



THE BULLETIN

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
An Episcopal Community in the Heart of Houston, Texas

DECEMBER 2017
CHRISTCHURCHCATHEDRAL.ORG

AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY CARE LINE | 713-826-5332

Get ready, get set ...

I used to be a runner. In high school, despite my spindly build, I was a sprinter, serving as the first leg of the 800-meter relay. With clarity, I remember those few seconds crouched in the starting blocks before each race, waiting for the relay to begin.



THE VERY REV.
BARKLEY
THOMPSON

The year of our best relay squad I was the youngest and slowest of the four on our team. As I approached the blocks, I would scan the track and take in my fellow team members. Immediately in front of me was **Zach Branch**, beyond Zach was **Bradley Welchel**, and finally there was **Chad Register** — the anchor leg — who could release a burst of speed on which I hung a fair amount of hope. I would look at these three and take a deep breath, acknowledging that my near future was tied to theirs. And then I'd set my feet in the blocks.

The next few seconds were some of the fullest I've experienced. Before it ever fired, I could hear the crack of the starting pistol. I could smell its acrid smoke. Energy pulsed through me in those moments, my legs wanting to burst out of the blocks toward their destination. In my mind I could see myself bending into the curve of the track. I could feel the sure and practiced contact as I passed the baton to Zach. With clarity, I could see Chad crossing the finish line, having anchored us all and won the race. I imagined what was to come with such vividness that it was almost as real to me in the blocks as when I actually ran the track. In the small and insignificant event of a high school track meet, I lived into the future with all that I was. It truly was expectant waiting.

That is what the Advent season is all about. Advent is the season of preparation for Christmas, but we must take care not

ADVENT, page 3

Las Posadas: an invitation to experience a rich, cultural tradition



As Holy pilgrims **Mary** and **Joseph** traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem, they searched unsuccessfully for shelter until an innkeeper granted them access to a simple stable, which became the birthplace of **Jesus Christ**.

In Latino/Hispanic communities around the world, "Las Posadas" ("The Inns" in Spanish) recreates this journey. An advent tradition, the dramatization and celebration occurs on nine consecutive evenings, starting December 16 and ending Christmas Eve.

At the Cathedral, members of the Latino/Hispanic congregation once again will host Las Posadas and invite all who'd like to experience

this spiritual, cultural, and community celebration, says **Sonia Velazquez**, who is organizing the 2017 observance.

Each night of Las Posadas, youths chosen to portray Mary and Joseph lead a small, candlelit procession from door to door, seeking refuge (and also, in the Cathedral version, singing carols). They carry a small manger with them (and it's a bit heavy, previous participants have said).

Each procession includes a nativity narrative and carols, followed by a brief worship service — and a lively reception with food,
INVITATION, page 6

Understanding Radicalized Religion: An evening with three experts

Radicalized elements in religion sow violence, instability, and mistrust across the globe. But how is religion radicalized? How can we understand the motivations of those who would blow up airplanes, behead people, or otherwise do violence in the name of God?

On Wednesday, December 13, at 6 p.m. the

**UNDERSTANDING
RADICALIZED REGION**

Wednesday, December 13

Hines Center for Spirituality and Prayer, in collaboration with the Boniuk Institute for Religious Tolerance at Rice University, will host "Understanding Radicalized Religion: An Evening with Three Experts" at the Hines Center.

RADICALIZED, page 2

OUR CATHEDRAL FAMILY

We celebrate with

- ✞ Elizabeth Denson and Daniel Breitenbach, who were married in the Cathedral on October 14.
- ✞ Margaret Lee and Charles Triplett, who were married in the Cathedral on October 21.
- ✞ Sofia Jenay Alvarez, Ian Iker Banda, Avery Elizabeth Cobb, Bennett Thomas Cobb, Owen Everett Freiburger, Lysbeth Murphy Geise, and Beckett Walker Marandi, who were baptized on November 5.
- ✞ Masaru (Mas) Andrew Podgorny, who was baptized on November 8.

We mourn with

- ✞ the family of Wayne E. Gresham, who died October 28, 2017, in Houston, Texas.

We extend thanksgiving to

- ✞ Judy Mood, who has led the Cathedral Tour Ministry with faithfulness, excellence, and cheerfulness for many years.

The Flowers at the Rood Screen

- ✞ On Sunday, November 5, were given to the glory of God in loving memory of Robert C. Richter Sr. and Madie M. Richter.

The flowers on the Cathedral Altar

- ✞ on Sunday, November 26, were given to the glory of God in loving memory of Margaret and Jim Elkins Jr. by their family.
- ✞ on Sunday, December 3, are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Linda Anne Baldwin and Dorothy Geiselman Baldwin by the family of Robert B. Baldwin III.
- ✞ on Sunday, December 10, are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Virginia and Lester Bille.
- ✞ on Sunday, December 17, are given to the glory of God in loving memory of Robert C. and Madie M. Richter by Bob Richter.

The flowers in the Floor Vases

- ✞ on Sunday, December 3, are given to the glory of God in loving memory of her mother, Rachel Shanks Smart, by Carolyn Paget.

The flowers at the Book of Remembrance

- ✞ on Sunday, November 5, were given to the glory of God in loving memory of Jerry McNiece by Enid McNiece.



On the Wings of the Dove: A Celtic pilgrimage to Iona and Lindisfarne

In A.D. 563, St. Columba set sail from Ireland in a small coracle boat with twelve fellow monks and landed on the southern shore of the Isle of Iona, in the remote Hebrides Islands of Scotland. There, St. Columba established his storied monastery, from which Celtic Christianity would eventually spread across the neck of Scotland to another holy island, Lindisfarne in Northumbria. The Celtic Christian tradition, with its emphasis on grace, nature, and egalitarianism between women and men, thrived for more than a century in Scotland and northern England until the Synod of Whitby in A.D. 664. After that, the Roman brand of Christianity held sway, as the Celtic tradition retreated to its strongholds on Iona and Ireland, where its light continued to shine for centuries more.

June 9–19, 2019, Dean Barkley Thompson will lead a Cathedral

pilgrimage along the route from Iona to Lindisfarne, including time in Edinburgh, Durham, and York. Co-leading the pilgrimage will be Cathedral friend and Church of Ireland priest Marcus Losack. St. Columba's Irish name was "Columcille," which means "Dove of the Church." We will follow on the wings of the Dove and experience the beauty, mystery, and sacredness of Scotland and northern England as we learn about the ancient Celtic way of being Christian.

The pilgrimage will be limited to 25 participants. The cost, not including airfare, is \$3,350. There is an \$800 supplement for a single room. Dean Thompson will host an information session on Sunday, December 10, at 1 p.m. in the McGehee Conference Room. Reservation deposits will be accepted starting at 9 a.m. on Monday, December 11, on a first come, first served basis.

RADICALIZED, from cover

The evening will begin with a lecture entitled, "The Intellectual History of Militant Jihadism" by Dr. Michael Skerker, Associate Professor of Ethics at the United States Naval Academy. Dr. Skerker will also touch more broadly on radicalized religion beyond Islam and the ways in which the admixture of nationalism, ignorance, and fear of lost opportunity can lead to

extreme viewpoints.

About Dr. Skerker, Dean Barkley Thompson says, "Mike Skerker is a friend and graduate school classmate of mine at the University of Chicago. He is incredibly intelligent and insightful. I can think of no one better to help us understand the challenges we face from radicalized elements in the world religions."

Following Dr. Skerker's talk, he will be

joined by Dr. A. Kadir Yildirim, Fellow for the Middle East at Rice's Baker Institute for Public Policy, and Abdulbasit Kassim, a Rice doctoral student focusing on Boko Haram. Our three experts will engage in a "fishbowl" conversation about radicalized religion, to which the audience will be privy. Questions from the audience will be included. Tickets are available at hinescenter.org.

Christmas at the Cathedral welcomes Small Steps Nurturing Center

BY MANDY GILES

Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Romans 12:11-13

Christ Church Cathedral has a long history

of sharing with the Lord's people who are in need, and no event demonstrates this hospitality more than Christmas at the Cathedral. Through this treasured tradition, Cathedral family members volunteer our time and funds to welcome and feed those in the surrounding community. This year, the Cathedral has chosen to partner with Small Steps Nurturing Center to host its students and families during this annual celebration.

Small Steps offers a high-quality education, social and emotional support, a nurturing Christian environment, transportation, and nutritious meals to children ages two through six living in poverty. It operates two preschools in the First and Fifth Wards of Houston five days a week, 10 months each year, at no financial cost to the families it serves. The median annual family income for this year's newly enrolled Small Steps families is approximately \$15,600.

As part of the Small Steps development staff, I am particularly excited about the Cathedral's new partnership with Small Steps. Every day I witness students and families in poverty being nurtured in their social, emotional, physical, intellectual, and spiritual growth. Just like Cathedral parents, Small Steps parents want the best for their children, yet most struggle to provide

basic needs for their families. Experiencing the "Winter Wonderland" of Christmas at the Cathedral will provide cheer to our families who have extra challenges during the holiday season.

This year's event is on December 9 from 3-6:30 p.m. and will feature games, prizes, crafts, a photo booth for holiday keepsakes, and real snow! Santa and his elves will be on hand to celebrate as the event ends with a seated dinner and caroling. Volunteers are needed from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. to set up games and tables, welcome guests, lead activities with the children, and prep and serve food. To sign up for a shift or for more information, visit goo.gl/HzL9zT or contact Robert Flores at flores.robert.j@gmail.com. Thank you for serving the students and families of Small Steps!



ADVENT, from cover

to allow it to become primarily nostalgic for the past. Good Christmas memories are important, to be sure, but sometimes nostalgia can lapse into "pining," which is a yearning for an idealized past that never was, in place of a future-oriented hope for the day when Christ will return to renew all things. Pining is blind to an expectant future. Pining renders one numb to the world around oneself. If our Advent waiting is merely a pining for the past, then nothing changes for the better, either within ourselves or in the world round about us.

For the runner in the blocks, numbness is deadly. The runner needs to feel every nerve ending crackle and experience the pulsating energy that readies him for the sound of the starting pistol. He needs not to dwell on some past race but to envision the coming one, hoping that he'll be transformed by the experience. So it is with Advent. We are called to wait expectantly like the runner in the blocks, to imagine that we will be transformed when Christ arrives among us. We're called to see ourselves bending into the track, carrying forward the baton of God's vision, sometimes passing it on to others and other times taking it into our hands, but always knowing that there are those who run this race with us.

We are just weeks away. Can you smell the stable stall? Can you hear the cry of the anxious mother about to give birth, the sounds of the skittish animals gathered round? Can you anticipate what the unknowing shepherds will soon see erupt in the night sky? Can you imagine what it will mean for the God who so loves the world to be born into it — and to come again at the Second Advent to begin the work of renewing the whole world? Get ready, get set...

Have yourself a merry little lunch hour

BY LUCY CHAMBERS

Cathedral members know the powerful joy of celebrating Christmas surrounded by the poinsettia-banked rood screen, the gleaming candlelit altar, and the invigorated voices of the congregation raising the roof with favorite carols. As the hushed tones of "Silent Night" reverberate, our hearts fill with wonder at the magnitude of God's love. For us, despite commercialism all around, this feeling builds through Advent — with wreath decorating, Christmas at the Cathedral, Las Posadas, and so many other opportunities for worshipping together. Our Cathedral traditions feel so familiar that it can be hard to imagine celebrating Christmas anywhere else. Wouldn't they be lovely to share with others?

This Advent season, the Cathedral will focus on sharing our beautiful campus and traditions

with Treebeards customers, our downtown neighbors, and anyone who would like to learn about the Cathedral.

We're encouraging people — including parishioners and their friends — to have a merry little lunch hour filled with Christmas shopping in the bookstore (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), a great Cajun lunch (11 a.m. to 2 p.m.), a tour of our historic cathedral (12:35 p.m.), and even a noontime Eucharist in Golding Chapel.

During weekdays at the Cathedral, newcomers and friends can get their body and soul fed, learn their way around the Cathedral, feel welcomed, ask questions, and determine if one of our beautiful services might be a good fit for them.

And for those who already have a church home for the holidays — including here — the

CHEER, back cover

Confirmation, AGM, Youth Fall Retreat, and more

IN PICTURES

Right: Former NPR host, speaker, and writer Diane Rehm in delightful conversation with Dean Barkley Thompson on November 5.

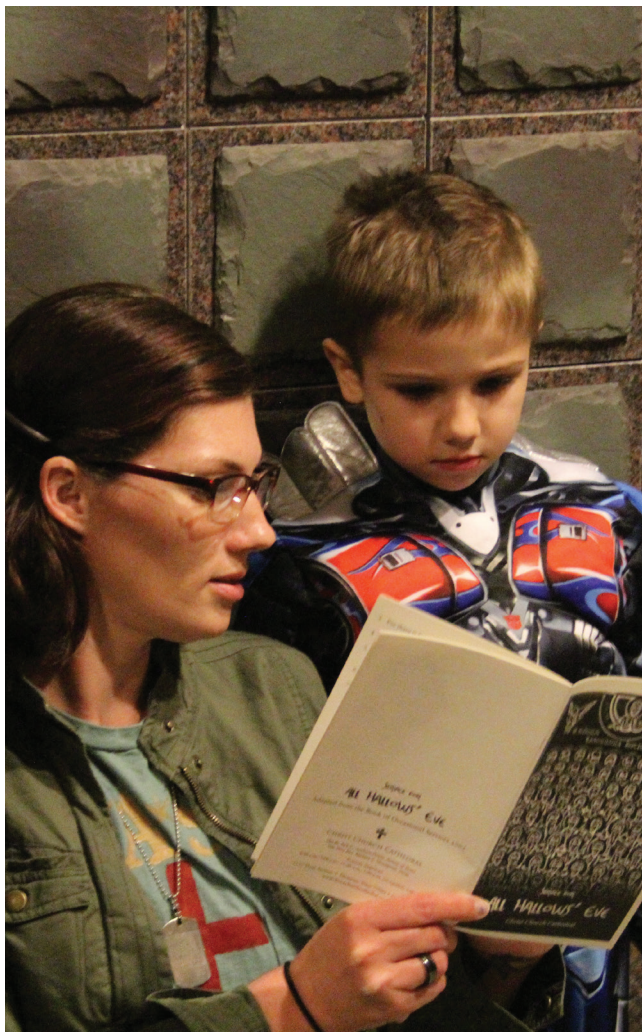
Top left: Bishop Andy Doyle and Dean Barkley Thompson with the fall confirmands.



Above: A young parishioner spending her KariAnn Coin to support Cathedral Mission Trips at the Alternative Giving Market.



Right: Cathedral youth on retreat in Galveston.



Above right: Following along in the leaflet at the All Hallows' Eve service for Boo Bash.

Below: Frank Billingsley in conversation with a parishioner at his book signing at the Cathedral Bookstore.



Perkin' for 35 Years

BY CYNTHIA BRANNON

COMPASS is not just old, it's also old-fashioned. As an organization that assists the disadvantaged in gaining control and direction in their lives, we still set up a paper file on each of our clients, as we have done since our doors opened in 1982. Over time, we periodically run out of space in our five large file cabinets, and we are forced to purge our inactive files. We toss hundreds of files into tall paper bags designed for grass clippings, and then the shredding company comes by with its enormous truck. In a matter of minutes, the files are transformed into confetti.

Personal in nature, these files are full of remarkable life stories, worthy of celebratory confetti. Our clients' stories grab us in a way that just a name and a social security number wouldn't. We seek them out, because they inform our work and inspire us to help these men and women try to put their broken lives back together. And clients are usually glad to share. They appreciate that someone is interested enough to ask.

One man spent 20 years in prison for murder; a drug deal gone bad. In the years that he worked in the prison library, he came to love and value books and reading. When he came to COMPASS, the first thing he wanted to know was how to get a library card. It was obvious that he had the perspective of a well-read, thoughtful man.

Another man lived in an abandoned sewer, where he remembered playing as a child. He had fixed it up as a temporary home, and he spoke of it with enormous pride — "You should see it!" His glass was half full, and we felt optimistic about his future.

Nettie captured our heart in the early 2000's with her work ethic, her constant good cheer, and her earnestness. She could not quite make it between paychecks, and she often came to COMPASS for bus fare to get to her job at Astro World. Year after year she diligently cleaned off picnic tables there. Earning the minimum wage at a part-time job was the best she could do, and we wanted to help her keep that job.

"How are you today, Nettie?"

"I'm perkin', Mrs. Brannon. I'm perkin'!"

One long-time client battled alcoholism and terrible health problems. **Mark** was prone to hostile outbursts, when he wasn't charming us. We were devoted to him, but in the end, no one could help him. On a gray January day about 10 years ago, the COMPASS staff gathered with a simple bunch of flowers for his burial at the Harris County Cemetery — "the paupers' cemetery." The counselor who knew his stories best shared them with the rest of us. She told of Mark's joys, hardships, work, generosity, and his adventures

PERKIN', page 6

Have a look at our newly redesigned website on your computer or phone.
ChristChurchCathedral.org

GETTING
HERE

INVITATION, from cover

games, more carols, and a traditional piñata in the home of the hosting family. As always, the food is homemade, traditional, and ample, she says, because no one follows the gentle guidelines for “nothing fancy.”

Although conducted mostly in Spanish, the familiar story and its re-enactment embody the spirit of Advent in a welcoming way, organizers say. The bilingual program for the readings and Psalms and the songbook of well-loved carols such as “Noche de Paz” (“Silent Night”) and “Feliz Navidad” make Las Posadas very accessible to English-only speakers who wish to experience this lovely tradition.

What it means to host a posada

Last year, an estimated 800 parishioners attended Las Posadas, notes **Yency Bermudez**, Latino/Hispanic Ministry assistant. And there’s room for more to further create Cathedral community.

Having recruited sponsors, Velazquez

says hosts agree to open their homes to Las Posadas for many reasons. Some remember the tradition from their childhood or homeland and want to share it here, she says. Others were never able to attend one growing up. Now that they’re Cathedral members, they welcome the opportunity to host one and, at the same time, to give new generations insights into their heritage.

As one who has previously been a host, Velazquez offers another motivation. To do so “is an honor, and, of course, a blessing.”

That’s because each host family keeps overnight the little manger — and nativity figurines — carried by Mary and Joseph in that night’s procession, she says. “In receiving and welcoming Mary and Joseph in our homes, we connect, repeating the blessing we sing in one of the last paragraphs of the procession. It reads:

“Dichosa la casa que abraiga este dia a la virgen pura la Hermosa Maria,” or, “Blessed is the house that cherishes this day the pure virgin, the beautiful Maria.”

Where to find the Cathedral’s Las Posadas

Each year, groups of families from the Latino/Hispanic congregation and their friends partner to sponsor Las Posadas. Contact **Yency Bermudez** (yencyb@christchurchcathedral.org) to get addresses or receive invitations. Unless otherwise noted, each procession begin at 7 p.m. Dates and general locations include:

- Saturday, Dec. 16: at the Cathedral, with a short Eucharistic service. It’s the “Gran Posada,” with a reception in Reynolds Hall.
- Sunday, Dec. 17: U.S. 290/Barker Cypress
- Monday, Dec. 18: 5th Ward, near I-45/Jensen Drive
- Tuesday, Dec. 19: U.S. 45/Fuqua Street
- Wednesday, Dec. 20: Wayside Drive /Lawndale Street
- Thursday, Dec. 21: Telephone Road/Bellfort Street (The Rev. Arthur Calaham’s calendar enables him to co-host.)
- Friday, Dec. 22: Greater East End, Wayside Drive/Avenue E
- Saturday, Dec. 23: South Loop 610/Park Place Boulevard
- Sunday, Dec. 24: at the Cathedral chapel, at 6 p.m. This final posada is the only one to include the Baby Jesus.
- Sunday, Dec. 31: at the 1 p.m. service, a “Pastorela” involving the Spanish-speaking congregation’s youth further depicts the nativity story beyond Jesus’ birth.

Bring a friend to Evensong

BY GENEVIEVE RAZIM

If you’ve wanted to invite someone to a worship service, but wondered if Sunday Eucharist (communion) might be too much “participation” for a first visit, Evensong is the perfect invitation.

Sung by the Cathedral Choir, Evensong is an encounter with the Divine through prayer and music, yet requires minimal active participation from the congregation.

Evensong first appeared in the 1549 Book of Common Prayer, and it is an Episcopal tradition. The Cathedral Choir beautifully and faithfully offers prayer and praise to God in our centuries-old and yet timeless Evensong liturgy. This evening prayer service is a reminder why the Anglican choral tradition is widely considered a gift to the world. Are you ready to share it?

It was an invitation to Evensong that brought **Lisa Viktorin** to Christ Church Cathedral in 2000. She returned for every Evensong that year and became a member in 2001. She faithfully serves in numerous ministries at the Cathedral and is a spiritual friend to many.

Says Viktorin, “Even now, I remember the feeling of calm I experienced listening to the music that night in the dimly lit Cathedral. The joyful fellowship and wonderful time that followed at the reception in The Great Hall was beyond anything I ever imagined. I am grateful to coworker and friend **Tom Cobb** for inviting me to my first Evensong.”

Pray about who you will invite to Evensong, and then extend the

EVENSONG, back cover



PERKIN', from page 5

jumping freight trains. She mentioned his family, his father’s early death, his mother’s drinking, his own alcoholism, with periods of both sobriety and relapse. She described his tender heart, his sensitivity, and the intensity of his love, pain, and shame. And finally she shared her belief that his alcoholism and homelessness were the only way he could tolerate his many losses. We were lifted up by the stories, just as we were often inspired by the man himself. His was a life worth celebrating.

Naturally, we’ve celebrated clients’ successes, too — permanent jobs, new apartments, improved health, or sobriety. However the stories may end, 35 years have gone by. We’re still perkin’.

Each weekday morning there is a line of people outside our red door seeking the kind of help that COMPASS offers: bus fare, an ID referral, a mailing address, a Harris County medical card, a clothes or haircut voucher, and reliable information on where to stay, eat, or look for a job. At the same time, we are a key part of the city-wide effort to end chronic homelessness. For well over a year, our “housing navigators,” **Annie and Lori**, have been moving folks like **Nettie and Mark** into tidy little apartments where they will have the guidance and support they need. It’s an initiative that’s actually working, and we’re excited to be a part of it.

When I consider the past 35 years, I think we’ve done important work. I’ve been on the staff for 17 of those years, and I’m proud of COMPASS for the difference we’ve made to our clients— those men and women whose rich stories fill our file cabinets until they’ve been there too long.

Because your generosity has kept us going, you should be proud too. You have influenced their lives; by being there, by caring, and by helping us offer them our brand of “compassionate direction.” That’s worth a handful of confetti, too. I really can’t thank you enough.

Soon you will receive our “red door” holiday card in the mail. Will support the vitally important ministry of COMPASS with the Christmas donation you can afford?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit christchurchcathedral.org or call **713-222-2593** to learn more about these and other events at the Cathedral.

● Registration recommended ▲ Registration required ✕ Registration closed ★ Childcare available (3 mo. to 12 yrs.) 🧑🏫 Bring a friend!

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 1-3 FRI-SUN

Annual Parish Retreat ▲
Camp Allen. Fun and relaxing weekend for all ages. (\$)

DECEMBER 3 SUN

Advent Lessons and Carols ★ 🧑🏫
5 p.m., Cathedral. Traditional Episcopal music celebration of Advent.

DECEMBER 5 TUE

Vicar's Road Show: American Denominations
6:30 p.m., Table 57 at HEB at 5895 San Felipe at Fountain View. Canon Callahan will explore the tapestry of American denominational Christianity, its history, and its cultural impact, through lecture and conversation.

DECEMBER 6 WED

Dean's Book Club ★
6:30-8 p.m., McGehee Conference Room. The group will discuss *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles.

DECEMBER 8 FRI

Cloister Gallery Reception 🧑🏫
6-8 p.m., Reynolds Hall. *Icons: Invitations to Prayer*.

DECEMBER 10 SUN

Meet Your Shepherd
10 a.m., Cloister table. This event is an opportunity for members and Shepherds to have a meet and greet.

Celtic Pilgrimage Info Session

1 p.m., McGehee Conference Room. On June 9-19, 2019, Dean Barkley Thompson will lead a Cathedral pilgrimage along the route from Iona to Lindisfarne, including time in Edinburgh, Durham, and York, with Marcus Losack.

Youth Parent Meeting

3:15 p.m., Mellinger Room. Youth parents and guardians meet with youth leaders have a conversation about our youth program.

DECEMBER 13 WED

Vicar's Road Show: American Denominations
6:30 p.m., A 2nd Cup at 1111 E. 11th St. See Dec. 5 class.

Radicalized Religion ● 🧑🏫

6:30 p.m., Hines Center. A panel discussion on jihad with three experts. (\$)

DECEMBER 14 THU

Vicar's Road Show: American Denominations
6:30 p.m., La Madeleine at 770 West Sam Houston Parkway N. See Dec. 5 class.

DECEMBER 15 FRI

Youth Progressive Dinner 🧑🏫 ▲
6 p.m., off campus. Cathedral high schoolers will venture around town for dinner and fun.



DECEMBER 16-24 Las Posadas 🧑🏫
7-9 p.m. Celebration with singing, prayers, and traditional refreshments. In Reynolds Hall on Dec. 16.

DECEMBER 16 SAT

Christmas Camp ●
9:30 a.m., Sanders Hall. Annual practice for Christmas Pageant and outreach for Children's Ministry.

DECEMBER 19 TUE

Vicar's Road Show: American Denominations
6:30 p.m., WITS Meeting House at 1519 West Main St. See Dec. 5 class.

DECEMBER 20 TUE

20s & 30s Christmas Party ● 🧑🏫
6:30 p.m., Mellinger Room. Bring your best good cheer, a holiday sweater, and of course some food to share.



DECEMBER 21 The Longest Night ★ THU
6 p.m., Golding Chapel. Service on the winter solstice for those grieving a loss.



DECEMBER 24 SUN

Christmas Eve

4 p.m. Family Service, Holy Eucharist, Rite II, and a Christmas Play. ★

6 p.m. Festival Eucharist, Rite II, in Spanish.

7:30 p.m. Organ prelude.

8 p.m. Choral Eucharist, Rite II, with the Parish Choir. ★

10:30 p.m. Cathedral Choir prelude.

11 p.m. Festival Eucharist, Rite I, with the Cathedral Choir.

DECEMBER 25 MON

Christmas Day

10 a.m. Eucharist and carols.

DECEMBER 31 SUN

Annual Gingerbread Contest

10 a.m., Reynolds Hall. Join us for the third annual Cathedral gingerbread Contest. This year, we're returning to our roots. 3-D models of Christ Church (contemporary or historical) will be judged by a panel of experts.

WEEKLY

SUNDAYS

Adult, Youth, and Children's Sunday School Classes

10-11 a.m., various locations. (Youth meet Dec. 3, 10, 17)

The Story of Christmas

10 a.m., Reynolds Hall. A special Dean's Hour set of classes on Christmas. (Dec. 3, 10, 17)

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) 🧑🏫

3-4:45 p.m., BYC (Treehouse). 6th-12th graders play games, and discuss pop culture, Bible stories, and life. (Dec. 3, 10, 17)

Celtic Eucharist, "The Well" ★ 🧑🏫

5 p.m., Cathedral. Drawing inspiration and music from the Celtic tradition, this service focuses on prayer, silence, meditation, and grace.

Holy Mysteries

6-7:30 p.m., McGehee Conference Room. An exploration of the strange ways in which clergy have figured in several collections of murder-mystery fiction. (Dec. 10, 17)

MONDAYS

Centering Prayer ●

11:15-11:45 a.m., Hines Center.

Healing Service

12:05 p.m., Golding Chapel.

Bible "By the Glass" 🧑🏫

6:30-8 p.m., OKRA, 924 Congress. Fellowship and Bible study.

TUESDAYS

Jesus as . . .

7 a.m., Mellinger Room. Join the Vicar for a look at the ways in which New Testament images of Jesus are modeled on Old Testament figures.

Education for Ministry (EFM) ▲ ✕

6:30-9 p.m., Mellinger Room. Comprehensive adult theology program. (\$)

Bible by the Glass North 🧑🏫

7 p.m., Brixology in the Vintage; 110 Vintage Park. An extension of our popular downtown bible study, hosted in Spring Cypress.

WEDNESDAYS

Men's Morning Bible Study

7-8 a.m., Jeffers Conference Room.

Women's Morning Bible Study

9:30-11 a.m., Jeffers Conference Room. (Dec. 6, 13)

Bilingual Eucharist

6-6:30 p.m., Golding Chapel.

Cathedral 20s & 30s ★ 🧑🏫

6:30-8 p.m., Mellinger Room. Weekly discussion group and social gathering of young adults (Dec. 6, 13, 20)

Buscando la Luz ▲

(Second, third, and fourth Wednesdays) 6:30-8 p.m., Bride's Room. Spanish-language discussion group. (Dec. 13, 20, 27)

THURSDAYS

Jesus as . . .

12 p.m., Mellinger Room. This is a repeat of the Tuesday morning bible study by the same name.

Branch Out

11 a.m. to 2 p.m., various locations. Jeremy Bradley and Christy Orman visit youth group members at school.

UPCOMING

JANUARY 5 ★ 🧑🏫

FRI

Epiphany Bad Gift Bingo

6-8:30 p.m., Reynolds Hall. Annual fellowship event to celebrate Epiphany and share a common meal.



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

ESTABLISHED MARCH 16, 1839

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Did you know you can read **The Bulletin** on our website? If you'd like to go "online-only," contact Ramona Sikes at rsikes@christchurchcathedral.org or call her at 713-590-3301.

Christmas Camp for Cathedral kids

BY NANCY ZEY

Calling all preschool and elementary-age kids! Come for some merry fun at the Cathedral's annual Christmas Camp on Saturday, December 16, 2017, from 9-11:30 a.m. The kids will have a blast while Mom and Dad squeeze in a bit of holiday shopping.

Excited about the upcoming Christmas Pageant? Whether your child wants to play a shepherd, an angel, or a barnyard animal, there is a costume waiting for him or her to try on at camp. We'll also have a little rehearsal in the Cathedral to help everyone get ready for the big day.

Eager to show your Christmas spirit? This year's service project will be "Bible in a Deck of Cards" for clients of The Beacon. Children's little hands will be making a big difference with these kits by helping those in need find some hope and cheer.

Hungry for some seasonal snacks and games? We've got that covered. Whether the weather is freezing or the usual Houston heat, the snowballs will be flying indoors. Our snowballs don't melt or make



messes, so feel free to wear that special holiday sweater or dress. We'll also have yummy treats as well as crafts and other fun activities.

Best of all, we'll have the fellowship of each other. The joy of celebrating Christ's birth will ring out in our laughter and shine in the smiles we help bring to others. Just as we count the days in Advent, we'll be counting the days till the Cathedral kids meet once again at Christmas Camp.

CHEER, from page 3

warmth of our hospitality and the help with preparations are a sure formula for reducing the stress and staying focused on the real excitement and joy of the season.

We hope to help others discover that the Cathedral can be a familiar, welcoming place for them to celebrate the birth of Christ and the love he brings — the ultimate Christmas cheer!

EVENSONG, from page 6

invitation. Upcoming Evensong dates are January 7, February 18, and March 25.

Business-card-sized invitations to Evensong are available at the welcome tables on Sundays to support you with your invitation. For questions or more information, please contact **Canon Razim** at grazim@christchurchcathedral.org.



In the Cloister Gallery: Icons: Invitations to Prayer

On view through December 28, the show features a selection of religious icons created by students from Christ Church Cathedral's iconography classes.