



DECEMBER 2022

The Vine

Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches..." John 15:5

Control



JESUS' Last Supper with His Apostles was a holy moment. A holy moment that we too experience when we humbly come to the Lord's Table to receive His precious Body and Blood, a moment of Communion with Jesus and one another.

Yet, in that holy moment which Jesus shared with his Holy Apostles, "A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest." (Luke 22:24). The sinful flesh nature is always, always ready to rear its ugly head! Me! Mine! Pride! Power! Subjugation! Winning at the expense of others! Yes, it even happened among the Holy Apostles and sadly among some of us Christians today.

Jesus was listening to their dispute. He interrupted them by saying, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves." (Luke 22:25-26).

The way of the world is exercising lordship *over* others. In the movie *The Matrix*, Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) tells Neo (Keanu Reeves), "What is the Matrix? Control." Control! In the case of the Matrix, it was domineering control over the entire human race. In our real world, it is control over others, not to serve them, but to use them.

Sometime well before Jesus' Last Supper, the Apostles James and John (through their mother), let Jesus know they wanted to sit at His right and left hand in His eternal kingdom, leaving the other Apostles to sit somewhere else, possibly groveling at their feet. They wanted to be the greatest, the greatest at the expense of the others. Jesus said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:25-28).



"It shall not be so among you!" You shall not be lords before whom others grovel! You shall not be benefactors before whom others plead! You shall not try to prove that you are the greatest! Rather, you shall be servants, humble servants who relinquish control to serve others. "But whoever would be great among you must be your servant and whoever would be first among you must be your slave..." As we enter the Christian Season of Advent and approach Christmas, how might you follow Jesus' command to be servants/slaves for the sake of others? Among family. At the store shopping. Among the needy. Among your church

family. Ask the Lord, He will show you!

Our Path of Christian Maturity

Worship  Grow  Serve

The Faith Flash

Are you receiving our email newsletter, *The Faith Flash*? *The Faith Flash* comes out weekly with timely information and reminders. Sign up today by going to our website (www.faithanglicanchurch.org), or calling the church office (755-4848).

Children and Youth Ministry News

December 4 - AWANA Meeting; St. Nicholas Night
 December 11 - AWANA Christmas Party
 December 18 - Winter Break, NO AWANA
 December 25 - NO AWANA - Merry Christmas



December 4 - **Youth Group** (7th - 12th Grade)
 December 11 - Youth Group
 December 18 - NO Youth Group; Winter Break
 December 25 - NO Youth Group; Merry Christmas

Year-end Giving

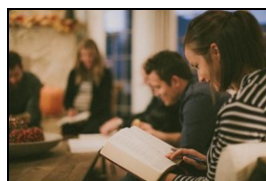
Keeping in mind the greatest gift ever given, the gift of Jesus, this is a great time of year to make plans in generosity. Give to help those in need: Operation Christmas Child, rescue missions, and those whom you personally know who are in need. Give to bless the ministry of your church: honor your pledge, reduce our building debt, and assist our missionaries. Often your year-end giving also carries an additional tax benefit come April 15th.

Advent Prayer Retreat at Faith Saturday, Dec. 3rd, 9 - Noon

The month of December is a whirlwind: Christmas shopping, office parties, school programs, busy, busy, busy... Yet, Advent is supposed to be a time to prepare ourselves to celebrate the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus. On Saturday December 3rd come spend some quiet time with your Lord, a time of prayer, meditation, reflection, and hearing from God. From nine until noon at our *Called to the Quiet* Advent Retreat, we will begin with Morning Prayer, have a time of directed prayer, meditation, and reflection, and conclude with Noon Day Prayers. You may enjoy walking the grounds or sitting in a lawn chair for a portion of your personal time of prayer and meditation. Spiritual Direction and Reconciliation (Confession) will be available.

New Sunday Night Grow Group!

Starting **January 8th** Fr. Herb will begin a Sunday night Grow Group during the same time as our Awana and Youth meet. We will meet at 4:00 pm in the Narthex.



This new group is for adults of all ages. If you have kids in Awana or Youth, why not stay and study?! We will spend time in Bible study, prayer, and fellowship.

Angel Tree For Dorothy Day House

A Christmas Tree in the Narthex is filled with angels. Each angel has a name, item, size, and favorite color for our Dorothy Day House adopted family, Marcus and Vanessa and their daughters Shakira (20) and Angel (19). The family was picked by the Dorothy Day House Wishlist coordinator. Each item should be returned unwrapped to the church by December 11 for delivery to her on December 12th. You may pick as many angels as you wish, go together on a more expensive item, or donate cash for our shoppers. Wrapping paper may also be donated with gifts. We have a lot of ways to share our many blessings this holiday season.



Reverse Advent Calendar

This year we are starting a new way to stock our food closet: a Reverse Advent Calendar. What is that? Each family gets a box, and beginning December 1st add a food or personal hygiene item each day until December 24th. The boxes are then brought to the church during the 12 days of Christmas. We have a list of suggested items frequently needed in our pantry in the Narthex next to the Angel Tree. There is also a suggested list of items needed weekly for our International portion of the closet. Our Middle Eastern friends cook in large quantities, and supplies run low quickly. If we have 10 families participate in giving using the Reverse Advent Calendar, we will stock up for several weeks and not have to rush when we are low on specific items. Each day, think of someone else who is hungry. Your generosity will bless them. Extras in the Narthex.



Birthdays

Justin Landgrebe	01	Bill Douglas	13
Clara Bright	08	Beth Laquinta	29
Karl Badgett	12	Sherry Wilkes	29

Anniversaries

Robin & Deb Richardson 21




Prayer Corner

John White	Jim Lancaster	Jim Johnson
Mansell Lancaster	Bill Walsh	Norma Pike
Jonathan Hays	Janie Beth Covington	
Eli Ritchie	Bob Barnett	Fr. Frank Myers
Joyce Hall	Stan Bond	
Mary Ellen Bryan	Sherry Wilkes	



DECEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 2nd Advent 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Youth Sunday School 10:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Children's Worship 4:00 St. Nicholas at AWANA Youth at Starry Night	5	6 8:00 Men's Bible Study	7	1 6:30 Worship Team 8 6:30 Worship Team	2 3	9:00 Called to the Quiet 10 10:30 Daughters of the Holy Cross
11 3rd Advent 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Youth Sunday School 10:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Children's Worship 4:00 AWANA/Youth Christmas Party 8th Street Toy Drive	12 7:30 Executive Committee	13 8:00 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Prayer Fellowship 7:00 Prayer Meeting	14	15 3:00 8th Street Ministry 6:30 Worship Team	16 17	
18 4th Advent 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Youth Sunday School 10:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Children's Worship Caroling to our Shut-ins	19	20 8:00 Men's Bible Study 6:45 Parish Council	21	22 6:30 Worship Team	23	 24 5:00 Christmas Pageant Holy Communion
25 Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Youth Sunday School 10:00 Holy Communion 10:00 Children's Worship	26	27 8:00 Men's Bible Study	28	29 6:30 Worship Team	30	

All articles for The Vine are due in the office the *second Monday* of the month, send to: laqueta@faithanglicanchurch.org

Service Times:
Sunday:
Sunday Worship 10:00am
Holy Communion every Sunday

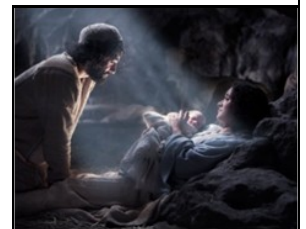
www.faihanglicanchurch.org

9555 Walnut Grove Road
Cordova, TN 38018
901-755-4848



Christmas Eve Candle Light Communion @ 5:00 pm

Come celebrate the miracle of miracles – God come to earth – the Incarnation, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ! Come worship Jesus as we sing those powerful Christmas carols! Come with your family and friends! Come celebrate the true meaning of Christmas (literally the Christ-mass), the celebration of Holy Communion in remembrance of Jesus’ Incarnation. Make Christ the center of your Christmas! If you plan to attend via Facebook Live, please be sure to drop by the church and receive your consecrated bread (with wine) to receive during the service. Children will dress as shepherds or angels! What fun!



Christmas Eve Offering

You’ve heard it said, “Wise men still seek Him.” So true! The Wise Men also came bearing gifts for Jesus. With all the Christmas gifts you give, don’t forget your church! Your Christmas Eve offering is 100% dedicated to reducing our church mortgage. Our mortgage balance is currently \$53,000. Our bank requires an annual principle payment of \$25,000, so clearly our Christmas Eve goal is \$25,000! But wouldn’t it be great to pay it off!!!



Lessons and Carols ~ on Christmas Day (Sunday)

On the Sunday morning following Christmas Eve worship, December 25th, we will enjoy our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion at 10:00. “Lessons and Carols” is a powerful service which includes a series of Bible readings and the Carols we love, telling the full story of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Come reflect on the true reason for the 12 day season of Christmas!