

# THE SCROLL



CHRIST THE KING  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST THE KING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## SEVEN DEADLY SINS

BY LEO SCHUSTER

**S**urely you're kidding? An entire sermon series on the seven deadly sins at a depressing time like this! People are already discouraged enough. What we need is uplifting news. You've got to be crazy!

I get it, but hear me out.

The Christian message is one of unparalleled hope. It's not about beating us into a pulp to emphasize how bad we are. It's about the gospel--the good news found in Jesus. But we must always remember that it's the

confessing them and repenting of them, the more stunning and transforming the cross becomes to us.

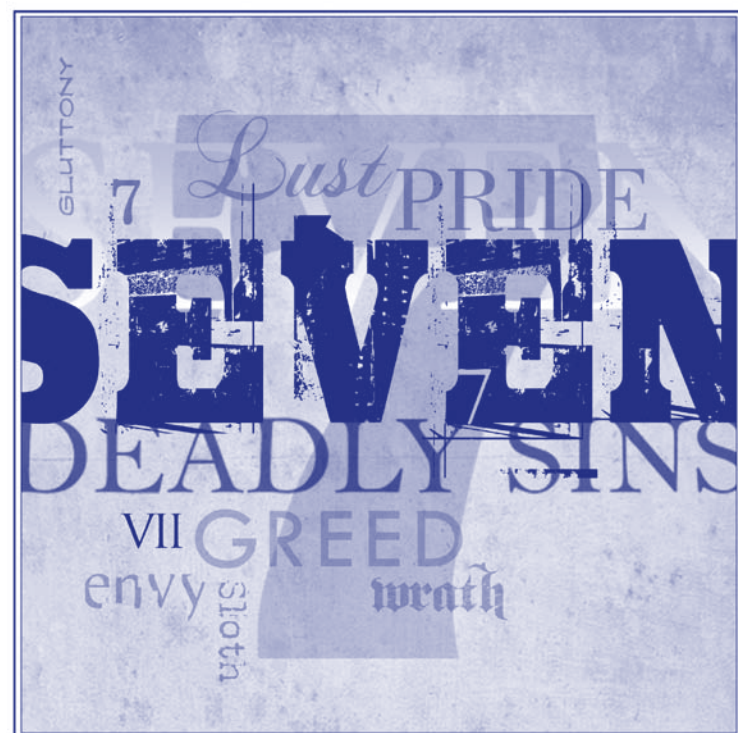
Lent is a season of spiritual renewal, a sacred spring cleaning of sorts. It's a time to open wide the windows of our soul to let

the light of God's revealing word expose areas needing attention. And with the windows open, the Holy Spirit brings the fresh air of the gospel in to renew us.

The so-called seven deadly sins of lust, pride, greed, envy, gluttony, sloth, and wrath were originally a convention of the ancient church, but we moderns still find each sin attractive and evocative. And

the list, of course, isn't comprehensive. Sin has a thousand faces. The seven specific problem areas we'll be focusing upon during Lent simply provide us with large windows of self-examination into our sick and needy souls.

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good news in light of the bad news. We'll only experientially appreciate how spectacular the solution is when we're willing to grapple honestly with the magnitude of the problem. To trivialize sin is to minimize grace. The more aware we are of our sins,

## CELEBRATE EASTER

**April 5  
Palm Sunday**

Children's Palm Processional

**April 10  
Good Friday**

5:30 pm

**April 12  
Easter**

9:00 and 10:30 am

*Children will participate in the Flowering of the Cross on Easter*

*Childcare will be provided for children ages 3 and under on Good Friday and Easter morning.*

*Children's Worship for Children 4 years-old through 2nd Grade will be offered in both services on Easter morning.*

ARISE  
He is Risen!

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# HOPE

BY ROBERT COOK

One of my great passions is running. There is a trail near my house that winds along the Buffalo Bayou. There are a number of off-shoots from the main trail that take you through the woods, off-shoots that make you feel a million miles away. That feeling is good until you realize that you are now on a path that seems endless; one that makes you feel lost; and you are not sure which way to turn to get back or how you are going to get out.

What does the path ahead look like for you? Do you ever feel like you are on a journey through no man's land? Because of where you are in life, your experiences and possibly the unique situation that you find yourself in, you feel like you are all alone; you feel stuck; you wonder how you are going to get out.

Perhaps this is how you feel today. Whether it is the weight of financial burdens, the stress of raising children, the pressures and difficulties of a marriage, the weight of a physical illness or a sense of loneliness, we are all longing to be on that path that leads to something greater. We are all looking for something to hold on to when we find ourselves on a path that looks as bleak as the woods that lay bare in the winter. What we are looking for is hope.

Dr. Jerome Groopman, a Harvard Medical School professor, defines hope this way: "Basically, I think hope is the ability to see a path to the future.... You are facing dire circumstances, and you need to know everything that's blocking or threatening you. And then you see a path, or a potential path, to get to where you want to be. Once you see that, there's a tremendous emotional uplift that occurs...."

I think Dr. Groopman is on to something.

We need to be able to see a clear path ahead but it does not come from trying to change our current circumstances or trying to find an escape route. Rather, hope comes from a person, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The prophet Isaiah spoke incredible words of hope to a people who were weary from the path they were on. "27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God?' Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. 29 He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. 30 Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; 31 but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." (Isaiah 40:27-31)

The path that you are on may have many twists and turns, but remember with Christ, you are never without hope.

Robert Cook is the Associate Minister of Congregational Care at Christ the King.



# 7 DEADLY SINS

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"The wages of sin is death," soberly remarked the Apostle Paul, "but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Sin is deadly, but God has provided a life-saving gift free of charge. To one suffering from HIV/AIDS, anti-retroviral medications exist that can prolong life considerably. This is extraordinarily good news for those who've contracted the disease. But one must be convinced they are HIV positive, understand the deadliness of their condition, and the benefit of the drugs to subject themselves to the ARV therapy. The Christian gospel not only prolongs life; it gives eternal life to those already dead due to the fatal consequences of sin. Tragically, many live unaware of or unwilling to admit they've contracted the disease universal to us all. As a result, the free, heaven-sent medication remains ineffectual to them.

Ironically, the best, most hopeful approach for us and our friends during these troubling days is not to avoid consideration of our deepest trouble, but actually to give our attention to it more than ever before. As we grapple with our sins, particularly in gospel community with one another, we realize the liberating, life-transforming power Jesus brings. This sermon series, of course, also presents us with an important opportunity to invite others into our community. Who do you know who might benefit from hearing some good news as well? Please do reach out and welcome others to our worship services this Lent to hear the most uplifting news of all.

Leo Schuster is the Senior Minister at Christ the King.



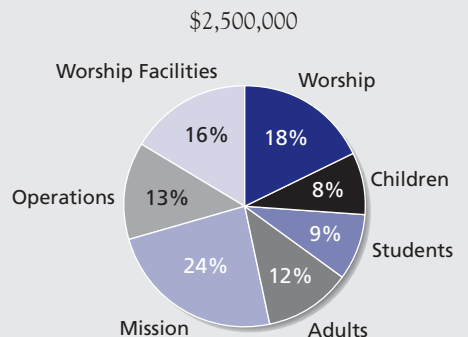
Total Received	\$6,876,388
Remainder Pledged	\$6,576,161
EXTEND Total	\$13,452,459

\*As of 2/8/2009

## 2008 MINISTRY BUDGET

2008 Budgeted	\$ 2,450,000
2008 Received	\$ 2,512,137
2008 Overage	\$ 62,137

## 2009 MINISTRY BUDGET



# STUDENT MINISTRY

BY JOHN TRAPP

It is an exciting time right now in Christ the King's student ministry. The new year brought with it some new opportunities for our students to grow in their faith. Starting this year, both the high school and middle school groups now meet on a weekly basis. The high school study entitled "In the Stars" is a discussion-based study on the sovereignty and faithfulness of God as found in the story of Abraham. The high school has been divided into four small groups for the study, and meets at different volunteers' homes throughout the greater Houston area. Once a month, we are hosting a "Star Night" at Pumpkin Park for all the groups to meet together.

The middle school's weekly Bible study (aka Middle School Mullet), which began last semester, is continuing this year. The study is entitled "Mullet" because it is an upfront look at God's Word and a backyard party at the home of a CTK family. Last year offered our students an excellent time of growth and fellowship, and we are excited to be launching into another year of Mullet!

Please be praying for our upcoming events within the student ministry. This



has been gracious to our ministry, and we pray that his hand will continue to guide us through the year!

*John Trapp is the Director of Student Ministries at Christ the King.*



semester we will go to Fiesta Texas, start a BINGO ministry, play some paintball, have 2 lock-ins, go roller-skating, and engage in some serious Broom Ball. Our prayer is that these events would not be the end of our ministry but rather a means for drawing our students closer to one another and to Jesus as they enjoy the creation he has set before them. Please pray that above all things Christ would be glorified in the lives of our students and in the life of this ministry. God

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS (not pictured from fall)



*Ozzie and Bekah Fong with children Jackson and Emilia*



*Ruth Weh*



*Renee and John Pisklak*

# RUSSIA MISSION TRIP

BY MEREDITH MCCORD

Christ the King member Sharon Rice, Stephanie Macey, my parents and I were greeted at the St. Petersburg's airport on Saturday, January 24th by our team's interpreters and to our happy surprise several orphanage graduates that we have known from previous visits to Russia.

During our week in St. Petersburg, we visited 3 school-age state orphanages where the Russian Government does not allow preaching of any kind. We build relationships first through games, crafts and sharing family photo albums. We have a blast getting to know these children through snow tubing, bowling, playing Frisbee, twister,



dominoes, Old Maid, doing make-up, hair and nails, etc. Along with laughing and playing, we show and tell them about God's enduring and unfailing love for them, and God's desire for them to be members of his "forever family" by loving and trusting Jesus.

After a day of snow tubing and feasting at KFC for lunch with graduates and school-

age orphans, we hosted a dinner party for our graduate friends (16—22years). "Graduates" are children who move from their orphanage homes to vocational schools with dormitories at age 16 (or to Universities at age 18). The ones who finish the vocational track will complete their high school education as well as a certificate in a particular trade. They came to our gathering to renew friendships, share their successes, and failures and to be encouraged, and to be an encouragement to us. Their transition from childhood and adolescence in institutional living to young-adult independent living is a battlefield full of landmines, which few survive. We pray for the Holy Spirit to use us to draw them to the Lord and encourage them in their trials, as well as introduce



ing them to local Christians providing "family homes."

Several of our graduate friends found refuge in the growing trend of Christian transitional family homes. These family homes have a Christian couple/family who invite

2-6 orphans who are graduating from the institutionalized orphanage system to become part of their family by living in their flat for 2 years in hopes of passing on basic life skills, vocational skills, and their love of Jesus. These homes are fighting the statistic of only 10% of orphanage graduates becoming productive citizens in Russia. You can find out more about these transitional homes on the web at [www.theharborspb.org](http://www.theharborspb.org). We hope you will send, pray, or join us next year as the Lord enables us to be the sweet aroma of Christ to the least of these in Russia.

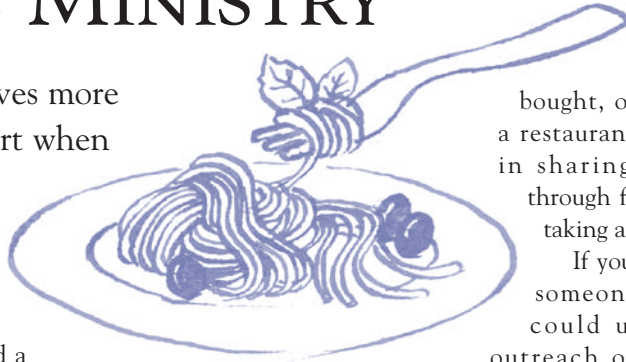
Meredith McCord is a member of Christ the King. She and her parents have been active in mission in Russia for over 10 years.



# MEALS MINISTRY

**W**hat gives more comfort when you are distressed than a meal given in love?

With a big heart and a wooden spoon our Meals Ministry cares for those that are experiencing a challenge in their lives. Whether it be sickness, loss of a loved one, a new child, or other need, our Meals Ministry is there to help. Whether the food is homemade, store



bought, or from a restaurant, join in sharing love through food by taking a meal.

If you know someone that could use an outreach of love with a meal brought to their home or if you want to join the food team by organizing meals or taking a meal, call: Emily Rose 713.436.1381 or Sol Edwards 713.927.8820 or e-mail [edwards.sol@gmail.com](mailto:edwards.sol@gmail.com).

## Women's In-town Retreat

**Mark your calendars**

now for this exciting time on

**Saturday, April 18**

8:00 am to 5:00 pm,

as we "retreat" to

**the Magnolia Hotel**

in downtown Houston.

(overnight stay available)

More information coming soon.

### Questions?

Contact Leslie Hinton at

[whinton@hotmail.com](mailto:whinton@hotmail.com).

## MEN'S ACTIVITIES

Date	Type	Event	Description	Location
Saturday 03/28	Serving	GenerationOne.net	Clearing a lot (s), painting houses, minor remodeling of houses, or things to help benefit the neighborhood.	3rd Ward
Wednesday 04/15	Learning	Theology on Tap	Brief lecture followed by discussion	TBD
Saturday 05/16	Connecting	Pig Roast	Smoked meat, skeet shooting, etc...	Parkerosa Ranch, Chappel Hill Texas



**VBS will be on July 20-24**  
from 9 am to 12 pm,  
at Bethel Independent  
Presbyterian Church.

### Questions?

Call Catie Brow  
at 713.683.9035 or  
Lynn Cinciripini  
at 832.778.7784.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Cajun Bayou Bash



Children ages 4 years old by 9/1/2009 to children entering 5th grade are invited to attend.

Children ages 3 and under may attend if a parent is volunteering.

Children older than 6th grade may serve as junior leaders.



## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### Baptisms

Saige Christian Guilbeaux, Hudson William Holton, Jackson Benbrook Holton, Luke Charles Leibert and Catherine Pfeiffer were baptized on December 7.

Catherine Collins Dick was baptized on January 18.

### Births

Praise for the birth of Leanna to Anna Tegbeah on November 13.

Praise for the birth of Jonah Fredrick to Kim and Ryan Dolibois on November 14.

Praise for the birth of Lily Margaret to Lauren and John Browning on December 12.

Praise for the birth of Ana Linnea to Andrea and Mario Rodriguez on December 22.

Praise for the birth of Adair Slate to Ashley and Matt Blurton, on December 22.

Praise for the birth of Mabrey to Adrienne and Will Stokes on December 23.

Praise for the birth of Charles Marshall to Joanne and Eric Priest on December 26.

Praise for the birth of Ty Castleman to Bonnie and Ryan Greene on January 14.

Praise for the birth of Sarah Folbre to Lisa and Brad Thielemann on January 27.

Praise for the birth of Andrew Wallace to Jessica and Andrew Evans on February 6.

### Communions

Abigail Grace Holland and Jordan Dennis Holland celebrated their first communions on November 30.

John Collier Clayton and Naomi Caroline Dewhurst celebrated their first communions on December 14.

### Marriages

John Pisklak and Renee Fontenot were married on January 17.

### Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to Delia Lopez in the loss of her sister-in-law on November 27 and her son on November 28.

Our sympathy is extended to Betty and Ernest Charles in the loss of Betty's mother on November 29.

Our sympathy is extended to John and Susan Ogle, Michael and Tracy Lou, and Lindsay and Casey Lanham, in the loss of John's mother on January 14.

Our sympathy is extended to Patsy Schalles, Carrie Pillsbury, Claire Caton and Sarah Wynne in the loss of Patsy's father on January 31.

Our sympathy is extended to the Whittle family in the loss of Jeff's sister on February 5.



CHRIST THE KING  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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Houston, TX 77056

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](http://www.christtheking.com)  
[info@christtheking.com](mailto:info@christtheking.com)  
Christ the King is a congregation of the  
Presbyterian Church in America (PCA).  
**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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