

Kids Korner

We have spent the last month waiting. Our wait time is over. The angels came; the shepherds, and wise men, too. Most of all, God's Son, His very being, has come to us once again as we celebrated Jesus' miraculous birth. The mystery and joy surrounding His birth is over for another year. Let us never forget what His coming has meant to us. May we look forward to another celebration of this blessed event as we begin a new calendar year.

And yet, is our wait time really over? Have we opened all our gifts? Are we through waiting for God's surprises? Never! God's gift of Himself is a present we will always be unwrapping, for often it is in the anticipation of finding out what's in the package - that discovery - that is often more exciting than having it that brings the most joy.

Our "journey" the past three months has been a waiting process that oftentimes felt very frustrating in many ways, and yet, exciting in others. Proverbs 8:17 "Those who seek Me diligently will find Me". This "wait time" has been much like that of the Israelites as they stood on the edge of a new opportunity. Moses reminded them that their destination was a "land for which the Lord your God cares; the eyes of the Lord are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year". (Deuteronomy 11:12) God could have revealed His plan at the beginning of our "journey" September 13, but He chose to reveal those plans gradually. Perhaps that's because we seem to value things more when we have to search and wait for them. God has allowed us to enjoy the process of discovering who He is, what He is up to in our little part of the world, and how Savior will fit into that Master Plan. Don't be discouraged over what you don't know about God and His plan for us. Be excited about unwrapping all there is yet to discover!

We have grown in so many ways since that first service out here in Magnolia country. We have expanded not only in our size, but also in our service to this community. S.O.S. (Society of Samaritans) has been our chief outreach ministry. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas preparation time, we

have been office aides, map-makers, food box packers, and Thanksgiving and Christmas delivery persons. We "adopted" five families who were in need this Christmas season - bought, wrapped, and delivered those gifts. We continue to fill our S.O.S. "Pasta Wagon" the first Sunday of each month. We even took some time out to have a little fun putting together a float for the Magnolia Christmas Parade. There were almost thirty adults and kids who participated in this event in one way or another, and earned Savior a Second Place Ribbon in the Congregation Category. Our Children's Pageant was as exciting as always, complete with a "real live" Baby Jesus (Thank you, Neil family.) We put together about fifty Christmas bags for truckers who were away from home during Christmas. In addition, Savior members wanted to show their thankfulness to St. Timothy's for their support of our Mission. Through the generosity of our members, and with the talents of Sheila Chandler, we were able to refurbish some old Nazarene wreaths and buy new ones to add to St. Timothy's Christmas decorations. Two extra large and two medium sized wreaths plus two new swags, and the ribbons, bows, and embellishments for them, were given to members of St. Timothy's during our "launch" service, November 29. Loving God, serving our neighbors, serving the world - this is what Savior Anglican Church is all about, and we have had a great beginning. Way to go Savior!

God has many more plans for Savior, and He will reveal them in His time. We need to stay focused on Him. Remember, when by faith we believe the promises of God's Word, we can experience the rivers of living water and His grace for our daily needs. This faith will keep us steady in the stormy sea of change. Whatever the season of life we're in, attitude makes all the difference. As we embrace the lessons and opportunities of every season that comes to us, we find that "God is our refuge and strength". (Psalm 46:1) Whatever the season we're in, it's always the season to trust in Him. It begins with a willing commitment, continues with exciting discoveries, and leads to the treasure of wisdom and life.

God has plans for you - and for Savior and you. Trust! Obey! Have a great year. Our God is an awesome God!

In Christ's service,
Pat

Small Groups Coming!

After New Years, Fr. Craig plans to begin some small groups with lessons to be studied.

Please pray for leadership, location, and discernment in the best way to divide the groups up. These small groups will be in addition to Synergy.

WE WON SECOND PLACE for the Savior float in the parade. We had 27 people participate in the Christmas Parade on Saturday. The weather started out in a drizzle but the mist stopped just in time for the parade and we were able to remove our ponchos. There were people that complemented us on our float and the costumes were fantastic-thank you Pat and Michelle. We are going to have to work on our presence in the community though---- it was announced that we are an angel-i-can church instead of an Anglican Church.



Angelican

Last week our church participated in the Magnolia Christmas Parade. We had a gratifyingly large number of people helping out as we constructed the float, gathered and fit costumes, and then rode or walked along in the not-quite-rain. We were all ... amused ... when we approached the judges' stand and heard the Master of Ceremonies announce us as "a float from Savior Angelican Church." Angelican.

This is not the first time this sort of thing has happened. There seems to be a strong urge on the part of people who are unfamiliar with Anglicanism to want to insert that extra "E" into our name, because while some people have never heard of Anglicans, everybody knows about angels. I'm sure the Master of Ceremonies thought she was doing us a favor by correcting what she must have thought was a typo in her script, and in this she was only doing what one of the newspapers in which we advertise had also done when it made us the only "Angelican" church in town. It briefly crossed my mind that it might be easier to simply go ahead and bow to public pressure and change our name officially just as we're getting started, but I don't really want to give in.

Better, I think, that as this new year begins we just set our minds to making ourselves better known in our community through inviting the people we meet to visit our Sunday morning worship service and see what we're all about and by continuing to be active in the civil life of the area. I'm very pleased at the way we've been doing this so far, but there's always the opportunity to do even better and as the year begins we'll be looking for ways to do just that. I suppose there are worse things in the world (or above it) to be associated with than angels, but I do hope that we'll be able to introduce more and more people in our community to what we really are - a group of dedicated disciples who are seeking to grow in their faith and share that faith with others. Not actual angels, maybe, but hopefully Magnolia will think we're something close!

In Christ,
Craig+

Important: We need to get our pledge cards turned in so that the budget can be made and approved. If you have not found your addressed envelope with the pledge card inside on the table during coffee time, please note that there are blank ones available.

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Our Mission Is: We Will Know, Love, Serve, and Obey Christ and Will Make Him Known to Others!

Our Core Values:

Growing and Discipling the Family of God

Reflecting the Love of God Through Hospitality, Friendship and Fellowship

Encountering the Living God Through Traditional and Contemporary Worship

Raising and Nurturing Children through the Grace of God

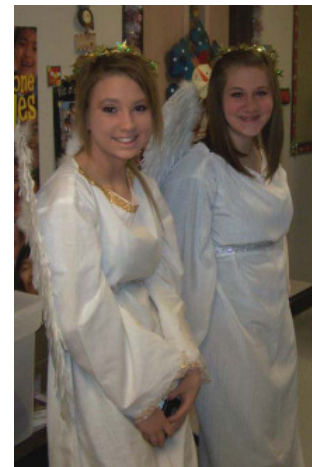
Sharing God's Love By Reaching Out



The Magi Journeying
James Tissot, 1886 - 1894



Savior Children's Pageant



Magnolia Christmas Parade

