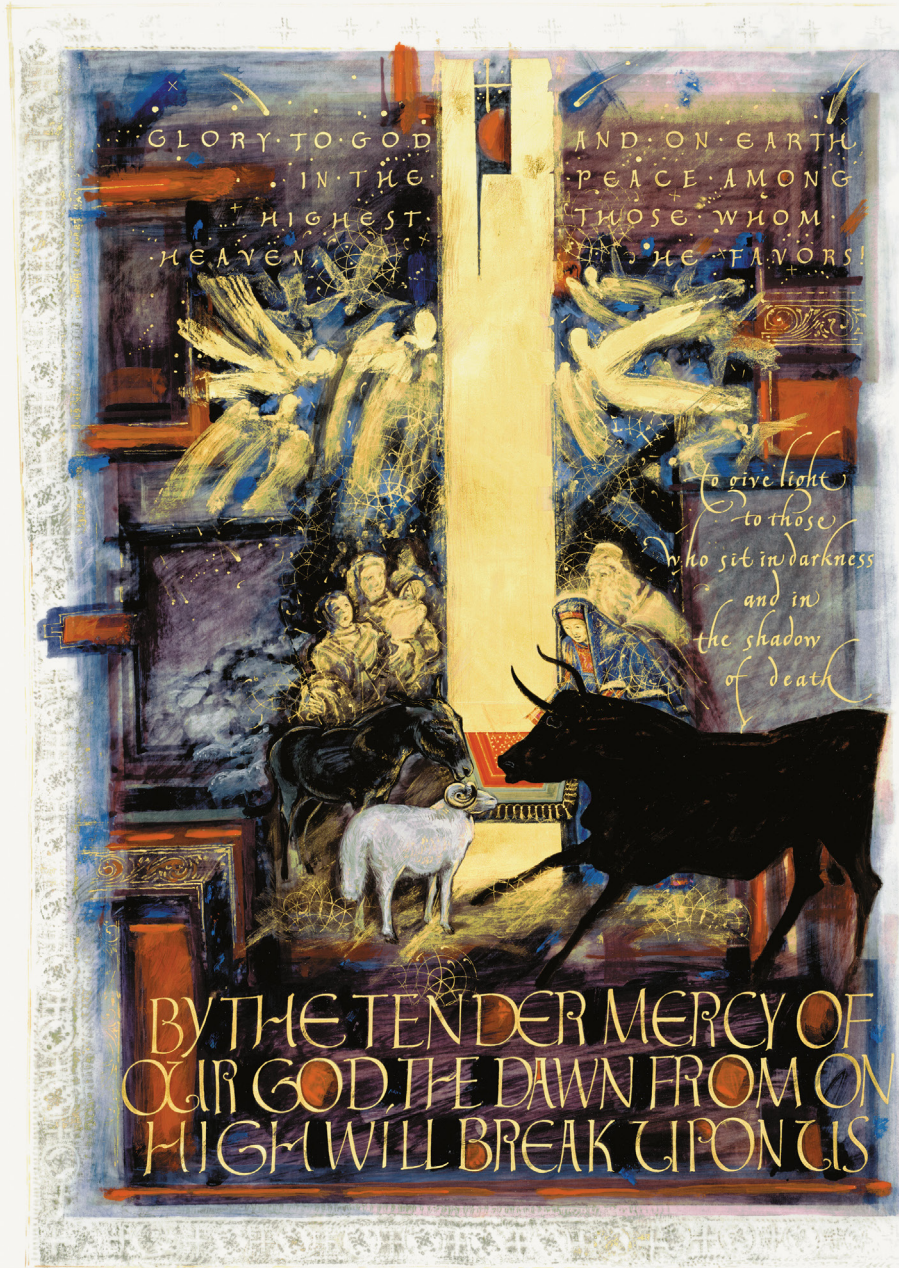




Crossings

Advent 2022





The mission of Christ Church is to bring God and people together to know and live the good news of Jesus Christ.

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He `ōlelo i ku'u mau hoaloha (a word to my friends)

*By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us.*

(Luke 1:78)

Dear Friends,
Black Friday deals galore for every one on your list. Christmas tree lighting for the family, Santa Claus visits for the kids, and Christmas Galas for mom and dad are everywhere. Giving Tuesday, Angel Trees, and charitable “stocking stuffers” are all asking for more of and from you.

By the looks of things, December is all about consumption. From the moment Thanksgiving tips into “Black Friday” we are being subtly and not so subtly directed to the consumption of Christmas. From eye-popping sales, to lavish parties, and the ever more extreme advertising, most everything about us says, “consume more,” “do more,” “give more” (and more extravagantly, to boot!).

And I’ll confess, we get caught up in a bit of it here as well.

Yet, every Adventtide, we hear these words of Zechariah as a gentle reminder of another way that lies before us; another way that may even beckon our hearts. In a world that was genuinely dark – following centuries of exile and vassalship, 1st Century life under Roman authority was not easy and bright; into a genuinely dark world, Zechariah



reminds us that a new dawn stands before us – a new way of hope for the world.

Unlike the lavish extravagance of Christmas consumption which celebrates our wealth and grandeur, Zechariah reminds us that this new way of God is rooted instead in tenderness and mercy, gifts that we already possess in abundance ourselves!

Whereas Christmas consumption depletes us, over-stretching us and wearing us thin, tenderness and mercy are unquenchable springs that well up within us! Even more, they are like life-giving waters not only to those who receive our love and but even to ourselves as we share them.

Friends, as you consider all that there is to “do” this Christmas (even here at Christ Church) do not forget the more important “work” of Advent and Christmas ... and the Christian life, itself – tenderness and mercy.

May God’s tender mercy break upon you like a glorious new dawn. And may your tender mercy be an unquenchable spring for those who you know and all whom you love.

With love and affection,

Strategic Plan Enters Next Phase Of Progress

by Lisa Vallee Smith

As you may recall, earlier this year our Vestry launched a multi-year strategic plan To Excel in

Love: Christ Centered, Community Focused, Future Driven. I am pleased to have been called to serve as chairperson for this work along with a committed team of lay volunteers.

With Christ at our center, we are committed to becoming today the church we have long envisioned – a community of vibrant friendship and formation for our children and youth; meaningful formation for our adults; genuine connection and care for all members; transforming engagement with our community and partners; all while maintaining the rich heritage of our Episcopal traditions and the beautiful inheritance of our sacred space and grounds.

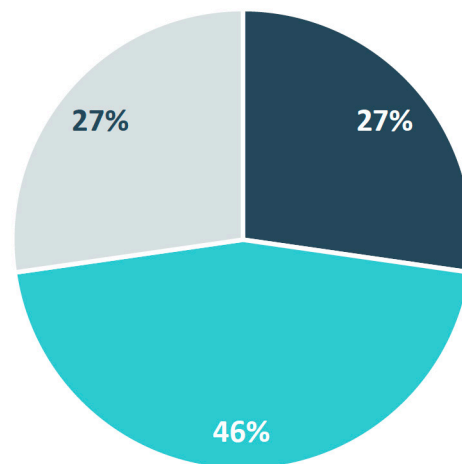
To date, the Vestry has made a multi-year, strategic investment in our current ministry to expand our resources and to extend our capacity to fulfill our mission and vision. This initial investment is in the form of new staff hires including the hiring of Colleen Fitzgerald as Member Engagement Coordinator and Jackson Merrill as Assistant Organist/Assistant Director of Music.

In order to sustain the financial stability and viability of our Church community now and into the future, we have embarked upon the foundational stages of a fundraising effort to significantly enhance our endowment, which is vital to the well-being of our congregation, and our programs. It helps provide financial stability and versatility. Comprised of both restricted, and unrestricted funds, year over year its proceeds ensure the operational and programmatic successes of

Christ Church. While we receive generous support annually from our members, our endowment is designed to support and maintain Christ Church needs that are not covered by our annual offerings and pledges. Our endowment is an important foundation on which we can sustainably rely.

As a first step, we conducted a campaign feasibility study with CCS Fundraising, an outside consultant which has partnered with nonprofits for over 75 years to empower transformational change, including successfully executed multi-million dollar fundraising efforts for Episcopal churches, religious institutions, and many other metro Detroit non-profits. At the beginning of the project, CCS sought input and insights with our members, including two visioning sessions, 35 personal interviews, and a church-wide electronic survey.

What is your overall reaction to the campaign plan?



Your response to the strategic plan as evidenced by these insights is very positive: there is overwhelming support for the priorities we have identified, with a wide majority of interview participants having positive reactions to our priorities and plans to address them, and many members willing to lend their time and energy to this effort by serving on committees and in leadership roles.

To Excel In Love Next Steps

Our partners at CCS Fundraising have collected extensive findings and recommendations for Christ Church, based on the results of interviews and survey responses, and analysis of trends in our fundraising and member support in

the recent past. These findings have been shared with the committee, and the Vestry, which voted to move forward with the next stage of the strategic plan: a campaign fundraising effort to grow our endowment by up to six million dollars over several years.

In-depth information and opportunities to learn more are available. Everyone will have the chance to respond to God's grace with their own gifts of time, talent, and treasures as the campaign progresses.

If you would like to learn more about opportunities to be involved in this exciting effort, please reach



out. Thank you in advance for your support!

With gratitude,

Lisa Vallee-Smith

Lisa Vallee-Smith



RECTOR'S BRUNCH AND FORUM

Sundays 10:10 am

Hot breakfast provided by Brian Abner Culinary.

Coffee provided by Tim Hortons.



Birthdays & Anniversaries!



61 Grosse Pointe Boulevard
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

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December

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | John Starr | 16 | Marian Baal |
| 2 | Loomis Quinlan | | Max Gavagan |
| | John Albrecht | | Kathie Gotfredson |
| | Billy Mansfield | | Helen Spica |
| 3 | Eliza Hix | 17 | Katie Wilson |
| | Richard Platt | 18 | Andrew Keating |
| | Charlotte Walsh | 19 | Sara Barrett |
| | Graham Ryan | | Ryan Waller |
| 4 | Betsy McCormick | 20 | Barbara Nickles |
| | Lorna Utley | | Susan Higbie |
| 5 | James Gray | | Jonathan Rudolph |
| | Sue Mara | | Jamie Blaine |
| | Clayton Clark | 21 | Jane Edwin |
| | Kathy Oranchak | | Gerard Vallee-Smith |
| 6 | Judy Kling | | Heather Albrecht |
| | Emma Reich | | Jack Thompson |
| | Jessica Van Culin | | Gustav Svensson |
| | Ellie Lawson | | Martha Lakis |
| | Tommy Robinson | 22 | Rick Worrell |
| 7 | Marica Ostrowski | | Rowan Thom |
| 8 | Terri Lyn Huston | | Patrick Chesterton |
| | Marisa Bennett | 23 | Abbey Evanoff |
| | Clara Pietsch | | Jud Utley |
| 9 | Ransom McSunas | | Rielly Whims |
| | Elise Torp | 24 | Shirley Fortune |
| | Claire Platt | | Carol Gove |
| 11 | Sidonie Brown | | Sara Sweeny |
| | Kristin Williamson | | Ryan Keating |
| | Karl Baumgarten | | Thomas Reghanti |
| | Jodi Burton Thompson | 25 | Morgan Walker |
| 12 | Gerhard Heinen | | Ryan Peabody |
| | Jocelyn Padden | | Carol Exley |
| | Ali Carr | 26 | Moiria Hix |
| | Elizabeth Felix | | Jacqui Wilkinson |
| | Nate Gaggin | | Chris Dirkse |
| 13 | Lori Mouton Boeckler | 27 | Richard Baumgarten |
| | Karl Koto | | Garrett Redding |
| | Kate Gavagan | | Sarah Ollison |
| 14 | Charles Exley | | David Tobbe |
| | Edward Turner | | Andy Gavagan |
| | John Williamson | | Tom MacMillan |
| 15 | Erik Traynham | | Jan & Susan Starr |
| | George & Lynn Detwiler | 28 | John Fowler |
| | | | Yolanda Turner |
| | | | Justin Donoghue |

Alexander Minanov
Rema Waugh
29 Chris & Sara Dirkse
30 Harper Barnwell
Rich & Melissa Larpenieur
31 Joshua & Kelly Darlington

January

1 Thomas Hutchison
Don Wray, Jr. & Arlene Rozzelle
2 Mark Armentrout
3 Arlene Rozzelle
Sarah Eatherly-Marchi
Cidney Graff
Melissa Larpenieur
Brad Reck
4 Tegan Jones
Doreen Kohr
Kate Zinn
5 Dave Chaklos
Susan Payne
Julie Oliver
Ross Kogel
Amy Chesterton
Madelyn Martin
7 Jacob Stevenson
Ashlyn Johnson
Libby Anderson
Cecily Tennyson
8 Lynne Cameron
Julie Schuetze
Darlene Henderson
9 Karl Boeckler
Kirby Traynham
10 Ray Graves
Nick Bachand
Maggie Sweeney
William Minetola
11 Emma Hanoian
Anne Wilkinson-Burke
12 Molly Hanoian
Lucy Robinson
13 Bob Kingscott
14 Laura Huebner
Paulette Lavins
15 Mike Prieur
16 Karlyn McCoy
17 Ed Dyer
18 Paul Vogt
20 Kelly Darlington
21 Tyler Clarke
Rick Walker
Mark High
22 Eleanor Walsh
Ross Kogel

23 Mackenzie Krygowski
Miranda Ostrowski
24 Lowry Scotten
Elizabeth Smith
Jane Oliver
John Paul Albrecht
Charlotte Getz
26 Charles Shreve
Cathy Walker
Mark Lorenger
Bonnie Romer
Paul McAdams
27 Kathryn Williamson
Michael Reich
Ebony Gillooly
28 Bennett Walsh
May Jean Chan
29 Eric Ash
Charles & Karen Shreve, IV
30 Heather Bossler-Byron
Sharon Stellingwerf
31 Heather Jones
Jocelyn Mills
Al Torp

February

2 Abbey Schuetze
3 Stacy Lundberg
Claire Graff
4 Tracy Clarke
Jim Quinlan
Mike Fournier
Megan Prieur
Jason Richards
5 Susan Starr
Lynda Webster
Kiera Phlipot
Clark & Kim Standish
6 Lynn Schneider
Bob Payne
Scottie Knight
Pamela Blair
Cyndee Harrison
Kathy Williams
Emily Spica
Jaclyn Grosfield
Carol Smith
7 William LeFevre
Lauren Mertens
Sophie Schuetze
Brendan Walsh
Chase Clark
David Gilbert
8 Kerri Gustafson
Evan Hines

9 Lauren Dirkse
10 Ian Davis
Blair Murawski
Liz Koto
Michelle Ormsby
11 Patrick Gushee
Jerry MacMillan
12 Darlene Grabowski
Valerie Koto
Tobie Milford
13 Peter Nickles
Burt Rudolph
Henry Grosfield
John Waller
14 Jean Redfield
Sandi Heald
Ellen Thurber
15 Dana Deimel
Severin Vogt
16 Peter Ferrara
Kim Standish
18 Lauren Frezza
Steve Fehniger
Ellen Durand
Ursula Torp
19 Bev Walsh
20 Susie Gavagan
Allison Keelean
Conner Blaine
21 Elizabeth Kontulis
Bill Cudlip
Nicholas Walsh
Mark Higbie
23 Mike Bowe
24 Carol Newton
25 Hank Darlington
26 Kate Everham
Jeff & Tracy Clarke
27 Mary Stuart
Mary Trost
Josie Fedirko
28 Richard Rittenhouse
29 Mike Bamford
Sara Dirkse

In Memorium

Frederick Ollison III
Derek Joseph Gaffrey
Joseph F. Maycock, Jr.
Margaret Sammon
James Campbell
Susan Harper

The Bible is for Us Too

by Rachel Held Evans

Our first adult formation session, Transforming Questions, is wrapping up over the next couple of weeks and already we are thinking about our upcoming session, a deep dive into Rachel Held Evans' book: *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*. Rachel's story is personable and relatable. She writes with humor and honesty about what it meant to question what she had learned growing up and then find herself growing closer to God in the process. Sadly, Rachel died suddenly and unexpectedly in 2019, leaving behind her husband and two small children. Rachel inspired a whole generation of progressive Christian women and men to love Jesus wholeheartedly, publicly, and without apology. We are including an excerpt from *Inspired* to hopefully inspire you to join us for Thursday night adult formation when we resume on January 5th.

There's a curious but popular notion circulating around the Church these days that says God would never stoop to using ancient genre categories to communicate.

Speaking to ancient people using their own language, literary structures, and cosmological assumptions would be beneath God, it is said, for only our modern

categories of science and history can convey the truth in any meaningful way.

In addition to once again prioritizing modern, Western (and often uniquely American) concerns, this notion overlooks one of the most central themes of Scripture itself: God Stoops. From walking with Adam and

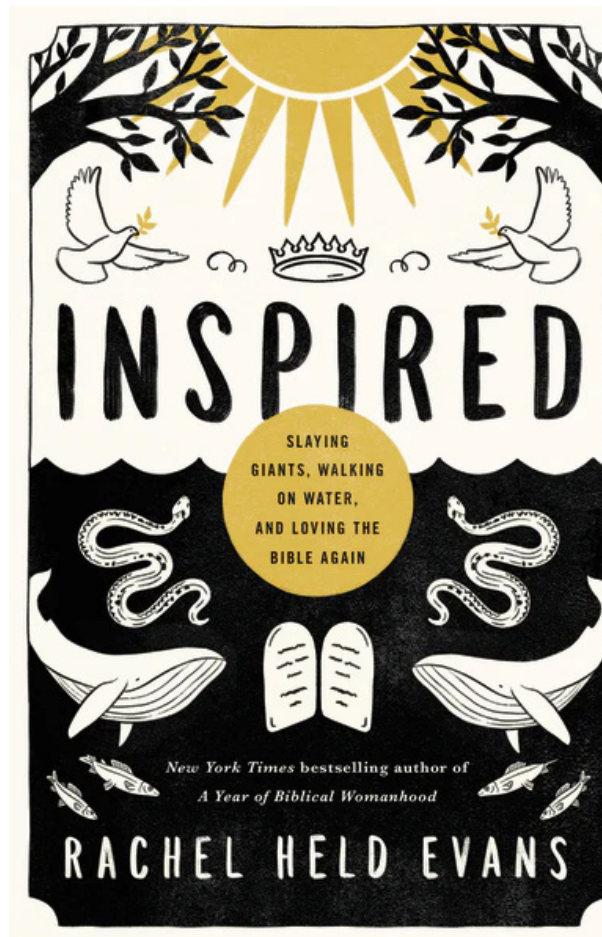
weeping, and dying among us as part of humanity, the God of Scripture stoops and stoops and stoops and stoops. At the heart of the gospel message is the story of a God who stoops to the point of death on a cross. Dignified or not, believable, or not, ours is a God perpetually on bended knee, doing everything it takes to convince stubborn and petulant children

that they are seen and loved. It is no more beneath God to speak to us using poetry, proverbs, letters, and legend than it is for a mother to read storybooks to her daughter at bedtime. This is who God is. This is what God does.

While the circumstances of the exiled Israelites may seem far removed from us today, the questions raised by that national crisis of faith remain as pressing as ever: Why do bad things happen to good people? Will evil and death continue to prevail? What does it mean to be chosen by God? Is God faithful? Is God present? Is God Good?

Rather than answering these questions in propositions, the Spirit spoke the language of stories, quickening the memories of prophets and the pens of scribes to call a lost and searching people to gather together and remember.

Remember how in the beginning, God put everything in order and made the whole cosmos a temple? Remember how we are created



Eve through the Garden of Eden, to traveling with the liberated Hebrew slaves in a pillar of cloud and fire, to slipping into flesh and eating, laughing, suffering, healing,

Remember how God saw the suffering of the banished Hagar, the unloved Leah, and the oppressed Hebrew slaves? Remember how Pharaoh's mighty army drowned in the sea?

And so, we have on our hands a Bible that includes psalms of praise but also psalms of complaint and anger, a Bible that poses big questions about the nature of evil and the cause of suffering without always answering them. We have

The Bible is for us too.

A stained glass window featuring an angel with large red wings and a golden halo. The angel is shown from the waist up, wearing a green robe over a white garment with gold trim. They are holding a long, flowing scroll that contains the letters "S Saviour". The background of the window is dark, with blue and purple floral or cloud-like patterns. The overall style is characteristic of traditional church stained glass art.

10 am—Festival Eucharist with Choir
Child Care Provided*

A Sermon by Fr. Drew

The 18th Sunday after Pentecost

All right, friends, let's have a little fun. All of us at some point, when we were children or maybe not even when we were children, just maybe yesterday or something, we've all at some point dreamt of having a superpower. You remember those days? You're watching the Justice League and imagining yourself soaring through the sky like Superman. If you could have one superpower, what would it be?

Teleportation, so you could get more work done? Just ask... She asked about getting more work done. Not like Mom doesn't have enough work to do. Now to get more work done. What other ones? Time travel. Also to get more work done? To go back and fix my mistakes. To go back and fix mistakes of others sometimes too, I imagine. What else?

To fly. Soar through the sky. Can't you imagine? Can't you imagine what it'd be like to have any one of those superpowers? In the ancient world, those... Of course, we call them superheroes today. In the ancient world, those powers were limited to the gods. And so you had Zeus who could control the weather and cast thunderbolts here and there. You had Poseidon who could control the waters and walk upon them and through them. You had Apollo who could heal. You had Hermes who could fly like the wind. You had Hera who could shape and manipulate the relationships of those around her. Aphrodite, filled with the beauty that she alone possessed. All the powers of the gods.



That left me wondering, what's Jesus's superpower?

Healing. We might say healing. Here we have it. He heals 10 lepers. What other superpowers did Jesus possess? Walk on water. Walks on water. Poseidon. He was really, really kind. Really, really kind. We're going to hold on to that one for a moment.

Controls the weather. Controls the weather, right? He stills a storm if we remember things. Any Dionysian, Dionysus fans out there? Turns water into wine. He likes a good party, apparently. Wisdom. Sophia. Aphrodite, also, I think, wisdom. What we see in the Gospels is that Jesus and God throughout the Bible possesses the powers of all

those superhero gods that we've ever dreamt of having. Possesses them all. But I would argue that today, and you'll notice the beginning of today's lesson, today's lesson begins with some very subtle illusions on the way to Jerusalem. It's a little way to remind us that this story has something to do with that story, Jerusalem, and what is that story but the story of the cross? I would argue that in today's lesson, we hear the real superpower of God, the same God who walks on water, stills the storm, turns water into wine, the same God who possesses all of those other superpowers here, heals, et cetera. Here it is. Generosity. Put in the ancient language of the church, generosity. That is, generosity is the ability to do good for another beyond oneself, without self-

interest, without return, without reward, even to the end.

Jesus demonstrates that God's real superpower is generosity. For you see, Apollo, of those 10, Apollo would only heal one, the one that praised him, the one that worshiped him. Apollo didn't possess generosity. He just possessed healing. No, Jesus demonstrates that the great superpower of God is generosity with all of God's power, that all of God's power is meant not for God's acclaim, but for our uplift and care, for the care of those who are most destitute, most depressed, most in need in society, that God's

knows, it is generosity that Jesus demonstrates as His superpower. And as disciples, as followers of His way, it is generosity that we're called to develop.

So how do we develop that power within us? We know we can't learn to fly. We can't become invincible. We can't teleport, sorry. It would be nice. We can't go back in time. But remarkably, the superpower of generosity is within our reach. That's why it's Jesus's superpower. I would contend that there are two things that we can, dare I say must, do to develop generosity within ourselves. The first you will know

generosity. It's the act of giving without control. Jesus doesn't say to the 10, "I will heal if you return to me." That's no longer generosity. No, He heals and lets them go. We can practice that. The act of giving without control.

The second is the inverse side of it, and that's gratitude. That is the development of the awareness of generosity that is all around you to see, instead of slights and fears, to see generosity as the actual blueprint of society, of life. And so to take stock each day of all of the gifts, all of the generosities that have been given to you, to practice daily

“Generosity is within our reach if we but practice it and practice an awareness of gratitude.”

power is wielded especially for them, not because of a return to God, but simply out of care and love for another.

God's superpower isn't that He can create the heavens and the earth, but that He creates the heavens and the earth for us to enjoy, for all of creation to live and to thrive. This is, in its own way, a story of Jerusalem. For it is upon the cross that Jesus demonstrates the final and full generosity of God to love and forgive all, not just those who worship him, but even those who despise, persecute, and kill him. Jesus will be generous to the last.

So it begs a question for us. Of all those superpowers that the world

quite immediately. You have to practice it. We actually have to and can remarkably practice generosity. We can practice giving a little more than we're comfortable with, giving without reservation, without hesitation, without strings and control. We can give simply to give. I would contend that pledging is that. That's just a little sidebar. This isn't meant to become a stewardship sermon. That's going to be in the spring. No, but pledging isn't about a church budget. Pledging is about us as Christians developing that very power of God to be generous with another, to care and support an institution, a ministry, not simply for ourselves, but for God and for our neighbor, full stop. But it's not just pledging that develops that

a simple awareness of gratitude, an awareness of a generosity, a concrete act of kindness, a concrete act of kindness that has come to you out of the generosity of another.

We say that God is all around and God is because, in part, the generosity of God surrounds us through the simple kindnesses and great gifts that others give to us each day. We can develop a superpower. Generosity is within our reach if we but practice it and practice an awareness of gratitude. Amen.



Candlelight Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 18
4:30 pm

A service of lessons and music celebrating
the Nativity of Our Lord. Doors open at 3:45 pm.

Pre-service organ recital at 4 pm.

Free and open to the public.

Carstens Academy

by The Rev'd Maureen L. Martin

Over the last four months or so I have been blessed to spend time with Cornelius Pearson, the Principal of Carstens Academy, as well as other staff members and I have much to share with you on how things are going at their school and the ways in which we can deepen our commitment to the children who attend it.

The pandemic was much harder on children living below the poverty line than we can begin to imagine. For many parents who were struggling to hold on before the pandemic, having kids at home rather than in school was impossible to manage successfully. All parents rely on the structure provided by the school year to help them keep their families organized. The crucial difference for the parents of Cornelius's students is that they had so few resources. Work from home opportunities were sparse as was access to the technology that aided more affluent families in keeping kids engaged and on track. As a result, the students at Carstens and other urban schools fell even further behind and consequentially, Fall enrollment numbers were negatively impacted.

At the beginning of this school year Carstens Academy had approximately 120 missing students. The staff at Carstens has worked tirelessly to find these kids and get them re-enrolled, an ongoing task, even now. Leading up to the Fall Count Day, October 5th, 20 of the missing students had been re-enrolled, half had re-enrolled elsewhere for the school year and the remaining students were not found due to the transient nature of their living conditions.

Count Days happen twice a year throughout the school system and determine the funding and staff size for the following semester. At Carstens, the chronic absenteeism rate hovers at 70-80 percent across all grade levels, including preschool. In order not to lose teachers and end up with crowded classrooms and over-extended teachers Cornelius reached out to us with a very specific request. He asked that rather than the usual back to school drive, that we instead participate in their Fall Count Day on October 5th. On that day the children were counted and with our support a record number of kids showed up for school that day allowing Carstens to secure the funding necessary to retain teachers and, consequently, keep classroom sizes small.

Cornelius and I determined that the most impactful way for us and other ministry partners to buttress his leadership on that day was to guarantee three types of support. Presence, Presents, and the engendering of festive anticipation. We supplied 40 gift items for the purpose of hourly classroom raffles, which the faculty and staff promoted to the student body over a period of ten days leading up to the Count Day. Hope House Detroit provided an ice cream social that day, as well as extra volunteer presence over the course of the day. Cornelius's goals of Presence, Presents and festive anticipation were all met. Stay tuned, in January we will do a gift drive to support the February Count Day in hopes that Carstens can continue to receive the educational dollars they need to provide the best education possible for their students.



Some have asked me why we are buying toys rather than school supplies. It is a fair question and one I can answer with confidence. To begin, as the Principal of Carstens Academy, Cornelius knows better than we what the fundamental needs are in order for his students to succeed. While it might feel frivolous or wasteful to buy board games and Barbie Dolls, it is not. We must consider what it means to have closets full of these things already but desks that remain empty and support Cornelius.

Our relationship with Carstens Academy is ever deepening and complex. We are committed to weekly support through the Carsten's Literacy Initiative. Please consider signing up to be a literacy mentor. Every one of us who makes time for this ministry provides an additional child with the opportunity to not only improve their reading level, but to greatly increase their likelihood of graduation.

Journey of Generosity

*Pledging is an act of worship – thanking God for all God has done for us.
Pledging is an act of love – sharing our abundance to help others experience the joy and love of Christ.
Pledging is an act of faith – reminding ourselves that our greatest joy is found
not in our wealth, but in God's love for us and for all.
Thank you to all who have made a pledge to support God's ministry at Christ Church.
Thank you for joining us in our worship, love, and faith!*

Mr. & Mrs. Dave Anderson
Mr. Joel Anyim
Mrs. Barbara Arrigo
Dr. & Dr. Eric Ash
Mr. & Mrs. Len Azzaro
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bamford
Ms. Martha Bangs
Mr. & Mrs. Sandy Baruah
Dr. Richard Baumgarten
& Dr. Cheryl Wesen
Mr & Mrs John Benson
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Best
Ms. Antoinette Book
Miss Terry Book
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Bowe
Mr. & Mrs. David Chaklos
Mr. & Ms. William Champion, III
Mrs. Betsy Creedon
Mr. William Cudlip
Dr. Joseph Daniel
& Mr. Alfredo Silvestre
Mr. Henry Darlington
Mr. Michael DeFillipi
& Mr. David Gerdis
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Durand
Mr. Steven Fehniger
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Ferrara
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Fitzgerald
Mrs. Shirley Fortune
Mrs. Hadley French
Mr. David Gaskin
Mr. & Mrs. John Gillooly
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Hanoian
Mrs. Elizabeth Hardwick
Mr. & Mrs. John Harwood
Mr. Mark Higbie
& Mrs. Gretchen Knoell

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Hubbard
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Huebner
Mr. Daniel Hughes
& Ms. Libby Candler
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Hurley
Ms. Terri Lyn Huston
Ms. Lynnette Iannace
Dr. & Mrs. Edward Jeffries
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Johnson, Jr
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Johnson
Mrs. Heather Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Ian Jones
Mr. & Ms. James Kastner
Ms. Barbara Kennedy
Mr. Robert Kingscott
& Mrs. Susan Mara
Mr. & Ms. Garland Knight, III
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Labadie
Mrs. Mary Ledyard
Mrs. Ann Lesesne
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Lorenger
Mr. & Mrs. Terrance Lynch
Dr. Harold Marsh
Mr. & The Rev'd David Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Mason
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mathews
Mrs. Margaret Maycock
Mr. & Mrs. John McCormick
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth McIntyre
Mrs. Helen McKnight
Mrs. Lucinda McMahon
Mr. & Mrs. George Nicholson, III
Dr. & Mrs. Peter Nickles
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Niscoromni
Dr. Patricia O'Brien
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Partridge
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Peabody

Mr. & Mrs. Eric Pietsch
Mr. & Mrs. Tedmund Pryor
Mr. & Mrs. David Redfield
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Reich
Mr. & Mrs. Brendan Ross
Mr. Charles Ruifrok
Mr. & Mrs. Gregg Russell
Mrs. Carol Schrashun
Ms. Penelope Slough
Ms. Carol Smith
Mr. Jeffrey Smith
& Mrs. Lisa Vallee-Smith
Mr. John Snyder
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Stellingwerf
Mr. & Mrs. George Sutton
Ms. Amie Sweeney
Mr & Mrs Donald N. Sweeny III
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Swickard
Mrs. Emily Tennyson
Mr. & Mrs. David Tobbe
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Torp
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Trost
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Turner
The Rev'd & Mrs. Andrew Van Culin
Mrs. Charlene Vickers
Mrs. Barbara Wachter
Mrs. Beverly Walsh
Mr. & Mrs. Sheldon Wardwell, II
Mr. & Mrs. John Warren, Jr
Mr. & Mrs. Adam Waugh
Ms. Karyn Weir
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Whims
Ms. Kathy Williams
Mrs. Margaret Woodford
Mr. John Woodhouse
& Ms. Susan Vercruysse

We're pleased to report that seventy families have renewed their pledges for a total of \$448,000 in 2022 so far, a 6.5% increase over 2021. We have seven new families pledging for a total of \$22,500, an increase of \$17,600 from the \$4,700 that was pledged in 2021. We invite the seventy families who have not renewed their pledge yet from last year and the 300 other families who call Christ Church home to pledge at christchurch.org/make-a-pledge.

Bill Cudlip is Alive and Well, Thank God by Rowan O'Brien

I met with Bill Cudlip a few weeks ago at Christ Church, and it quickly became clear that his tale could not be expressed in a single article, nor in a single interview, but these selected bits will hopefully give you a look into Bill and his colorful life.

Bill was born in Grosse Pointe. His family lived in Grosse Pointe Shores, and they attended St Paul's on the Lake. In his early years, he attended the Hall of the Divine Child, which was a K-8 boarding school in Monroe, Michigan. For high school, he spent his freshman year at Grosse Pointe South, but when he almost flunked out due to "a lack of discipline and structure," he was transferred to a military school in Illinois, which was taught by the Benedictine Monks. He said the switch was a positive and his grades were affected significantly for the better.

Bill attended the University of Virginia as a business major but graduated with a degree in Education. Ironically, Bill was never a teacher, but ended up working in business for most of his life. During his time at university, Bill was drafted for the war, but he did not have to answer the call after ending up in the hospital with polio. Not only did this mean he didn't have to go to war, but it also meant he couldn't attend school for a while. Once Bill overcame his illness, he waited until the next semester of school before re-starting classes. To fill the time, he took a job doing accounting. Bill said he liked working and making money so much

that when February rolled around and it was time for him to go back to school, he didn't have much interest in it anymore. So, in order to get his degree done as fast as possible, he took tons of education classes and, at one point, ended up with 30 credit hours in one semester. He made the dean's list multiple times and worked very hard to graduate so that he could be done with school and finally start working for real.

After college, he worked several different jobs. He and his brothers started a travel company in Mexico City. For a while, he worked as a salesman for a car dealer in New York. Bill told me of a story that happened while he was in New York, in which he went to a client in Long Island to make a sales pitch and ended up wading through acres and acres of ducks! That was the final straw for Bill, and he resigned and came back to Detroit to work at a car company here.

A year after he graduated university, he married his first wife, Nancy. The two of them were married for 20 years until they divorced. They had two children, a son who was also named Bill, and a daughter named Anne. He has three grandchildren, who are Anne's children. After Bill was divorced, he met his second wife, Johanna, and they were married for about 40 years until she passed in 2020. They didn't have any children, but they did have multiple pets. They had two dogs when she passed, but they died not long after she did.

One day many years ago, Bill was in a Catholic confessional, and



confessed to using birth control. The priest decided to chew him out instead of actually being helpful, so Bill decided he was done with the Catholic Church. In the year 2000, Bill found himself on Grosse Pointe Boulevard, and was amazed at the sight of our Christ Church, so he decided to come in and check it out, and eventually became a member. But he really started getting involved in 2008, when he volunteered for the pizza lunches the church put on with South High School once a week.

Bill said he loves Christ Church and both Father Drew and Mother Maureen. When asked about his favorite memory at the church, he said, "My best memories are happening now." He cares deeply about the future of the church and is very hopeful about where it might lead us as a community.

Bill would like everyone to know, "I'm alive and well, thank God."

The Wisdom of Outrageous Belovedness

by Mtr. Maureen L. Martin

This Fall we kicked off a new Ministry at Christ Church: OWLS! We have had a great time defining what the acronym stands for. As it turns out, no one likes the word Old, nor do they like the word Seniors. To be honest, the vision for this ministry has never been one that constrains the fellowship to a particular decade anyway. I think we have finally settled on Outrageously Wise Living Souls. So far we have had two events. Last month we went to see the Van Gogh exhibit at the DIA and this month we had a tea luncheon at the Royal Treat Tea Room in Roseville.

As this ministry is in its infancy I thought it would be a good idea to share the vision behind it. In essence, this is a ministry for

women and men that provides education and fellowship for those who find themselves 55 or better. I hate to be the bearer of bad news to those who have yet to reach their nifty fifties but here it goes: There is never a point in our lives where we feel like we have it all figured out and then it just stays the same! As it turns out, each decade from the mid 50's on has its now unique gifts and challenges:

When the dust settles on your forties you wake up to realize that you need to consider once again who you are. You might be nearing the end of your child rearing years, or maybe that was never your path.

Regardless, a wild night on the town ends around 9:00, tops, while the next day's recovery feels interminable. Oh, and you need to think about estate planning!

At some point in your mid 60's you are blessed with retirement. Again, you find yourself wondering who you are as you learn the ropes of what you thought was going to be endless free time. This is a marvelously fruitful decade for many.

Mid 70's and beyond. As one wise old owl has said to me, "You have more wisdom and less filter." A huge challenge for those over 70 is a feeling of invisibility in a society that idolizes youth. More than ever purpose, belonging, and belovedness matter. You matter!

We are planning the winter/spring calendar and will offer a variety of opportunities for every kind of OWL. We look forward to learning and growing in faith with you all in the months to come! You are never too young a soul to get outrageous!



OWLS

Outrageously Wise Living Souls

Mealing & Dealing

Lunch and card games!

December 16

11 am - 1 pm

Undercroft

Tales from the Choir Trip

by Allison Merrill

The Christ Church choir and companions traveled across the pond for a long-awaited tour in mid-July, beginning in the United Kingdom and ending in Germany. We safely arrived in England on July 17th and journeyed to the Chatsworth House, property of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. As we surveyed the regal bedrooms in the historic home, our choristers met a knowledgeable docent who explained the importance of portraits for royals centuries ago. These images are visual legacies that often tell us what the subjects loved most, like their pianos, for example. “If you’ve only got one shot, you want to be painted at your very best,” the docent said.

Our choir had the opportunity to practice her advice once we began our residency at York Minster on July 18th. After daily tours and energetic excursions, we sang the sacred texts of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*, bookended by the Radcliffe Responses and new anthems each day. Choristers, companions, and chaperones explored the history of the cathedral, especially the crypt and the Undercroft Museum, which kept us cool in the heat of our first two days – the hottest recorded in the history of England!

Miles away from the walls of the Minster, we traversed along the countryside for several memorable excursions. At The Bowes Museum, our choristers enjoyed a scavenger hunt throughout the guided tour and gazed at a gorgeous silver

mechanical swan. Even though it’s in need of repair, the swan reminded us that it’s great to have something pretty look at, even if that thing comes from the gift shop... and we visited many gift shops on this tour!



Next came the natural scenery and ancient ruins of Fountains Abbey, where we learned about the monks’ weekly worship, prayer life, and dwelling spaces (including those sturdy old toilets). Our subsequent bus ride took us to the glorious Wensleydale Creamery, where we saw cheese being made right before our eyes, then indulged in a proper English roast. The dairy demonstration inspired many of our travelers to stock up and enjoy evening cheese parties at the hotel.

The final English adventure was a Friday out in Scarborough, where it was a bit too cold to “take a paddle in the sea,” as our guide Simon would say. Even so, we occupied ourselves with shopping, lunch, ice cream, and for some, the Scarborough Castle and the grave of author Anne Brontë.

With a full schedule of three services on our last day, the choir had the unique experience of



moving from the quire to the nave of York Minster for two services. Between Matins, Choral Eucharist, and Evensong, singers quietly walked within the cathedral to take in its beauty once more. Surprising us all, composer Philip Moore attended our final Evensong to hear our choir and soloist Logan Dell’Acqua sing his anthem, “All wisdom cometh from the Lord.” Mr. Moore sweetly stayed back to pose for photos and give out autographs. It was bittersweet to say goodbye to York and the Minster, but Germany promised equally enriching experiences day by day.



On a sweeping tour of Berlin, we saw portions of the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, the Brandenburg Gate, and the city's Holocaust Monument. Our choristers noticed that in a city with a lot of gray neutrality, the murals on the Wall were colorful and visually striking, even though this was a place where so many lost their lives. Architect Peter Eisenman designed the Holocaust Memorial structures with large gray concrete slabs, and there are 2,711 of them. Our tour guide explained that Eisenman crafted the monument to create a feeling of being swallowed up, which we felt as we walked through the installation.



The choir's concert repertoire was well-received at the Grundewald Kirche, where we discovered an audience eager to hear music ranging "from classic to Gospel," as the posters advertised. In Wittenberg the next day, our group took guided tours of the Luther House museum, which preserves the history of Martin Luther and his wife, Katharina von Bora, along with the Reformer's work with colleagues like Philipp Melancthon. We finished our Wittenberg day with a short concert at the Castle

Church, then on to Leipzig for a formal concert at J.S. Bach's Nikolaikirche.

A guided tour the next morning illuminated the history of the Nikolaikirche, which has a unique resurrection altarpiece to reflect the church's role in peaceful revolution.

The literature buffs among us took note of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's statue, and then it was back to Bach at the fantastic Bach-Archiv. This museum revealed the composer's original manuscripts and his family history – the name "Bach" was most likely derived from the profession of his ancestor Veit, a baker who lived in Thuringia. Perfectly topping off our time in Leipzig, our choir sang at Bach's grave on the anniversary of his death.

We continued to observe Bach's contributions as a church musician in Eisenach. The Bachhaus there featured period instruments, including harpsichords, so our group could hear the sounds of the Baroque era. Chorister Megan vonSchwarz even pumped wind through the pipes of one organ. The kids particularly enjoyed putting on headphones for interactive listening experiences.

Our Germany tour continued to fly by as we entered the region of Bavaria. We hiked up to the Wartburg Castle before settling in Bayreuth. A few hours in Nuremberg then led to Munich's Marienplatz square, where we



studied the exterior of the town hall and its Rathaus-Glockenspiel. Reminiscent of a giant music box, the glockenspiel featured painted figurines dancing, jousting, and enjoying a wedding.

Our last day took us up to the Alps surrounding Murnau. There, we sang German hymns and shared our music in a local church service. A short bus ride later, we took our seats for the Oberammergau Passion Play, which runs its performance season with local talent only once per decade. The choristers' attention and interest in the five-hour production impressed us all and invited meaningful discussions on the Last Supper and Christ's Passion.

Our closing dinner was full of joy and laughter, complete with a trivia game and a dedicated time to celebrate all we had accomplished since York. The Christ Church pilgrimage of 2022 ended with new friendships, broader historical perspectives, and music and memories to last a lifetime.

Choir Recruitment by Jackson Merrill

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o you know a child
who loves to sing?

The Christ Church chorister program is recruiting new young singers for the coming year! Our internationally renowned Royal School of Church Music-affiliate program offers comprehensive musical instruction and professional level performance experiences locally and abroad. Do you know a child who loves to sing? If so, email Jackson Merrill, Assistant Director of Music and Organist at jmerrill@christchurchgp.org for more information about this extraordinary opportunity!



Meet our Photographers

by Colleen Fitzgerald



ROD ARROYO

Whether it's a baptism, a choir concert or a parish gathering, we're lucky to have Rod Arroyo and Brendan Ross, two professional photographers who are always there to capture the moment.

Rod Arroyo is the owner of Portraits By Rod. His portfolio includes fine art city photography and portrait photography, with a focus on high school seniors and corporate headshots.

He began his photography career working as a photojournalist in college. In 2000, he started his photography business, and he has found a way to merge his love of city, landscape, and portrait photography by capturing most of his portraits outside. Most of his high school senior portrait sessions are done in downtown Detroit, in small city downtowns, or in local parks. Many of his corporate headshots are also captured outside, which provides for dynamic backdrops and the use of natural lighting.

Rod's city photography has been on display at numerous locations including the Detroit Artist Market, Kresge Foundation headquarters, and the Townsend Hotel. His Detroit photography is featured in the book, "A History Lover's Guide to Detroit," which was published in 2018 by History Press. Rod has also created an extensive collection of black and white portraits of jazz musicians performing in Detroit.

For more information or to book a high school senior portrait or headshot session, Rod's website is www.PortraitsByRod.com.



BRENDAN ROSS

Brendan Ross is a professional photographer whose enthusiasm is capturing just the right image for business clients in the United States and Canada. He is known for his ability to do this within the oftentimes strict confines of client demands, budgets, and deadlines.

"Brendan understands that we run a business here and we can't afford to hold things up with less-than-optimal performance on the part of the creative people we hire. Budgets are tight these days, but Brendan delivers singular photography –

sometimes even award winning – within increasingly rigid client constraints,” said Rick Van House of Know Advertising.

Brendan spent the early part of his career in traffic and PR at Ross Roy, Inc. before deciding photography was his mission. He has spent the last 40+ years sharpening his eye and his technical skills to help ad agency executives, marketing professionals, and other creative types convey the heart of a message quickly and profitably to the target audience.

He is a member of the Advertising Photographers of America and the Business Marketing Association, Chicago Chapter. Brendan was the official photographer of the Biz Bash event sponsored by the BMA on June 3, 2010, in Chicago. He is also designated a Certified

Business Communicator by the BMA, a credential attesting to his professionalism, including education, experience, knowledge, and ethical practices in the field of business communications.

Brendan photographed the TEDxDetroit events in 2011 through 2015. In 2011 he was a member of the photo team and has served as lead photographer and Board Member the last four years.

In August 2015, Brendan was involved with LifeRemodeled, first as a photographer volunteer for the six-day project and later as the lead photographer charged with putting together a photo team and guiding their efforts. LR is a non-profit organization that gets 10-12,000 volunteers to fix up, paint up and refurbish select neighborhoods in the city of

Detroit. The past four years LR has rehabbed the neighborhood around Durfee Middle School and turned the building into a trade school and innovation center.

Brendan, and his wife Nancy, have been members of Christ Church Grosse Pointe for close to 50 years. During that time, he’s photographed almost every Vestry member and the newly Baptized.

Brendan’s business is serving other businesses. Products, processes, people, and portraits are his forte.

Brendan’s web site is <https://brossphoto.com/>.

THURSDAYS AT CHRIST CHURCH GROSSE POINTE FOOD FAITH FORMATION

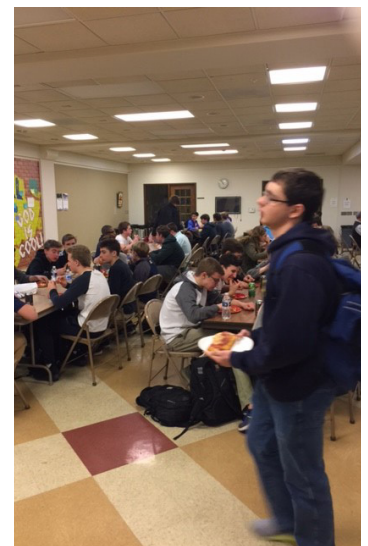
The Pizza Lunch Ministry at CCGP has Ended

by David Gerdis

More than 20 years ago, Ben Daume, a lifelong member of Christ Church, started serving pizza on Thursday's to GP South students. At its height this ministry served more than 150 kids each week in the lower level of the church. It was Ben's passion for young adults that created this success.

The ministry involved 6 or 7 church volunteers investing about 2 hours each week serving pizza, taking payments from the kids during the early and late lunch periods, and then cleaning up afterwards. The benefit of developing and deepening relationships with fellow parishioners and the students was the real joy of this effort.

During the last several years the attendance on Thursdays declined. A year off due to COVID also had an impact. Despite our best efforts, the last school year saw about 25 kids attend lunch each Thursday. It is with a heavy heart that this ministry will now end. I and the rest of the weekly volunteers will greatly miss seeing the youthful faces of the regular students who came each week. The fellowship created between the volunteers is the thing I will most particularly miss.



Middle Schoolers Meet in the Faith Cafe

by Paula Labadie

O

ppportunity.
Blessing.
Growth.
Finally! Use
all these
descriptors to
welcome our

Middle School kids, grades 6–8, to Sunday School. Amie Sweeney and I decided we needed to step up and step into teaching these kids who have been without Sunday School for at least 3 years. What a blast when we had 15 kids on week 2!

The pandemic halted so much for kids in all areas of their development and Sunday School has been one aspect. Both Amie and I had fond memories of the richness of Sunday School and the lasting bonds formed

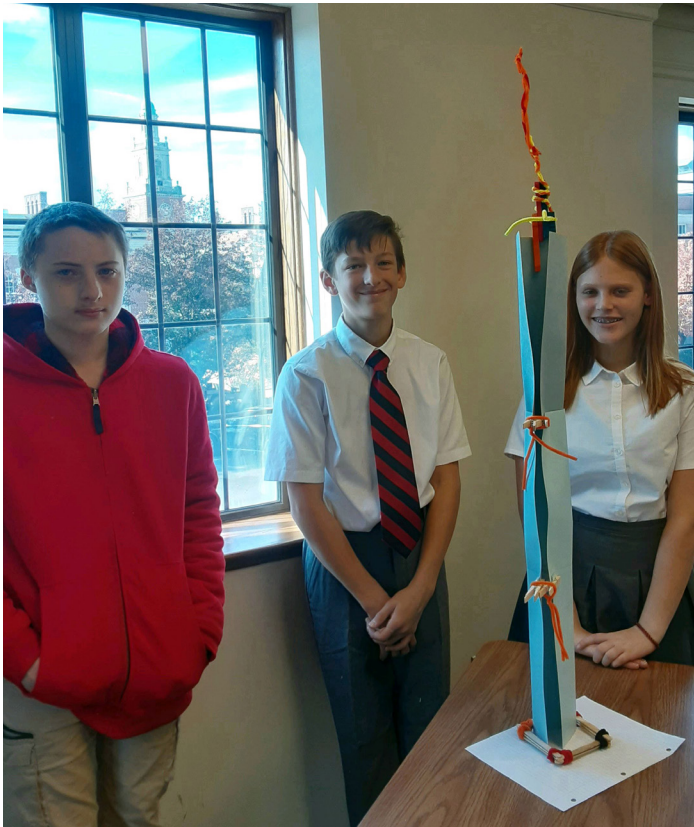
there through Middle and High School. We want to be able to give the kids a safe place to explore faith, church, caring for one another and living the way of Jesus, to Love One Another.

As a group, we have established our norms of behavior, which includes that this is a No Judgement Zone. While there is no homework expectation, mutual respect is paramount. That and snacks!

Our classroom has been moved up from the basement to the sunny and busy second floor of the education wing. The rooms has been dubbed the Faith Cafe and is very cool. Come take a peek.

We are going to use Echo the Story curriculum and introduce seasonal activities to learn about the rhythms of our Church life. We have yet to come up with our group name, stay tuned.

We have potential for 18 kids. Hopefully more. There is great joy and satisfaction in being with these kids who are developing their view points and the ability to express them. Yes, we learn more from them. Please support these kids and pray we can be for them a listening ear and caring adult for this faith journey.




CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 | 4 PM

PRE-CONCERT LECTURE AT 3 PM

CHRIST CHURCH CHORALE AND ORCHESTRA
BOY AND GIRL CHORISTERS



Celebrate the joy of the Christmas season in this festive afternoon of traditional favorites and choral masterpieces. This year's concert features selections from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, Handel's *Messiah*, and Britten's iconic *Ceremony of Carols*. The audience is invited to join in to sing some of our favorite Christmas carols and the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

TICKETS \$25



Soaring Sounds
IN A SACRED SPACE