



4333 Cole Avenue

Dallas, Texas 75205

214-521-6062

www.thechapelofthecross.com



6 December, 2017
Saint Nicholas' Day

Dear Members and Friends of The Chapel of the Cross,

Thanksgiving Day is a day set aside to express our gratitude for God's good gifts to us, His undeserving children. And Saint Nicholas' Day celebrates the renowned charity of the 4th century Bishop of Myra. And God is lavish in his generosity to us, even at such great cost to himself. *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich* (2 Corinthians 8:9).

We are grateful here at The Chapel that God has provided so much for us during the last twelve months! In its gratitude The Chapel is learning the biblical principle of tithing: members bring 1/10 of their income to God as an offering, trusting God, loving God, and not holding back. The parish tithes to the diocese, and the diocese to the national Church. Chapel lay leaders even chose to tithe on surprise gifts it wasn't obligated to! And God then opened heaven and poured out even more blessings upon us!

The Finance Committee works hard to present annual operating budgets that reflect good stewardship – stewarding resources to pursue our Mission as a church. Last year, while planning for 2017 after several generous parishioners had gone to glory, it became clear that the pledged gifts would not cover the operational budget needed. Rather than cutting out music, office, pastoral care, or hospitality, etc., the parish took a deliberate step of faith and *grew* the budget by filling the gap from the Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer Fund (revenue from rental property given to the parish by the Dorothy Bruton Estate), and *increased* the parish's missional ministry. The parish wishes never to depend on these funds, and uses them to support the school, to give to other ministries, and to accomplish parish ministry outside beyond its operational budget.



4333 Cole Avenue

Dallas, Texas 75205

214-521-6062

www.thechapelofthecross.com



And God has blessed the parish this year. I am proud of our lay leaders for taking that *step of faith*. We are now nearing the end of this critical year. God has blessed us with new families, a mission plant opportunity, clarified vision, and focused courage to be a biblical parish, living the Great Commission. The whole parish now has a marvelous opportunity—to *complete the year of ministry taking care of her own expenses*. Currently the Finance Committee forecasts to end the year with about a \$5,300 deficit, even with the help from the Fund (above). ***I am asking you to band together to change that.***

Every year giving is shouldered more broadly by our parishioners. Will the generous giving of the parish cover our operating expenses this year? Better yet, will we be able to sacrifice this Advent to *remove* the need for additional LLC help in 2018 and allocate that money solely to ministry projects? The Stewardship Committee believes that if everyone in the parish tithed on their income, the budget would exceed this amount handsomely.

Christine and I believe that The Chapel has many fruitful years ahead of her and our family is going to pray about how we can give more generously and sacrificially before the end of the year. With your help also, I believe that The Chapel can end the year with a balanced budget, AND remove its need for help from the Fund. ***Will you prayerfully consider making a financial gift—above and beyond your regular tithe? AND, will you pray that God's Spirit would move all of our fellow congregants to give generously, together, this Advent?***

Thank you all for your support and faithfulness.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John P. Boonzaaijer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev'd Mr. John Peter Boonzaaijer, B.Th, M.Div, Th.M
Rector