



DECEMBER 2015

The Vine

Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches..." John 15:5

Worship



Grow



Serve

This time of year the oaks are dropping their acorns, hundreds of them. The giant oak in my front yard began as a tiny acorn. The conditions for growth were just right. The right type of soil. The right amount of rain. The right amount of light. Scores of acorns took root, but only a few continued to grow. The mighty oak in my front yard, not only made it, but now it's producing its own acorns, hundreds of them. It is a producer!

The Christian life is much like that oak which began as an acorn. Some never grow up. They're like born again babes in diapers. Your Heavenly Father wants you to grow up! Our steps to maturity and fruitfulness are: worship, grow, and serve.

Worship. Jesus' Great Commandment is to love God and love our neighbors. As you begin to love God, you can't help but worship Him. In worship you come to receive from God: 1. By hearing His Word through readings and the sermon. 2. By partaking of Jesus' body and blood through Holy Communion. In worship you also come to give to God: 1. By giving Him praise through song and prayer. 2. By giving back a portion of the wealth He has blessed you with. Worship is the first step to Christian maturity.

Grow. In this second step you put down roots and begin to grow. An acorn rolls around, but once it puts down roots, it begins to grow. The same is true with spiritual growth. You grow when you become rooted in the community of faith. Within the community of faith, the three primary elements of growth are: Bi-



ble study, prayer, and Christian fellowship. Bible study is not a cursory look at Scripture, but an intentional time of learning and discussing what God's Word means and what it is saying to you, allowing it to expose your sins and strengthen your commitment to Christ. Prayer includes adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication (praying for yourself and others). If you're growing, you are growing in each of these four prayer areas. The final element of spiritual growth is fellowship. "Fellowship" is a greatly misunderstood word. Some people think fellowship means just hanging out together over coffee. No, it's much more than that. Fellowship (Koinonia in Greek) does mean to be together, but it means being together to build deep relationships, and to even share our possessions when needed. Fellowship means creating a deep sense of community among other Christians within your congregation. When you're growing in your knowledge and application of Scripture, your overall prayer life, and your relationships within the church, you are growing in Christ.

Serve. When an oak tree is mature, it has not only grown tall and has leaves, but it also produces acorns, hundreds of them. The same is true with believers. No, you aren't supposed to produce a bunch of religious nuts! When you've reached this third and final step in Christian maturity, you begin producing fruit. You love others enough to start being more concerned about them than you are for yourself. You begin serving both saints and sinners.

Regardless if you are 17 or 70, how are you doing when it comes to worship, grow, and serve?

The Faith Flash

Are you receiving our email newsletter, *The Faith Flash*? *The Faith Flash* comes out weekly with timely information and reminders. Sign up today by going to our website (www.faithanglicanchurch.org), or calling the church office (755-4848).



OUR VISION:

A Christ Centered
Community
Growing in Faith.

OUR PURPOSE:

The purpose of Faith Anglican Church is to proclaim the Good News, make disciples, and serve our neighbors.

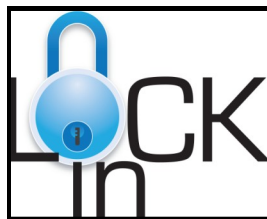
OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

We equip lay people for ministry
We provide biblically centered instruction
We minister to people where they are
We welcome all God's children
We are theologically traditional
We provide meaningful worship services
We lead others to Christ.

Youth and Families

Youth Crew Lock-In

Beginning Friday December 18th at 4:00 PM and concluding Saturday the 19th at 8:00 AM, the youth will be, "locked in," at the church! Activities include a Christmas Dinner, Christmas Cookies, movies, games, and a midnight candle lit Holy Eucharist to celebrate the incarnation of Jesus. There is no charge for this event. Bring Christmas Cookies to share!



Youth Crew and AWANA News

Sunday Night Discipleship Group for the Youth and AWANA will have their concluding meetings for the year on December 13th. Both will pick up again the day of Epiphany Kick-Off on January 10th from 4:00 PM to 5:45 PM.

Sunday School News

Sunday School will conclude on December 13th for winter break. We will resume all Sunday School classes with the Epiphany Kick-Off Breakfast on January 10th.

Angel Tree



With Christmas only weeks away we have an opportunity to show the love of Jesus in our own community. Need and poverty are in Cordova as well. Our Angel Tree this year will be used to serve a sampling of children from Cordova Elementary School. The Angel tree will be in the Narthex on November 29th. Hanging on the tree will be names of children with gift ideas for that child. The different options for gifts are suggestions, so one gift is sufficient for each child. Once we collect all the gifts, we will deliver them to Cordova Elementary School On December 13th. Please consider helping a family by selecting a name from the tree and bringing gifts for a child.

Advent Prayer Retreat at Faith Saturday, Dec. 5th, 9-Noon

The month of December is a whirlwind: Christmas shopping, office parties, school programs, busy, busy, busy... Yet, Advent is supposed to be a time to prepare ourselves to celebrate the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus. On Saturday December 5th come spend some quiet time with your Lord, a time of prayer, meditation, reflection, and hearing from God. From nine until noon at our *Called to the Quiet* Advent Retreat, we will begin with Morning Prayer, have a time of directed prayer, meditation, and reflection, and conclude with Noon Day Prayers. Bring your Bible and something to write on. You may enjoy walking the grounds or sitting in a lawn chair for a portion of your personal time of prayer and meditation. Spiritual Direction and Confession will be available.

Christmas Eve Offering

You've heard it said, "Wise men still seek Him," so true! The Wise Men also came bearing gifts for Jesus. With all the Christmas gifts you give, don't forget your church! Your Christmas Eve offering is 100% dedicated to reducing our church mortgage. Our mortgage balance is currently \$355,000. Our bank requires an annual principle payment of \$25,000, so clearly our Christmas Eve goal is \$25,000! This Christmas give to the work of Christ.



Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to all of you who contributed to Operation Christmas Child. We don't even know who dropped off all the bags of gifts. A special thanks to acolytes, youth, and the AWANA kids who assembled a total of 37 boxes! **Total number of 125 boxes!** Others donated for postage which is a bargain at \$7 per box, but it adds up. Others helped get the boxes "rubber banded" and ready to go on the truck. Now we need to pray for the safe arrival of the boxes, the boldness of the missionaries, and for the children to accept Jesus.

Annette Kersting

Prayer Corner

Please keep the following persons in your daily prayers, asking God to heal, comfort, and protect them.



Dee Dee Ritchie	Bob Franklin
Mansell Lancaster	David Jacobs
Lauren Hintz	Page Griffin
Hallie Crawford	
Dawne Ellard	
Carlton Fuller	

Birthdays

Camden Franks	12/02	Karen Bowlin	12/18
Elizabeth Wolfe	12/02	Gavin King	12/18
Karl Badgett	12/12	Madison Tutor	12/20
Bill Douglas	12/13	Nancy Bergeron	12/21
Chris Tutor	12/13	Allie King	12/27
Sue Varbel	12/13	Dave Glover	12/29
Peggy Tribble	12/14	Beth Laquinta	12/29
Andy Kang	12/16	Sherry Wilkes	12/29
Dale Bourie	12/18		

Anniversaries

Genaro & Bonnie Mejia	12/06
Elkins & Martha Crawford	12/27
Eddie & Eve Settles	12/29

The LEM's are here!

No, it's not a lunar module, LEM refers to Lay Eucharistic Minister.

It is the responsibility of the LEM to take communion to shut-ins, hospital patients, or others who cannot attend church on Sunday. On Sundays in a week where a LEM visit has been scheduled, the sacraments are consecrated at the altar-table along with the elements for our Eucharist. It is taken from our worship service as directly as possible to the person requesting the visit, as an extension of our worship.

Currently, Holly Naufel, Mary Pipes, and Fred Ellrich serve as our LEM's. Please keep this special offering in mind and contact the church office, Fr. Herb, or Fr. Cameron to make arrangements

Fred Ellrich

Year-end Giving

Keeping in mind the greatest gift ever given, the gift of Jesus, this is a great time of year to make plans in generosity. Give to help those in need: Angel Tree, rescue missions, and those you personally know are in need. Give to bless the ministry of your church: honor your pledge, reduce our building debt, and assist our missions. Often your year-end giving also carries an additional tax benefit come April 15th.

Wednesday Night Bible Study – 6:30 to 7:30 PM

Come enjoy an evening of fellowship and spiritual nurture under the leadership of our Pastor, Herb Hand. Our December schedule includes:

2 nd	Walk As Jesus Walked 5. Don't Forget Us	Christianity in the West is comfortable and relatively persecution-free. Not so with the majority of our fellow believers throughout the world. They whisper, "Don't forget us." Throughout history martyrs and those who suffer for their faith have been given special honor. Are you willing to suffer for Jesus' sake? You will likely need to be ready. Our study includes a video presentation by Ray Vander Laan and time for teaching and discussion.
9 th & 16 th	<i>The Second Coming of Jesus: Are You Ready?</i>	The season of Advent focuses on the first and second comings of Christ. In this two part teaching we will study Jesus' Second Coming. Are you ready for Jesus' return? What does the Bible say about His return? Come and see.
23 rd	No Program	Christmas Break
30 th	No Program	Christmas Break

All articles for The Vine are due in the office the
second Monday of the month, send to:
laqueta@faithanglicanchurch.org

Bible Study6:30pm
Wednesday:

Holy Eucharist8:10/10:30am
Sunday School9:30am
Sunday:
Service Times:

www.faihanglicanchurch.org
9555 Walnut Grove Road
Cordova, TN 38018
901-755-4848

Address service requested

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Christmas Eve Communion

Come celebrate the miracle of miracles – God come to earth – the Incarnation, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ! Come worship Jesus as we sing those powerful Christmas carols! Come with your family and friends! Come celebrate the true meaning Christmas (literally the Christ-mass), the celebration of Holy Communion in remembrance of Jesus’ Incarnation. Make Christ the center of your Christmas!



5:00 pm	Christmas Pageant, Message, and Holy Communion (Childcare available)
10:30 pm	Christmas Message and Holy Communion

Lessons and Carols ~ December 27th

On the Sunday morning following Christmas, December 27th, we will enjoy our annual Lessons and Carols services with Holy Communion. “Lessons and Carols” is a powerful service which includes a series of Bible readings and the Carols we love, telling the full story of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Come reflect on the true reason for the 12 day season of Christmas.