

THE SCROLL



CHRIST THE KING
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST THE KING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE SOUND OF MUSIC?

BY ERIC PRIEST - ASSISTANT MINISTER, WORSHIP AND ARTS

Some people enjoy musicals; others despise them. Musicals require a bit of a mental disconnect to accept the underlying premise that in the middle of an average, everyday conversation, music would start up and normal people would burst into song. It is, admittedly, rather bizarre.

When was the last time you saw someone hanging on a lamppost in the middle of a rain-storm singing their heart out like Gene Kelly in *Singing in the Rain*? Or high school students in detention spontaneously dancing an expertly-choreographed number as in *Hairspray*? Or an oppressed ethnic minority group using their entire village as a stage for an epic song-and-dance (including animals) as in *Fiddler on the*

voice. Elizabeth praises Mary for her obedience to God and then Mary bursts into a song of praise to the Lord. This might be common in your family, but it's not in mine; it's completely outside of our frame of reference.

These songs have been traditionally called "canticles". A canticle, simply defined, is a hymn from the Bible (excluding the Psalms). This Advent, we will be looking at the four



Roof? At least *Once* or *The Sound of Music* try to help us out by including the idea of singing in their plot lines. (Although, if I had a coquettish sixteen-year old daughter singing to some local boy in a gazebo about not yet being seventeen, she wouldn't see him again until she was thirty-one going on thirty-two!)

The first two chapters of Luke's gospel provide modern readers with a similar jarring disconnect. In the middle of a narrative, characters suddenly burst into verse. For example, Mary goes on a visit to her cousin Elizabeth and, miraculously, the child in Elizabeth's womb begins turning somersaults at the sound of Mary's

canticles from the Gospel of Luke. Luke provides for us the songs of Mary, Zechariah, the heavenly host, and Simeon. All of these songs are in response to God's great work in sending Jesus, the Messiah, to save his people.

Why, then, does Luke include them in his Gospel? And what are we supposed to do with these songs? To understand it more fully, we should take a step back into the Old Testament.

Isaiah prophesied that the good news, or gospel, that accompanied the triumph of God would include those who were waiting,

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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

(childcare not available)

Be a Bringer – Invite your friends, family and neighbors to worship with us at Christ the King during the Advent season.

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BUILDING UPDATE

BY ROGER COONER

Driving north on Silber from I-10 you will pass several interesting structures; a hamburger joint, a movie theater parking garage, a fire station, and even the headquarters of a dairy. You hardly notice a big vacant lot just before you get to the Schepp's

Dairy Buildings. It is one of several along this stretch of road. There is, however, something very different about this particular lot.

If you are paying attention you would notice a four foot by eight foot sign near the center of the lot. Below a perspective drawing of a church the sign proclaims, "Future Home of Christ the King Presbyterian Church". It is hard to imagine but in just less than two years the buildings depicted on that sign will be completed – truly a testament to God's graciousness and provision.

As many of you are aware, after the acquisition of the Silber property, the Architect Search Committee voted unanimously to engage the firm of Bullock Smith Partners to create a master plan for the site and design the Phase 1 buildings. The schematic drawings were presented prior to the capital campaign in the fall of 2007. Following a successful capital campaign, the Session approved the formation of the Building Committee to interact with the architects and other consultants for

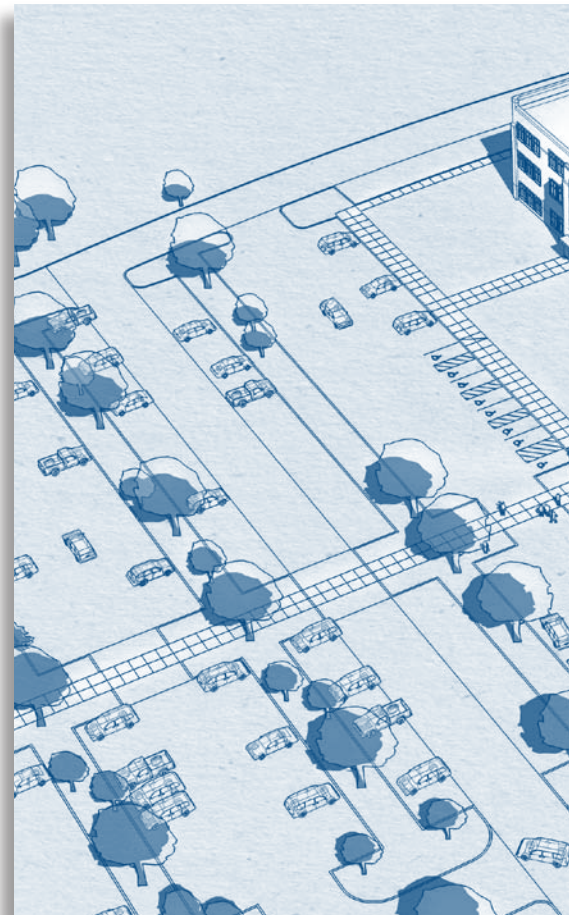


the remainder of the project. Members of the Building Committee are Bob Hansen, Paul Brow, Roger Cooner, John Durie, Lance Orton, Ellen Schuster and Leo Schuster. As the design has progressed, the Building Committee and the architects have consulted with many ministry leaders, Christ the King staff and Christ the King ministry volunteers to identify functional and space needs in the Phase 1 buildings.

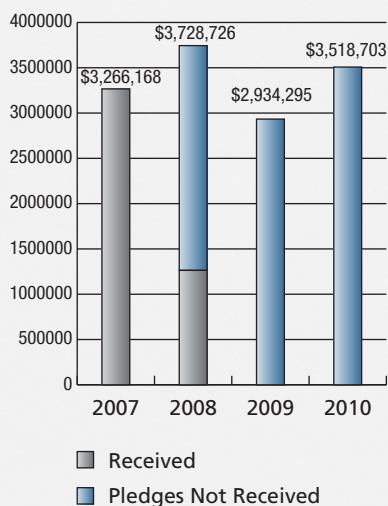
In October, Bullock Smith, led by Principal in Charge Steve White and project Manager David Harper, completed the Design Development Phase. The general contractor, Tellepsen Builders, has provided a more in-depth pricing. At this writing the project is on schedule and within the budget. The architects will now move into the Construction Documents Phase of their work and will issue Sitework and Foundation Drawings in December to procure a building permit from the city for this work.

As we near the groundbreaking, which is scheduled for spring 2009, please continue to pray for the work of the Building Committee, the architects, the builder and all of the consultants. Also, let us not forget to pray for our city and the impact Christ the King may have on it in future years. As that vacant lot is transformed, so too might hearts be transformed by the power of the gospel.

Roger Cooner is a licensed architect and Elder at Christ the King.



EXTEND GIVING UPDATE





GOD? PRODIGAL?

A REVIEW OF TIMOTHY KELLER'S *The Prodigal God*

BY CLAY HOLLAND

On the heels of his bestselling new book *The Reason for God*, Tim Keller published a short, but powerful, exposition of the well-known parable of the Prodigal Son from Luke 15. Dr. Keller originally conceived of these two books as being complementary to one another. The working title for the first book was “The Gospel for Unbelievers” while the working title for the second book was “The Gospel for Believers.” Over the course of writing, however, Dr. Keller changed the title to *The Prodigal God*, which begs the question which lies at the center of the book: How can we possibly conceive of God as “prodigal”?

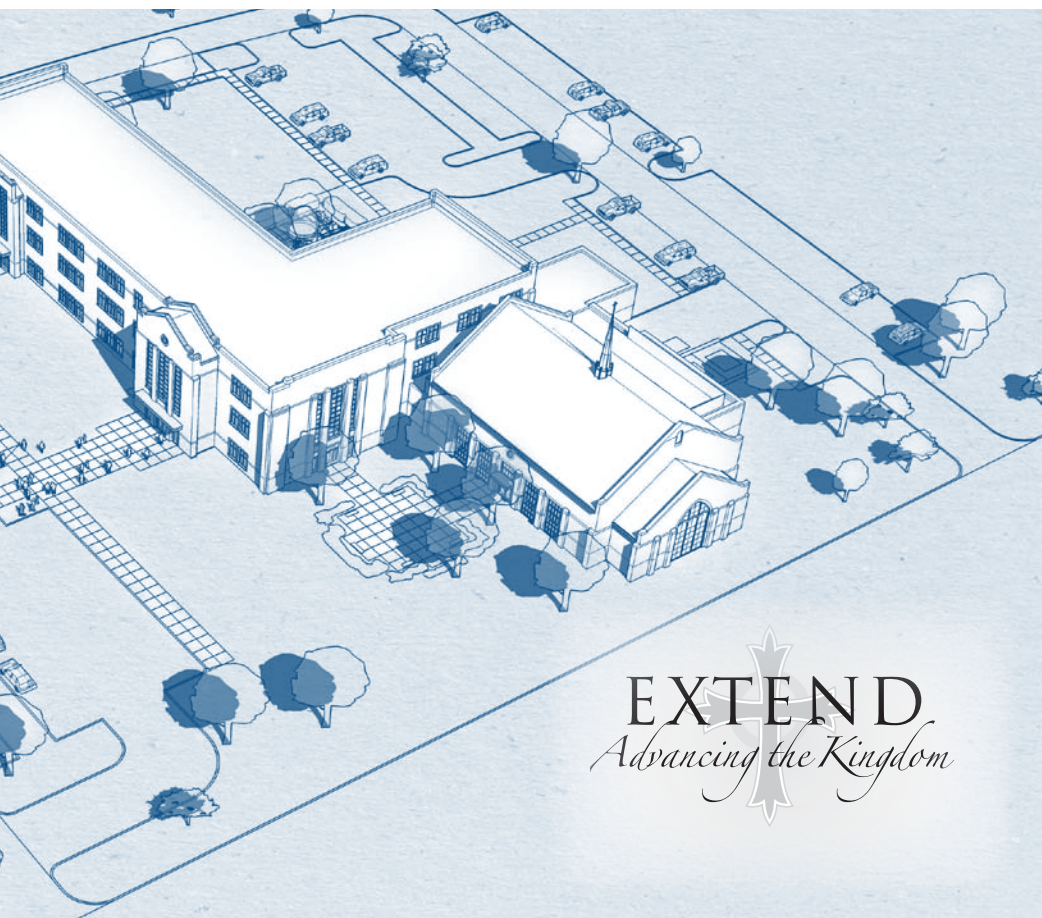
For years as I read and taught on the parable of the Prodigal Son, I never stopped to consider the definition of the word “prodigal.” I simply assumed it meant something akin to “morally corrupt” or “utterly lost.” It is here that my assumption was false and where consulting a dictionary would have increased my understanding of the parable. Prodigal means “recklessly extravagant” or “having spent everything.” It is easy to see how this applies to the younger son in the parable, but it is the

probing intention of the book to demonstrate how it also applies to God and his “recklessly extravagant” grace.

Dr. Keller also challenges common interpretations of the parable by pointing out that it contains two sons – the younger “prodigal” son and the older “responsible” son. Both sons require the extravagant grace of God and both represent different types of estrangement from God. For those of us who are prone to act like judgmental “elder brothers,” Dr. Keller’s chapters are challenging and convicting. To those of us who feel estranged from God like the younger brother, his chapters are tender and inviting.

Younger brothers and older brothers all need to be reminded that God is a pursuing God who is ready to receive us back into his family through his extravagant and costly grace. I highly recommend *The Prodigal God* as a helpful aid in discovering or rediscovering this truth for yourself.

Clay Holland is an Associate Minister at Christ the King.



EXTEND
Advancing the Kingdom

THE SOUND OF MUSIC?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the watchmen, singing for joy because they see the salvation of the Lord with their own eyes. Those who have been oppressed break forth into singing the praises of God (Isaiah 52.7-10).

What do we see in the beginning of Luke’s gospel if not a fulfillment of these things? The oppressed sing God’s praises; the watchmen see God’s salvation with their own eyes and burst into song! And, certainly, the salvation of God is something to sing about!

What, then, are we supposed to do? The answer of the Christian church for twenty centuries has been simple: “Sing along.” The arrival of Messiah wasn’t simply something for Mary or Simeon to sing about, but for all of us to sing about! As we celebrate Advent (literally, “coming”), we should sing songs of remembrance, songs of triumph and songs of expectation, awaiting Jesus’ return in glory. The triumph of God is certainly something to sing about, and it has nothing to do with musicals.

Eric Priest is the Assistant Minister of Worship and Arts at Christ the King.



code-45

BY SHANNON HOLLAND

Code 45, the new ministry to 4th and 5th graders, was designed to bridge the gap between elementary and middle school. This ministry exists to encourage and support pre-teens as they grow in their relationship with Jesus and endeavor to live as Christians in their daily spheres. Through music, games, skits, large and small groups, mission and community-building activities, Code~45 strives to help these kids feel personally connected to the church, the Body of Christ.

Throughout this fall, the 4th and 5th graders have enjoyed getting to know one another at a deeper level through fun socials. The girls learned about their inner beauty as sisters in Christ at their spa party at the home of Sarah VanLoh. The boys had a blast playing Boomerball (similar to indoor kickball) at Kinkaid. The kids were encouraged to see these social events as outreach opportunities, and they

brought many school and neighborhood friends with them. Many friends have been joining the fun on Sunday mornings as well.

Throughout the months of October and November the Code 45ers worked on their local mission project to Star of Hope. They collected hundreds of canned goods and delivered them as a group on the afternoon of Friday, November 14th. They got to tour the Star of Hope Women and Families Emergency Shelter. What a blessing it was for the kids to serve their city in a tangible way and see first hand one of the mission agencies supported by our church!

Shannon Holland is the Code 45 Coordinator.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Not Shown: Eugenia Anderson; Oswald, Rebekah, Jackson, and Emilia Fong; Renee Fontenot; Bonnie, McGregor, and Ryan Greene; Ruth Weh



Maggie Cantwell



Don and Pip Clarke with Nathaniel



Patrick and Jaime Coffey



Ed and Sarah Cottrell



Phil and Kathleen Fung



Cary and Anne Goss



Jason and Sharon Holland with Abbey and Jordan



Jason and Melissa Holton with Hudson and Jackson



Ben Judd



Julie Lowstetter



Nicholas and Somaria Lundgaard with Henrik



Kendall Rogers



Walt Sligh



Brian and Katie Smith with Noah and Gabriel



Thaddeus Sonnier



John and Chrissy Trapp



Jordan and Bianca Vimont Caleb, Charis, Jordan Jr.



Lindsay Windham

AQUA VIVA

REFLECTIONS ON THE LIVING WATER MISSION TRIP TO EL SALVADOR

BY CLAY HOLLAND

On October 11, eleven team members travelled from Houston to a small village in northwestern El Salvador in order to drill a water well, teach health and hygiene to the community, and present Christ as the Living Water that truly satisfies us. We travelled under the organizational rubric of Living Water International, a Sugar Land based ministry whose mission is "to provide a cup of clean water in Jesus' name" in the developing world.

As hard as it is to believe living in America, the lack of access to clean water continues to be one of the most pressing global health issues the world faces. Before Living Water drilled a



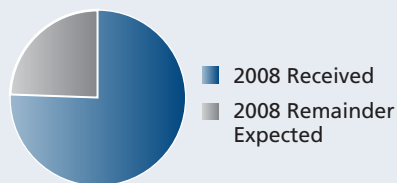
well, one village in Guatemala lost 20 children to cholera in one year. The year after the team dug the well, no children died.

Several on our team were first time missionaries, and we all returned to Houston transformed in some way. As you reflect upon these pictures, I would encourage you to do so prayerfully, asking the Lord where he may use you to bring the light of Christ to a world in need.

Clay Holland is an Associate Minister at Christ the King.



2008 OPERATING BUDGET



\$2,450,000 2008 Budgeted
 \$1,854,067 2008 Received as of 11/16
 \$ 595,931 2008 Remainder expected

Give online at www.christtheking.com

(Really) Basic Christianity

*a Kingdom Life Course
 taught by Clay Holland*

Let's admit it, we all have questions about Christianity.
 Is Jesus really the only way to God? How can I know the Bible is trustworthy? How do I read the Bible and pray? Hasn't science debunked the existence of God.

If you have any of these questions (and I know you do), come to this 5 week course beginning on Sunday morning, **January 11 at 10:30 am.**

Women's Christmas Dinner

Christ the King women and their guests are invited to come celebrate the Christmas season with music, dinner and encouragement from God's word.

Please join us on

Wednesday, December 3

from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

at Houston Community College. Our own Barbara Spell will be the speaker.

Register online at www.christtheking.com or at church on Sunday.

The cost is \$15 per person. You may also sign up to host a table. This is a great chance to invite friends to Christ the King!

Questions?

Please contact Laura Twilley at 713-869-1281.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Baptisms:

Nathan Roland DeLoach, Gavin Phillip DiBella, Augustine Juquin Whittenburg and Boone Bynum Whittenburg were baptized on October 19
Chloe Victoria Hyndman, Bethany Grace Ostrowski, George Willard Tompson, and Ross Edwards Wynne were baptized on November 9

Births:

Ella Grace was born to Jason and Ashley Rubli on July 7
Caroline Emelyn was born to Jill and Max Buja on September 2
Catherine Collins was born to Mary Rebecca and Cody Dick on September 22
Lily Cate was born to Holley and Greg Dickinson on September 22
Madeline Grace was born to Beth and Stuart Booth on October 6

Molly Margaret Hammond was born to Hazel and Bill Cross on October 22

Philip Gates Bakht was born to Cully and John Bakht on November 3.

Spencer Pavey was born to Brittney and Matthew Gaines on November 4.

Ruth Ann Forrester was born to Matt and Laura Forrester on November 7.

Communions:

Robert Alexander Cook celebrated his first communion on September 28

Stone William Miller celebrated his first communion on October 12

Bethany Grace Ostrowski celebrated her first communion on November 9

Sympathy:

Our sympathy is extended to Chris and Leslie Pine in the loss of Leslie's grandmother on September 6

Our sympathy is extended to Genyon Kyne and Elizabeth Kyne in the loss of Genyon's daughter (Elizabeth's granddaughter) on September 8

Our sympathy is extended to Alison and Cliff Champney in the loss of Alison's mother on October 19

Our sympathy is extended to Charlotte and Nate Ahern in the loss of Charlotte's grandmother on October 19

Our sympathy is extended to Vicki Vroble in the loss of her grandmother on October 24

Our sympathy is extended to Carolyn Durkee in the loss of her father on October 27

Our sympathy is extended to Robin and Jim Livesay and Jenny and Blake Webster in the loss of Jim's sister-in-law (Jenny's aunt) on October 27

Our sympathy is extended to Lindsay Windham in the loss of her grandfather on October 29

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.

Please join us on Sunday mornings at:
Houston Community College
Southwest Campus
5601 West Loop South, 77081
(Just south of the Galleria)
Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
Children's programs all morning
For more information please contact us at:
713.892.5464
www.christtheking.com
info@christtheking.com
Christ the King is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).

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