

NEWSLETTER

Making Disciples | Raising Up Saints | Transforming Communities for Christ

News and Notes

Christmas Pageant Planning Meeting December 6th

We have had an influx of new children and their families at Christ the King—so much so that it's time to start planning a Christmas Pageant! There will be a short planning meeting after the service on Sunday, December 6th. The pageant will be on December 20th as a part of the Advent Children's Church Service. Fr. Matt can't wait to see all the Angels, Shepherds, and Sheep around the manger--it should be great fun for everyone young and old!

Christmas Quiet Night Dec. 16th

Christ the King will be hosting a Christmas Quiet Night here at the Church on December 16th from 7-8PM. The premise is simple: to open the church sanctuary as a place of quiet contemplation during an otherwise busy holiday season. See Fr. Matt's column for more information.



All is calm, all is bright

Peace and peacefulness are the marks of the season.

On the First Sunday of Advent, I preached about the two Advents for which we are preparing: the infant Christ in the manger and the Second Coming of Christ in Glory.

As I write this month's newsletter, I am in the midst of Cyber Monday...I haven't been able to write for more than five minutes without another email popping up, reminding me to take advantage of the incredible sales going on. It seems as if there, in fact, may be two Advents: the "pre-Christmas" frenzy that society imposes on us, and that which the Church calls us to: quiet and stillness.

If holiday ads are to be believed, the lead-up Christmas is a frenzied, chaotic time in which we balance unrealistic expectations against rapidly depleting bank accounts. The only way to truly achieve a "magical" Christmas season is therefore to take advantage of every possible sale and discount imaginable. With the holiday shopping season stretching further and further into the fall, we find ourselves running around frantically mailing Christmas cards, wrapping presents, cleaning house for holiday

Children's Church and Christmas Pageant Dec. 20th

Our Lego Sunday School class is presenting a Christmas Pageant as part of our Children's Church service on Dec. 20th. The Pageant will take the place of our lectionary readings, and Fr. Matt will offer a short, kid-friendly homily. The prayers and Communion service will also be designed for children. We hope to see you there!

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols with Communion Dec. 25th at 5:30PM

We hope to see you and your loved ones at our Christmas Eve service of Lessons and Carols, together with Holy Communion. As is our usual custom, we are looking for several parishioners to help read the lessons during the service. If you would like to read, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. **Also**, as driving at night can be a barrier for attending, we are also looking for volunteers to help drive to/from the service. If you are interested, please see Fr. Matt following the service.

parties for months on end. It's no wonder that when we finally reach Christmas Day, we are all totally and utterly spent (both emotionally and financially!).

To this, the Church offers a completely opposite vision of what preparing for Christmas—what Advent and Christmas *should* be: quiet and peaceful.

Preparing for the Silent Night

For many of us, Christmas is defined by the last hymn of our Christmas Eve service: Silent Night.

But why is this so meaningful? Why is it that nearly every church in Christendom ends their Christmas Eve service with this hymn?

To me, there is something incredible in that nexus in which both the practice and the purpose of this season are aligned. Christmas, after all, is about that silent moment where, with quiet confidence we can feel God in our presence—Emmanuel!

That sense of God's presence in our life is a very fragile gift. It is easily lost amidst the clamor of needs vying for our energy and attention. I am sure that God can find us in any possible environment—but for me personally, it is only when I rest in the quietness and stillness that I can find God. Perhaps stillness is something that we all, as Christians, should try to cultivate during this hectic time of year.

In that spirit, I would like to invite everyone to join in our Christmas Quiet Night on December 16th from 7-8PM. The program is incredibly (and intentionally!) sparse. There is a short prayer to begin the service, the lights are lowered to enjoy the candlelight from our Advent Wreath, and Advent and Christmas carols play softly.

Whether or not you are able to make the Christmas Quiet Night, I hope that you are able to spend some small amount of time in stillness—more than that, if you are able to carve out the time, I hope it is as spiritually beneficial to you as it has been to me!

I believe we are called to witness not just the reason, but the intention of this season: peace and peacefulness, for I am convinced that Jesus did not come into this world as another claim on our already distracted lives—Jesus came into this world to free us from those distractions in order to bring us into the presence of our loving God. What a gift *that* is!

-Fr. Matt

Prayer List

Birthdays:

John

Anniversaries:

Joseph & Margaret

For those expecting a child:

Kris & Carly

In thanksgiving for newborns:

Ella Skye Stoermer

Lauren Huynh

For those in the hospital:

For those in need of healing:

Chris

Margaret

Torrey

Klytia

Leila

Quincy

Joseph

Betty

For those who have died:

For those in need:

For those who travel:

Special Concerns:

Christians in the Holy Land
Syrian Refugee Crisis

For those about to be Baptized

CTK Mission Priorities

St. Giles' Hall Renovations:

The Mission Committee has adopted a facilities use form, and St. Giles' will be available for community use in 2016!

Weekly Attendance:

Here is a comparison of our November attendance reports from 2014 and 2015:

Monthly Attendance	November 2015	Previous Year
Week 1	35	11
Week 2	26	13
Week 3	11	8
Week 4	28	12
Week 5	25	19
Year to Date	838	621

As you can see, our weekly attendance has gone up dramatically year-to-year. In the past five weeks, our average Sunday Attendance has been 25!

Anglican/Episcopal Brand Awareness:

We are gearing up for an online marketing campaign to highlight our Christmas Eve Service. Please be sure to like and share CTK updates on Facebook!

Budget Update/Year-End Appeal

As 2015 draws to a close, Christ the King is operating at a deficit of nearly \$4,500. To help close this gap, the Mission Committee is asking parishioners to remember Christ the King in your Christmas gift-giving plans.

Participating in this program is easy: simply mail your check to the church, or drop it in the Offertory collection—just be sure to indicate that your gift is for the “2015 Year-End Appeal”



Thank you for your support!

December Worship Schedule

Date	Reader	Chalice	Coffee	Sunday School	Lessons
Sunday December 6 Advent II	McNett	James	Watson	Crews <i>Jesus is born</i>	Malachi 3:1-4; Canticle 16; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
Sunday December 13 Advent III	Way	Way	Way	Pageant Practice	Zephaniah 3:14-20; Canticle 9; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-8
Wednesday December 16th Christmas Quiet Night 7-8PM					
Sunday December 20 Advent IV Children's Church and Pageant	Muñoz	Muñoz	Muñoz		
Thursday Dec. 24 Lessons & Carols with Communion	TBA				TBA
Sunday December 27 Christmas I	Gimbel	Gimbel	Warren		Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15; Psalm 31:1-5; Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51c-60; Matthew 23:34-39

A Tablet?
Sweaters?
ELECTRONICS?
Books?



*What presents are you
giving this Christmas?*

DON'T FORGET CHRIST THE KING!

Planning on giving lots of presents this year? That's wonderful! Please also consider making a donation to our Year-End Campaign as a gift to Christ the King.

We are hoping to erase our deficit of \$4,500 before the end of the year, and your gift will be gratefully received. Checks can be mailed or dropped in the Offertory—please just write “Year-End Appeal” in the Memo Line. Like to give online? Please contact Fr. Matt for information on how to give online via a credit card.

Merry Christmas!!!