



GLAD TIDINGS

ANGELICAN CHURCH
MAGNOLIA, TX - A MISSION OF ST. TIMOTHY'S

SEPTEMBER 2010

Big Steps

It is often the case that when I write my newsletter article I feel as if I'm marking the progression of our congregation's life together in small steps. The articles are usually focused on the immediate weeks before and after their writing, either talking about something we just finished doing or are about to do – Christmas, Lent, Easter, 4th of July, the start of school. Things that repeat in their turn year after year.

And then, on rare occasions, major changes happen in our life together as a congregation and I get to write an article like this. As you may know, earlier in the summer we began exploring the idea that Savior might be ready to become a self-governing mission church much sooner than we had originally expected. Over the last few weeks a number of factors have come together to make this seem more and more appropriate, and at last week's meeting of the Vestry of St. Timothy's, the congregation of Savior was given permission to make this transition.

Specifically, four resolutions were passed:

1. Permission was granted for Savior to incorporate.
2. A resolution promising \$33,475 for 2011 was granted from St. Timothy's to Savior for salary support.
3. Permission was granted to lease the storefront space in the facility on FM1488.
4. Permission was granted for a vestry to be elected to take office on January 1, 2011.

The process of incorporation has begun, and as soon as this is completed we will be able to sign the lease on our new location. I hope that we will be able to move in by the beginning of Advent, but this will depend on a number of factors that are outside our control.

It's natural in times like this to have our attention focused on the future and the possibilities it holds, but it is very important for us at this time to also consider the past and the combination of factors that have led to this point. We are where we are because Fr. Stan and the leadership of St. Timothy's took an enormous step of faith a year ago when we were first encouraged to organize, and all that's happened subsequently has

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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 to the Needy, Broken, and Oppressed.



The Return of the Prodigal Son
James Tissot
1886 - 1894

(Fr. Craig continued)

been built on that strong foundation. I know that all of the people involved in Savior join me in expressing our profound thanks for the start we've been given and we look forward to being partners in ministry in the years to come!

In Christ,
Craig+

09/05 Steve Blanke
09/15 Frances Goss
09/20 Bill Neil
09/24 Carolyn Boyd
09/25 Glenn Williams



Teach Your Children Well

“*The Sleeping Beauty Waltz*”, the “*1812 Overture*”, and “*The Nutcracker Suite*” were all part of the music of my childhood. Sometimes a narrator told stories or – as in the case of Tubby the Tuba and Peter and the Wolf – introduced me to the sounds of different instruments.

In their desire to pass on their love for music, my parents used this method as a teaching tool. It worked. Weaving the classic tales with classical tunes made a powerful impact on me.

When an adult wants to impart important information to a child, it's often best related in a story, because it is more easily understood and enjoyed. Telling children the stories in God's Word (the Bible) is especially crucial, because the Bible's enduring truth can shape character and show consequences of actions (1 Cor. 10:11). Tiny seeds of faith can be cultivated in fertile soil and help children to see how God has worked in the lives of His followers throughout history. Bible stories also show how God is intimately involved in our lives.

God has a great concern for little children (Mark 10:16). Luke 18 shows us the concern Jesus had for children. When people brought little ones to Him, the disciples wanted to protect Jesus, a busy man, from the bothersome children. But it seems that Jesus was not at all bothered by them – just the opposite. The Bible says that Jesus was “greatly displeased” at the disciples, and said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them” (Luke 18:16). Mark adds that Jesus took them in His arms and blessed them (Mark 10:14-16).

Raising children in an age of hostility toward the Christian faith is not easy. Parents wonder how best to help them learn to trust the Savior and live to please Him. Proverbs indicates that a key to directing children is through purposeful instruction by parents (1:8) on such things as listening to wisdom (2:2), seeking discernment (2:3), understanding the fear of the Lord (2:5), recalling parents' teachings (3:1), and gaining insight (4:10). These become

habitual when parents give instruction and when children “retain” those words of teaching (4:1-4).

What we have seen God do for us, and what He has done for His people throughout history, must be passed on to the next generation (Deut. 11:1-21). Their future depends on it. The character of our children tomorrow depends on what we put into their hearts today. You don't have to be a parent, or even a grandparent, to tell a child about Jesus. You don't even have to be a Bible scholar. Just be willing to take a child into your arms and give him, or her, the best blessing of all – the message of God's love. You will be surprised what it will do for both of you.

Our Children's Sunday morning Bible Study class sparks their interest, mainly because the stories we relate to them are from the Bible and applying to them personally. We are constantly trying to find new ways to help them realize the importance of Jesus in their lives.

We will begin our eight-week fall session on September 12 with a new study entitled “Take...Eat...Drink...” Through it we hope to increase the children's understanding of the symbolism and significance of the Eucharist. We will be studying the words of the Gospels as they relate to the message we want to share.

Upon completion of that study, we will begin November 7 with a 17-week winter study entitled “Living with Faith”, which takes us on a journey through the Old and New Testaments. This will lead us through Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Epiphany – all the way to Lent, at which time we will begin a series on “Jesus' Miracles”. All these lessons are completely Bible-based and relevant to what is happening in the lives of our children today. Along with their Bible story, the children will be making crafts, singing songs, doing experiments, learning finger plays – all with God as the central focus. Got kids or grandkids? It's never too early to begin instructing them in wise living.

In Christ's service,
Pat