

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IGLESIA EPISCOPAL CRISTO

534 West 10th Street, Dallas, Texas 75208

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DECEMBER 2005



Rectorgram

NOT JUST A HAPPY TUNE...

A great deal of God's purpose in Christmas - the Incarnation of the Eternal Word - was to make Himself known in the world in a way that could be understood by all humankind. To that end, God sent His Only-Begotten Son. As God became "one of us," we were made "one with Him." The miracle of Christmas makes it possible for us to show The Divine to others, even when our society doesn't always welcome that message. Our job is to find ways to make that Presence known in the world around us.

Our culture is not the only one that has resisted the influence of God. The Early Church was persecuted; there was a time in England when traditional religion was suppressed. From 1653 until 1660 many Christians in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. During this dark era in English history, the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas* was written as a kind of *secret catechism* that could be sung in public without risk of persecution. This *secular carol* spread like wildfire! Still sung today, it's filled with orthodox, Anglo-catholic teaching, although I would wager that most folks have no idea of its religious origin or theological content.

1. The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus
2. The two turtle doves: The Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens: faith, hope, love
4. Four calling birds: four Gospels.
5. Five gold rings: Torah (the first five books of Hebrew Scriptures.)
6. Six geese a-laying: six days of creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming: Sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit.
8. Eight maids a-milking: The Beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing: Nine Fruits of the Spirit.
10. Ten lords a-leaping: 10 Commandments.
11. Eleven pipers piping: The eleven faithful disciples.
12. Twelve drummers drumming: 12 points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

Let's follow the example of these "clever Christians" and, through what we say and what we do, continue to enable God to take flesh and being visible each and every day.

Blessings and peace . . .

Please pray for these

TO BE BAPTIZED:

Martha Lillian Quiñonez, Leslie Quiñonez, René Alberto Quiñonez, Mariana Elizabeth Guerrero, Carolina Rivera, Abraham de Jesus Avila, Sandra Rivera, and Jonathan Urbina.

TO RECEIVE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

Michael Gonzalez, Karen, Helen A. Piedra, Sandra Rivera, Jonathan E. Piedra, Amando Lenskin, Carolina Rivera, Adrianna Padilla, Michael Funes, Savannah Hernandez, Joleth Nahalbi, Diego Vazquez, Zurisaday Diego Vazquez, Angel Fernando Diego Vazquez, Antonio Quiñoz, Abel Chavez, Asia Chavez, Luis Medina, Alexis Salazar, Febe E. Rosani, Monica Quiñonez, Guadalupe De La Rosa, Luis Enrique Valadez, Felipe Quiñonez, Jesus Angel Hernandez, Angelica Petra Hernandez, Alberto E. Hernandez, Carmen Rodriguez, Karla M. Hernandez, Rubi Hernandez, Monica Ivette Hernandez, Jesus De La Rosa, Joel Reyes, Sr., Christina Perez, Juan Perez, Monserrat Valadez, Jose M. Jarillo, and Alejandro Avila

TO BE CONFIRMED:

Amando Lenskin, Guadalupe De La Rosa, Sandra De La Paz Quiñonez, Carmen Rodriguez, Juan Antonio Perez, Karla M. Hernandez, Rubi Hernandez, Christina Perez, Joel Reyes Sr., Monica Ivette Hernandez, Jesus De La Rosa, and Martha Quiñonez.

TO REAFFIRM BAPTISMAL VOWS:

Allen R. Ross, Jeanne Cantrell, Herman Cantrell, Kay Crews, Jo Ann Crisp, Richard Crisp, Gladys Shook, Charlene Echols, Frances Schumpert, Catherine Fletch, Clara Cole, and Jill Peterson

TO BE RECEIVED:

Jessie Jacinto and Benjamin Bledsoe

CHRIST CHURCH TO END THE YEAR "IN THE BLACK!"

Congratulations, good stewards: For the third consecutive year, operating expenses are under budget, and the endowment principal remains untouched. Well done!

**Bishop
Stanton's
Visitation:
Sunday,
December
18th**



9:00AM Breakfast with Vestry
10:00AM Holy Eucharist (English)
11:15AM Reception
12:00PM Holy Eucarist (Spanish)
(No 8:00AM Mass on December 18)

**The Bishop will preach
and celebrate at both services.**

PLEDGES UP 15%

Thanks to all members of Christ Church for sending in their pledge cards. At this writing, the pledges are "up" dramatically! If you've not yet sent in your pledge card, please pray about doing so as soon as possible.

SPANISH LANGUAGE STEWARDSHIP LUNCH A SUCCESS

Over half of the three hundred people at the Spanish language mass last Sunday stayed for a lunch, listened to Dr. Isabel Docampo (Perkins School of Theology, SMU), prayerfully considered their blessings from God, and contemplated their response to those blessings as stewards of His bounty. Many pledge cards were signed. Everyone left enthused for the coming year, having heard plans for the future and sharing in Christian fellowship. Our Every Member Canvas, in both Spanish and English, is going well. May God bless us all as we consider offering our time, talent, and treasure back to their Source!



Christmas at Christ Church



**IMITATE
GOD'S SELF-
GIVING THIS
SEASON**

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

The Oak Cliff Episcopal Churches will be Christmas caroling on Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 PM. We will be singing at Tyler Street Apartments and Friendship Tower. If you wish to participate, meet at St. Paul's Church at 3:00 or at Tyler Street Apartments shortly thereafter. Everyone is invited to join in. The more the merrier!!

CHRISTMAS FOOD COLLECTION

There has been a series of disasters during the past several months, from the Gulf Coast to around the world. We have done all we could to participate in relief for a number of people involved in these. However, it is now becoming very evident that we have local problems in our back yards that have gotten worse as help is being sent away. From now until Christmas, we will be collecting food for the BASK Center at St. George's Church, an organization serving many elderly poor people. Due to the other problems around the world, they have had their contributions cut back and are having a real challenge in serving lunches to their members. Baskets will be in the church to collect the following food items from now through Christmas. Please give as much as you possibly can. Collections are being taken at all four Episcopal churches in Oak Cliff so let's be truly good givers. Item needed include large (No. 10) cans of soup, fruit, vegetables, canned milk, canned spaghetti and bottled salad dressings. We'll also accept small cans if that is all you can give. **JUST GIVE. THANK YOU.**

Jo Anne Jackson

IT IS MORE
BLESSED
TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE!

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Sunday, December 11th

**Procession
8:00 pm
Holy Eucharist
9:00 PM
Mariachis:
11:30 - 12:30**

COME TO A POSADA

DECEMBER 18 † 6:00 PM

IN THE PARISH HALL

**YOU'RE ALL INVITED TO A TRADITIONAL
MEXICAN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION.
COME FOR REFRESHMENTS, SONGS, AND
ALL OF THE FESTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH
THIS MARVELOUS CULTURAL EXPERIENCE
OF CHRISTMAS, HOSTED BY THE
BOSWORTH AND CASTILLO FAMILIES.**

**TOYS AND PRIZES ARE NEEDED
FOR OUR CHILDREN'S PARTY
ON DEC 17TH, 12 NOON**

**Please bring your gifts to the
Church or Office by
Thursday, 15th December.
Also, please telephone the
office if you would like
to help with this party.**



Christmas Decorating Party

**Monday, December 19th,
6.00 pm to decorate the
church and parish hall.
*Refreshments will be served.***

Christmas Eve

**7.00 pm Sung Eucharist in Spanish
8.00 pm Sung Eucharist in English
11.00 pm Festival Mass of the Nativity**

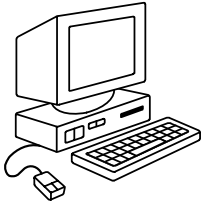


Christmas Day

**No 8:00 AM Mass Christmas Day
10:00 AM The Holy Eucharist in English
12:00 PM The Holy Eucharist in Spanish**

***The Rector, Wardens, Vestry and Staff
wish you all a Happy and Blessed Christmas.***

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Thy only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive Him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him when He shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.



Articles for the newsletter should be sent to the church office no later than the 15th of the month.

Contributions are welcome from everyone, and can be on (almost) any topic, subject to editorial approval.

Franciscan Corner

God Almighty, we bless you for your Creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life.

Autumn is such a wonderful time of the year to behold creation. After a long and stagnant summer wherein everything seems to stand still, we wonder, perhaps, Lord when you turn your face back to me, Then, God's paintbrush moves before our eyes. Creation speaks to us in soft, yet radiant reds and golds: the wind sweeps through the trees, the air is crisp and life seems to awaken like a spring in a gradual Fall. Truly, it is God's face turning to us, saying, It's okay, I am here. I now understand more fully the meaning of St. Francis' Canticle of Creation that sings praises to Brother Sun and Sister Moon and Brother Wind and Mother earth. They, like we, were created by the Father, Our Father, which makes them our Brothers and Sisters. We watch as they fulfill their function for which they were created—without protest, without denial. Our brothers and sisters in nature have much to teach and share with us.

Pax et Bonum
Sr. Anne Sharon

The Beginnings of Christ Church

Part I in a Series
by René Schmidt

In 1886, Thomas Field and Thomas Marsalis bought a 320 acre farm on the west side of the Trinity River and divided it into twenty-acre blocks. The land was platted and lots were quickly sold in the first two days of November of the following year. The *Daily Herald* reported that it was "a grand beginning of what will be the grandest suburban town in the South." The population then was estimated to be 500 people.

Christ Church in Oak Cliff had its beginnings in a Sunday School that was "started in the spring of 1890 by Mrs. Anna R. Charlton, Miss Carrie Mason and Miss Lean Parks...and assisted by Mr. Samuel N. Delano and Mr. Charles A. Gulick, the former acting as superintendent." On December 13, 1890, the Episcopal Bishop of the Missionary District of Northern Texas, the Reverend Alexander Garrett, made an entry into his journal: "New mission. Gave consent to organizing Christ Church, Oak Cliff." In Bishop Garrett's last entry in his diary for that year, dated December 29, he appointed the officers for this new mission in Oak Cliff. Mr. William Charlton was the Warden. Mr. George C. Lester, the Treasurer, and Mr. James I. Walsh was named the Clerk.

A brick store on Lancaster Avenue near Tenth Street was the first home of the new mission. Unfortunately, the building burnt to the ground on June 16, 1891, forcing the congregation to move to a two-story frame building on Jefferson near Beckley, and then to a small frame house nearby. Mrs. G. N. Quillman, Mrs. Charlton, Mrs. Upshur, and Mrs. Gillette

organized a Christ Church Guild in 1892 with the intent to do "charity work and to help the church." Through dues, socials, and a dinner they served to the male voters on election night 1892, the ladies raised enough money for the down payment for a lot at the corner of Ninth and Marsalis. Judge Charlton, a member of the Texas Bar and also the Senior Warden of Christ Church, soon went to see a little church in McKinney that had recently been built. It must have pleased him because he brought back the blue prints and specifications and called a meeting at his house. The "small but enthusiastic crowd" began a subscription list to pay for the new church, based on the McKinney prototype. Bishop Garrett laid the cornerstone on July 20, 1893, and the church was consecrated on May 13, 1894. To be continued.....

Bake Sale

A very successful Bake Sale was held by the Altar Guild on 12th November.

Almost \$826 was raised.
Thank you for your support.

**READ THIS NEWSLETTER
IN LIVING COLOR:**
www.christchurchdallas.org

Visit Our Gift Shop

Come and see all the wonderful new things we have.

We are open on Sundays and Wednesday mornings.

Worship with Us

Sunday - Christmas Day

10.00 am + Holy Eucharist *(in English)*
12.00pm + La Santa Eucaristía *(en Español)*

Weekdays in the Chapel

Wednesdays

10.00 am + Holy Eucharist with Unction *(in English)*

Thursdays

10.00 am +La Santa Eucaristía *(en Español)*

Mondays - Fridays

8.45 am +Morning Prayer *(in English)*

4.00 pm +Evening Prayer *(in English)*

Almighty God, who hast given us Thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, being regenerate and made Thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

Christ Episcopal Church
Iglesia Episcopal Cristo

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Rector Emeritus:

The Rev. Canon Harrison Lee

Catecist & Pastoral Assistants

Sr. Rolando Ramos

469-544-8711

Kathy Davies, Obl. OSB

214-941-0339

Office open:

Mondays - Fridays 9.00 am - 5.00 pm

Closed for lunch 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm.

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www.christchurchdallas.org



Christ Church News

Christ Episcopal Church
Iglesia Cristo Episcopal
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Dallas, Texas 75208



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