATE

as of 10/31/2011



# SONG OF ISAIAH

During Advent, we not only anticipate celebrating Christ's coming at Christmas but also look forward to his return in glory. The following is an Advent hymn composed by Eric Priest, based on the themes found in the book of Isaiah.

*Song of Isaiah  
By Eric Priest*

In the darkness of our night  
The Lord will come and shine his light,  
Give the blind new eyes to see,  
Throw off their chains, and set them free.  
He will come, our Wond'rous Counselor.  
He will come, our Mighty God,  
Prince of Peace, our King Eternal.  
He will come - our God with us.

When the chosen time arrived  
God sent his Son - the Sacrifice.  
Born a man, our sins to end,  
To die, to rise, and to ascend.

He has come, our Wond'rous Counselor.  
He has come, our Mighty God,  
Prince of Peace, our King Eternal.  
He has come - our God with us.  
When the final trumpet sounds  
And ev'ry foe is then cast down,  
Christ, our Lord, will take the throne,  
And reign victorious with his own.

He will come, our Wond'rous Counselor.  
He will come, our Mighty God,  
Prince of Peace, our King Eternal.  
He will come - our God with us.

*Eric Priest is an Assistant Minister at Christ the King.*

## WHO IS JESUS? *Begins Sunday, November 27*

This Spiritual Growth Class will take an in depth look at who Jesus is as Redeemer, Prophet, Priest, and King. The purpose is to gain a greater understanding of who Christ was and is as our Lord and Savior in order to prepare our hearts as we worship him in the Advent season.

# ENGAGING YOUR CHILDREN IN ADVENT

BY PATTI CUNNINGHAM

*O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

This familiar Christmas Carol is one of my family's favorites. It is a message of hope for those who celebrate the birth of our Messiah today, like Jesus' birth was to those who witnessed that wonderful event over 2,000 years ago.

Celebrating the Advent season is a great opportunity to teach our children the meaning of the season. Advent is an ancient tradition in which Christians joyously celebrate Jesus' coming as a baby to be our Savior, and also anticipate his triumphant return.

On each Sunday in Advent, a candle is lit which represents a part of the story of Jesus' birth. This year Advent begins on November 27 when we will light the Prophecy candle, followed by the Bethlehem, Shepherds and Angels candles on the next three Sundays. The last candle, the Christ candle, is lit on Christmas Eve. These candles are a visual reminder of the Christmas story, when God in flesh came as our Savior.

The children's ministry is providing activities to help families celebrate the coming of our Savior. Two-year-olds through Kindergarteners will receive *Come to Bethlehem and See*, a small daily devotion book with manger scene and stickers for children to mark each day of Advent. Children in first through fifth grades will get *Advent Prayers and Promises*, a daily devotion book that has puzzles, games and crafts.



Here are some other ways your family can celebrate the Advent season:

- Make or buy an Advent wreath to light at home. Examples can be found online.
- Read daily Bible readings that remind us of God's redemptive plan from creation to Christmas. An example is found on the church website under Children's Ministry.
- Buy or make a nativity set (kid friendly) that young children can play with as you talk about the birth of Jesus.

I look forward to serving alongside you as we teach our children the truths of the gospel and celebrate the coming of our glorious King. Please contact me if you have questions about Advent activities for your children.

*Patti Cunningham is the Director of Children's Ministries at Christ the King.*



## BEING FED AT MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

BY BRAD LEHMAN

Last summer, I spotted the bulletin announcement about Men's Bible Studies and made a beeline for the information table after the benediction. Since I was new, I wanted to find a place to settle in. I was new to Houston, new to my job and new to Christ the King.

Because I lived in Montrose, the fellow manning the table suggested I join the group that meets at River Oaks Baptist Church. In the gray hours of the morning on the day of the first meeting, I wound my way through the church kitchen and was eventually directed to the room where our group meets.



The group, fed spiritually by Seth Russell and Sonny DeShong, and fed literally by Andrew "Breakfast Taquitos" White, enabled me to quickly meet several men at Christ the King and immediately get them praying for me here when I still had one foot in San Antonio. The studies helped me focus on Jesus in the middle of each hectic week.

I'm not the only one benefiting. Listen to other guys in the group:

David Schwab: "The study is important to me because it allows a rare opportunity to share openly with other Christian men about our walk with the Lord. I love the open, trusting, and honest discussions we have week after week as well as the continuity of participants."

Andrew Baker: "This Bible study has let me study and fellowship with men in other stages of life."

Jerry Dollinger: "The content of each study over the past three years has helped me in my spiritual journey. *A Praying Life*, the study from this past spring, was particularly helpful. It provided me with a very



understandable insight into daily prayer and a practical approach to incorporating it into my life. My wife, Jan, was touched in a special way by her reading of this book as well. A frequent comment we receive from those we have given a copy is that it is life changing. I feel this is evidence of the quality of our Bible study material. I look forward each week to being with the men in my group."

And so do I.

*Brad Lehman is a member of Christ the King.*



## Recap of 2011 Men's Events

This year was an exciting one for the Men of Christ the King. The following is a list of our activities. We look forward to more connecting, learning, and serving in 2012.

### JANUARY

Steak Night

### FEBRUARY

Men's Retreat w/ Ryan Laughlin

### MARCH

Serving Day with Oaklawn PCA

### APRIL

Crawfish Boil

### MAY

Theology on Tap @ St. Arnold's

### JUNE

Bowling Night

### AUGUST

Theology on Tap

### OCTOBER

OctobeRoast

### NOVEMBER

Serving Day

### DECEMBER

Theology on Tap

# MEETING ME ON THE PATH

BY JENNY WEBSTER

**H**alf-hearted. Inconsistent. At times, even flaky. That's how I would describe my involvement with the Women's Bible Study since I first began in the spring of 2007. This is quite a departure from previous study experiences I have had and a departure from the fairly responsible person I've been all my life. From an early age, I would pride myself on being prompt, orderly, and always prepared. But what happened in the spring of 2007 changed my life forever. I became a mom.



Before having kids, I envisioned my stay-at-home mom life entailing a meaningful weekly Bible study. What I didn't foresee was how the Lord would use these studies, in the midst of a demanding season of life, to reveal idols I was clinging to like perfectionism and control.



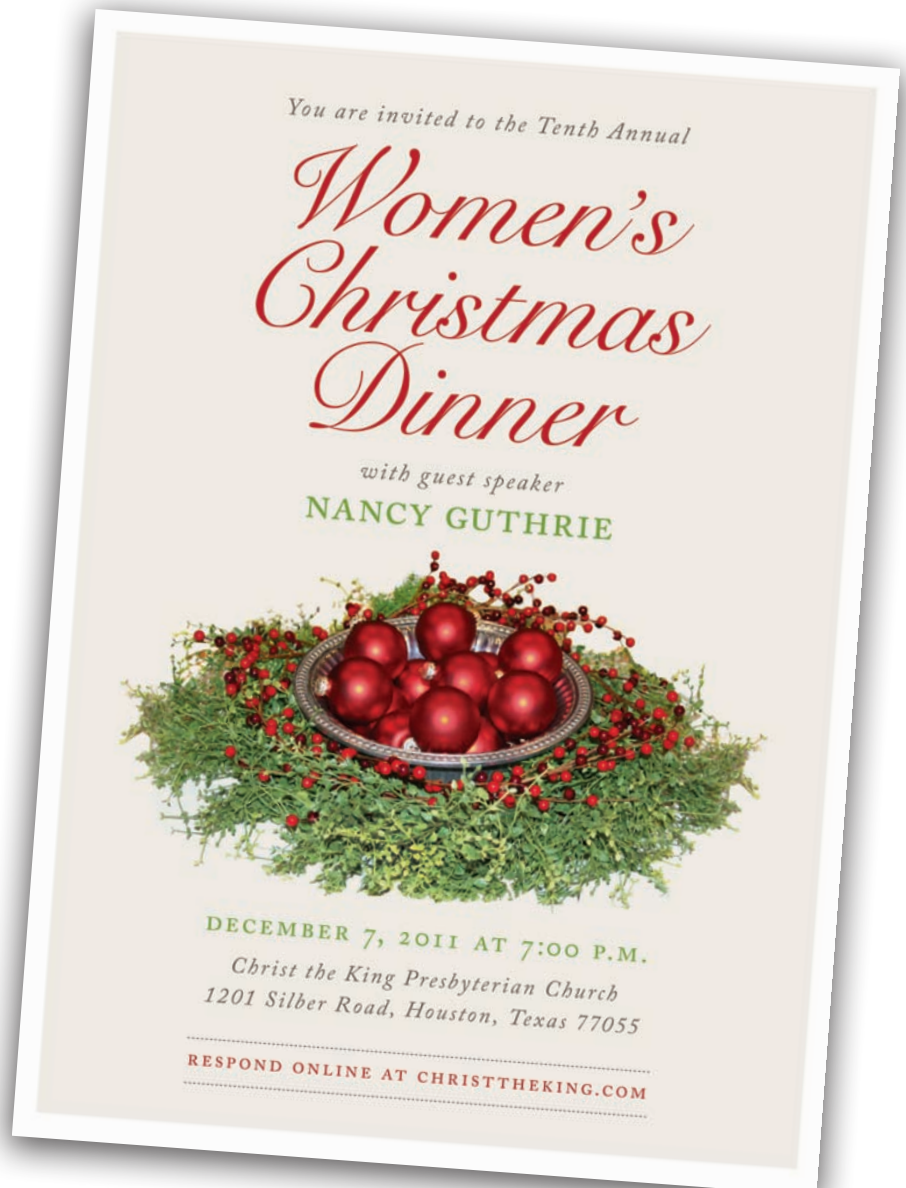
In a word, here's a description of the Christ the King studies with which I've been involved: consistent. Consistently great teaching and consistently authentic fellowship. But because I have three little ones and my schedule is oftentimes

not my own, juxtaposed with all of this consistency is my inconsistency. Inconsistently completing my weekly lessons, inconsistently being on time to the study, inconsistently even showing up. It's enough to make me feel like a total flake some days!

But what the Lord is faithfully teaching me is that he is able to deepen my faith *in spite of* my half-hearted, feeble attempts at

participating in a Bible study. He doesn't need me to be consistent (or even the Christ the King studies to be consistent) to be able to instruct me in his truths. Perhaps at some point I will return to a more orderly, less busy life, but in the moment, God is mercifully meeting me on this path of inconsistency and changing me through the worship, community, and teaching of Women's Bible Study.

*Jenny Webster is a member of Christ the King.*



# VOLUNTEERING WITH STUDENT MINISTRY

BY ROB HAYS

**T**hirteen years ago, the teaching and discipleship I received as a member of the Christ the King student ministry set the course for my adult life, so it's only fitting that I try to give back some of what I received by volunteering with today's Christ the King student ministry. What I didn't expect was how much I would grow even now.

When my wife, Michelle, and I decided to volunteer with junior high students, our primary concern was that we would be miss-

ing out on the quality teaching available in the other classes offered on Sunday mornings. I could not have been more wrong; the teaching that John Trapp and Joe Deegan provide is Biblical, challenging and relational. Moreover, the fellowship among the staff, volunteers and students is rich with real connections and easy humor.

I've been really impressed by the way that the students have bonded with one another. Since our church membership is spread across the entire Houston metro area, many of the students only see each other on

Sundays, but the genuine friendships that have developed among the eighth graders with whom I work has been very encouraging. These students were being baptized when I was finishing high school and beginning my journey as a "grown-up," and it's my hope that the friendships and Biblical teaching that they receive now will bring them full circle, too.

*Rob Hays is a member of Christ the King.*



# GLOBAL MISSION FELLOWSHIP

BY BRAD DeLoach

Each month during the ministry year the Global Mission Fellowship sets aside one evening to gather for discussion, encouragement and prayer focused on God's mission to all the peoples of the earth. The topics vary and we are often joined by one of Christ the King's supported mission partners who shares how the Lord is at work in their part of the world.

Regularly gathering in this way and hearing the stories of the global church stirs passions and brings mutual encouragement as we draw our attention to the mission of the church: "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8). Global "missions" often gets associated with short-term mission trips and exotic reports from missionaries; however, the U.S. Census Bureau reminds us that 1 in 5 Houstonians

is foreign born. Global Mission Fellowship is not just about what is happening "out there" but what's happening in our own lives as well.

Come join us at one of our upcoming events. You will be encouraged by our mission partners and drawn into your part in God's mission to the ends of the earth.

*Brad DeLoach is the Director of Mission & Mercy at Christ the King.*

## Upcoming Global Mission Fellowship Events

**NOVEMBER 19**

Caring for our Mission Partners

**DECEMBER 15**

Global Mission Prayer

**JANUARY 20**

Jaime and Natalia Jimenez -  
Monterrey, Mexico

[www.christtheking.com/the-world](http://www.christtheking.com/the-world)



# REFORMED UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

BY BLAKE ARNOULT

Reformed University Fellowship is the campus ministry of the PCA. The purpose of RUF is to build a community on the college campus that reaches students of different beliefs and doubts with the message of the gospel and equips them to love and serve Jesus and his Church.

RUF coming to the University of Houston is the answer to many prayers.

For some, it is an unexpected answer.

One person thought RUF would never come to UH. At a recent dessert in support of the ministry I ended the night talking to a former UH student. He explained why he was so thrilled to be there. "Blake, I have been praying for years. I prayed that God would bring RUF to UH but I never thought he would actually do it. I never thought this



would happen. Now, God has answered. RUF is finally coming."

Another person didn't realize she WAS praying for RUF at UH. When we were in Boston at Gordon-Conwell Seminary my wife, Ryan, prayed often that God would bring us back to Houston and provide a ministry for me at Christ the King. Although not in our original plans, we now believe with all our hearts that God is calling me to plant RUF at UH. God HAS brought

us back to Houston AND provided me a ministry through Christ the King, just in an unexpected role.

God is at work. RUF coming to UH is the answer to so many prayers. Please continue to pray with me that through RUF at UH we would see students transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions, or if I can be of any service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Blake Arnoult*  
[blake.arnoult@ruf.org](mailto:blake.arnoult@ruf.org)

*Blake Arnoult is a Pastoral Intern at Christ the King.*



**CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

**Baptisms**

William Harry Coffey, Elizabeth Stewart Croyle, Violet Esperanza Edwards and Ann Caroline Hinton were baptized on September 18.

Henderson Arnett Cagle, Joanna Melissa Elam, Peter Thawirath Saudale, Matthew Thanarath Saudale and Anna Grace Steveken were baptized on October 16.

Antoinette Kee Van Meter and Erin Leigh Campbell were baptized on October 30.

**Births**

Neal Margaret was born to Carey and John Peek on August 2.

Emerson Renee was born to Amber and Austin Fatheree on August 8.

Mazie Elizabeth was born to Ryan and Blake Arnoult on August 11.

Lilly June was born to Alyssa and Travis Graham on August 17.

William Earl was born to Catherine and Brian Fox on August 20.

Anneliese Jean was born to Tricia and Jim Zucker on August 27.

Ella Brooke was born to Hannah and John Harger on September 23.

James Kirby was born to Mary and Jonathan Smith on September 25.

Cameron Anne and Ryan Thatcher were born to Anne and Cary Goss on September 28.

Elizabeth (Beth) Suzanne was born to Sarah and Bryant Lee on October 3.

Benjamin Stephen was born to Jenny and Jack Burkhart on October 4.

Cormac Gardner Huffman was born to Erin and Jared Huffman on October 18.

**Communion**

Elizabeth Anne (Betsy) Rasplicka celebrated her first communion on July 31.

Emma Claire White celebrated her first communion on September 18.

Christina Claire and Meredith Louise Betti celebrated their first communions on October 9.

Reese William Reitmeier celebrated his first communion on October 16.

**Marriages**

Ashlie Pierce was married to Stuart Hutton on August 27.

Page Sigman was married to Daniel Thies on September 17.

Jennifer Siepel was married to Kevin Cassidy on October 29.

**Sympathy**

Our sympathy is extended to Alison and Jason Fleming in the death of Jason's father.

Our sympathy is extended to Gill Dolan in the death of his grandmother.

Our sympathy is extended to Anna and John Allison in the death of Anna's brother.

Our sympathy is extended to Evelyn Shelton in the death of her husband and Donna and Steven Anton in the death of Donna's stepfather.

*Young Adults*

**IRON SHARPENING IRON**  
*On Small Groups within the Church*

BY KEVIN CASSIDY

Of the several ways I've been blessed to be a part of our church, one way that stands out is being able to meet regularly with a small group of guys.

Having moved back to Houston shortly after Christ called me to himself, I've seen how the big city can affect me spiritually. Our city can be very challenging and isolating. Work conditions seem to grow more challenging each year, and more is demanded just to keep up. The daily, plodding tasks of life can be wearying. And the sprawl (and traffic!) of the city means we spend less time with people we care about. Long expanses of time can pass between the times I connect with close friends, or connect with any friends at all. Its easy to feel very alone.

Therefore, there is a tremendous relief and comfort in having brothers in Christ

with whom I can share time regularly. Our group has been meeting for two years. When we started, we weren't the most open group. Some were friends, but others of us had just met. We've had people move away and new people join. Through it all, I've been amazed to see how close we've grown. Jesus has taken a bunch of self-sufficient, self-confident guys and has been creating in us new hearts to care for one another. He opened our eyes to how powerfully his grace extends into our lives. I've been a witness to how the Lord has been changing us to be more like Jesus.

We've found that we've been able to share our struggles with one another, and that we aren't as alone as we've sometimes felt. We've been able to confess with one another, and been able to share how the Lord extends grace into our lives. We've been able to support each other when we've

been weak. We've been able to lift our eyes from our daily tasks and appreciate what we see the Lord doing in us and around us. We've been able to grow in intimacy, which is so rare for men in this culture, and understand how the Lord draws us closer to him.

Being in a small group where I can be honest, weak, and supported has been one of the best blessings I've received while at Christ the King.

*Kevin Cassidy is a member of Christ the King.*