

St. Matthew's
Episcopal
Church

KIDDIE LINK

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Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

"But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

"Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

"Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

"The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

" 'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'

"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.' "

Luke 14:16-24

The Power of No

As Christmas approaches, the demands for our time and money loom large. Thick catalogs arrive unsolicited. Inboxes fill with party invites. Festivities abound.

There are presents to be bought. Decorations to be put up. Food to be prepared. Pageants and plays to be rehearsed.

This year, I encourage you to practice your "no." Be brave and courageous. Start small if you need to, say no to staying up late to watch a movie or the extra peppermint mocha cappuccino. Like all forms of discipline, the more you practice, the easier it gets.

You may need to say no to your family. No to an overabundance of stuff that takes away your financial well being. No to the overindulgence of food that takes your health. No to the things that are eating up your family time and quiet time.

Maybe saying no, means saying no to yourself and yes to someone else. Yes, to meeting a need that only you can meet. Yes to loving someone who is hard to love. Yes to putting yourself out there to vulnerability in sharing Christ.

Teach your children to say no (although most do not have a problem exercising their no). Teach them by example and enjoy the fruits of your new skill together.

Think really, really hard about the why of Christmas. How are all the demands of your time, talent and finances keeping you from Him? Then say no to everything and anything that keeps you from resting in the knowledge of the peace that passes all understanding.

**St. Matthew's Episcopal
Church**

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Monthly Mentions

Christmas Pageant rehearsals are right around the corner. Many hands are needed to make this a success. Please call Virginia Witmer to volunteer—282-1250.

A great, big, huge thank you to all who have served and are serving on the Children's Christian Education Committee. Many hands make light work. Come follow us and be part of the vision for children's ministry at St. Matthew's.

Nursery, Toddler, Preschool Rooms Update

	Date	Nursery	Toddler	Preschool
Thank you to all from the congregation, as well as all the parents who have selflessly offered their time to care for our younger parishioners.	December 6	Lynda Jenkins	Heather Creswick	Kate Garitz
		Betty Helms	Tom Veech	Shawn Garitz
If you would like to be included on the schedule, call Jill at 288-1911.	13	Jean Ray	Kathryn Martin	Sarah Pemberton
		Anne Simpson	David Martin	Lee Pemberton
	20	Natalie Axtell	Ann Brown	Linda Wilson
		Cliff Axtell	Boyd Brown	Wendell Wilson
	27**	Wynn Burr	Kaki Vint	Lila White
Nancy Knight		Danny Cox	John White	