



DECEMBER 2018

The Vine

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

Margin in the Maelstrom

We are entering Advent, a period of peaceful meditative preparation for the celebration of the Christ-Mass. Really?!? For most, December is anything but a peaceful period of preparation. It looks more like a storm of furious activity, a buying frenzy that is fueled by credit, and not focused on the Christ of Christmas.

How can we create Margin in the Maelstrom? Part of the problem is the complexity of modern life. Part of the solution is to rediscover Sabbath. This fall our Monday



Night Women's Bible Study has been learning about how to Sabbath well. This fall I read *Margin* by Richard Swenson, M.D. – one of the books foot-noted in the women's book on Sabbath. Dr. Swenson is a Christian physician who thoroughly understands how the modern stresses of life in the 21st century negatively affect our physical and mental health. He notes that, "A single edition of the New York Times contains more information than a seventeenth-century Britisher would encounter in a lifetime." Not only that, but it is next to impossible to turn it off. Data points are blaring at us constantly from all directions – TV, email, Internet, and most pervasive of all, our "smart" phones. The sheer volume of information we consume is a huge part of the maelstrom. We also own more stuff than previous generations, stuff which must be maintained, insured, and seen. We have less time to recover, for according to Dr. Swenson, "...the average American today gets two and one-half hours less sleep per night than 100 years ago."

What is the solution of the ever-hungry ever-consuming maelstrom of modernity? Learning to Sabbath well is a huge part of the solution. Of the Ten Commandments, only the Sabbath command has different versions in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. In Exodus 20 the Sabbath is living into the divine pattern of work and rest – "For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day." In Deuteronomy 5 the Sabbath is finding freedom from the slavery of work – "You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day." This second version is extremely relevant for us today! Sabbath is taking intentional time (a day a week) to rest, restore, worship, be with family and friends, and to refrain from work, buying, and production. Sabbath creates margin in the maelstrom of modern life.

To create healthy margin, Dr. Swenson extols a life of simplicity. He said, "Everything we own owns us. We must maintain it, paint it, play with it, build space in our house to put it, and then work to pay it off. Perhaps if we had fewer things we might have more time. Recognize unnecessary possessions for what they are: stealers of divine time." Mary and I are finding less is more, at least more peaceful! May your Advent preparation be a season of creating space for the Lord Jesus within the maelstrom of activity that whirls around us.

Our Path of Christian Maturity

Worship Grow 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).

Third Annual Operation Christmas Child Box Packing Party

On Saturday, November 3rd, 30 people gathered at the Magnolia Gathering Room in Oakland, TN, bearing gifts and ready to pack boxes to help children all over the world. From soccer balls to soap to solar calculators, the dedicated workers (from 1 to 70+ years old) packed and snacked. Really, do we do anything without food being involved? The end result was 112 boxes (a new record for this group). I heard it exclaimed before they drove out of sight, "150 boxes next year, and we'll start tonight!"



Year End Meals at Eighth Street Mission for Jesus Christ

Coming to the end of this year, the next planned Faith provided venison and beef chili meal is Monday, November 26th. All dinner items are covered and you are invited and most welcome to join us, serving, fellowship and ministry. We'll be leaving promptly from the Church at 4:30pm, returning around 7:30pm.

With the holidays in December and conflicts on Mondays, the FAC provided meal is scheduled for FRIDAY, December 28th. Spaghetti will be the main course....more info to come.

Church Office Closed

The week of December 25 through December 31 the church office will be closed. Fr. Herb and Laqueta will both be on vacation. If you face a pastoral crisis, please email or text Deacon Fred Ellrich or Fr. Frederic Ndaruhutse.

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: Operation Christmas Child, 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.

Lessons and Carols ~ December 30th

On the Sunday morning following Christmas, December 30th, 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.



Bottles for Life (Life Choices)

The deadline to turn in your filled bottles is Sunday, December 9th.

December Birthdays

Camden Franks	12/02	Karen Bowlin	12/18
Gracie Wolfe	12/02	Gavin King	12/18
Karl Badgett	12/12	Madison Tutor	12/20
Bill Douglas	12/13	Dave Glover	12/29
Chris Tutor	12/13	Beth Laquinta	12/29
Dale Bourie	12/18	Sherry Wilkes	12/29

December Anniversaries

Genaro & Bonnie Mejia 12/06



Prayer Corner

Nancy Ebbing	Robin McCray
Mansell Lancaster	Andy Chadwick
Eli Ritchie	Janie Beth
Adam & Jason Gresko	Sharon Ward
Ann Ellard	

Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday round two! That's right, Dec 2nd we are having a Youth Sunday where the youth will be leading the main services. Please let me know if you have any youth who would like to be a part of it & if not, just come to support it!

Chris Mark

Church Consultant Called

In November of 2017 the Lord spoke to Fr. Herb, telling him: 1. We needed to pay down our mortgage. 2. We needed to bring in a church consultant. The Lord confirmed the first with an immediate, out-of-the-blue, unsolicited \$10,000 mortgage-reduction gift. Since then, we have reduced our mortgage principal from \$280,000 to \$207,000 – truly a miracle of God.

The second is needed far more than first realized due to the trauma our congregation would experience last January as a group left to start a new church. Our Parish Council has spent several months interviewing and checking references of various church consultants. In October our Parish Council unanimously selected The Titus Institute for Church Planting and Multiplication. You will be hearing more in the months to come from our Church Revitalization Committee.



Advent Prayer Retreat at Faith Saturday, Dec. 1st, 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 1st 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. 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 Reconciliation (Confession) will be available.

Called to the Quiet Thoughts from David Hightower

Please join us for a time of quiet and reflection as we focus for a few hours on our Life in Christ. With the hustle and bustle that has become as much a part of the Holiday Season as gift buying and giving, we often get too caught up in the moment to remember the true Reason for the Season, the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Make an appointment, place it in your phone and on your calendar to give a few hours to sit and focus on all you have to be thankful for and all you want for your life in Christ in 2019. With all the stress, the news, the tragedies and natural disasters of this past year, we all have a need to make time for our Savior this season.

Church Mice



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

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

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 Cordova, TN 38018
 901-755-4848
www.faithanglicanchurch.org



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 of 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

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 \$207,000. Our bank requires an annual principle payment of \$25,000, so clearly our Christmas Eve goal is \$25,000!

