

FALL 2021

The Disciple

News & Events at Christ Church Charlotte



Love God
Care for Each Other
Serve the World



HOPE

THE
POWER
OF

*Glory to God
whose power,
working in us,
can do infinitely
more than we can
ask or imagine:
Glory to him
from generation
to generation in
the Church, and
in Christ Jesus for
ever and ever.*

Amen.

– EPHESIANS 3:20, 21
(BCP, P. 102)

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Vestry

Hope for the Season Ahead

The Bible is full of stories that remind us of God's power to bring hope to the world.

From Noah to Moses to the miracles of Jesus' ministry, God promised hope and provided a way.

Today, we are a part of God's ongoing story of healing and transformation. Even as we experience grief and uncertainty, beautiful stories of hope are happening all around us. This fall, we are celebrating those stories.

In this issue of *The Disciple*, we share just a few of the countless ways our own parish has inspired us with hope. Our Faith Forum fall series will feature a diverse line-up of guests whose stories affirm the life-changing power of hope (see page 3).

Thank you for all the ways you share God's love in the world. We hope this season will strengthen you with hope for the journey ahead.



New This Season: Deep Dives

Introducing Deep Dives, a new Christ Church series centered around the practices of our faith. Each Deep Dive will invite you to discover new ideas, explore them in depth, and emerge with a greater understanding of yourself and your faith.

A Deep Dive into Spirituality:

Becoming Practically Divine with Becca Stevens

September 19 - October 30

Our first Deep Dive will be a six-session immersion into spirituality, led by our good friend, The Reverend Becca Stevens, a well-known author and founder of Thistle Farms. The series will kick off for group leaders on Sunday, September 19 with an introductory session hosted by Becca and The Reverend Chip Edens.

Participants (with a small group or individually) will tune in weekly, beginning September 22) for a webinar and discussion with Becca centered around her concept of being "practically divine." A guidebook to support the experience with scripture readings, journal prompts, and spiritual practices specific to each session will be provided.

If you would like to be a small group host, or if you have questions, contact Lindsay Masi at masiL@christchurchcharlotte.org. We can't wait to experience this Deep Dive with you!

Fall Faith Forum Series

Sundays at 10 am



September 26

Jim Hollis

Hope in Hard Times



October 17

Jimmy Greene

Looking Upward



November 7

Sharon Risher

Hope and Forgiveness



October 3

Michael Marsicano

Hope in Generosity



October 24

Kate Bowler

Everything Happens



November 14

Lisa Miller

Hope for an Inspired Life



October 10

Kathy Izard

Hope in Radical Uncertainty



October 31

Becca Stevens

Practically Divine



November 21

Barbara Brown Taylor

Hope Far From Home

Cultivating hope through spiritual formation during the pandemic

The continued enthusiasm for Bible studies and group workshops over the past 18 months has been remarkable as groups adapted to new technology to continue meeting.

- CCWBS (Christ Church Women's Bible Study) – Even though they could not gather in person, more than 65 women participated in both the fall (The Book of Ruth) and spring (Beloved Scripture and Prayers) sessions.
- Sacred Ground – Seven groups completed ten-week sessions between July 2020 and April 2021. Two more classes will begin in September 2021. (See details on page 4.)
- The Space Between Us – Three workshops were filled to capacity. More are scheduled for the fall. (Details on page 4.)
- Adult Confirmation – Ten adults participated in the Adult Confirmation process, which culminated in a Confirmation service on May 16, 2021.
- Women's Evening Bible Study (WEBS), consisting of 28 women, continued meetings via Zoom every other Monday evening throughout the year.
- Education for Ministry (EfM) continued to meet, with nine graduates receiving certificates on May 2, 2021.
- Men's Midweek Bible Study – This group, open to all men to join at any time, continued to meet via Zoom on Wednesday mornings.
- Reading Between the Lines – This group of adult men and women continued to study the Bible on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Finding Hope in the Space Between Us

The apostle Paul tells us in Hebrews 11:1 that hope is a necessary and essential part of our faith. We cannot have faith without hope. Hope is also a cornerstone of healthy relationships.

As people created in the image of God, we are not meant to do life alone. Instead, we are meant to do life together in community. As Brené Brown teaches, we are wired for connection, and we find that connection in relationship with those around us.

Most of us go into relationships with the hope they will be healthy and strong. The challenge is, relationships are complicated. They take intentionality and effort. Even, and probably especially, the ones we've been in the longest.

Good communication is the key to building healthy relationships. We know this and yet, many of us take for granted our ability to communicate well. We assume we are communicating well and are surprised when communication breaks down and we end up in conflict with someone.

The Space Between Us (TSBU) is a class designed to teach you how to communicate more effectively with those in your life. More than a typical communications class, this class is rooted in eight spiritual practices that invite us to see God in each other.

In relationships, the space between us is holy. It is the space where

God lives and the place where hope is found and nurtured. Hope allows us to imagine a way of connecting more deeply with those we love.

In this sacred and holy space, grace and kindness are prioritized, love is centered, and hope is renewed. Here, assumptions are unraveled as we begin to see each other in a new way and remember that we are each the image of God.

Join us for one of our upcoming classes and discover what's waiting for you to find in The Space Between Us. To learn more or register, visit www.christchurchcharlotte.org/tsbu.

"The Space Between Us Class is an opportunity to learn about your behavior tendencies and how this impacts your communication style. The class is intended to provide you with the communication tools you need to listen more deeply and feel more connected to the people in your life. We learn to deepen our connections through the practice of communication." – TSBU participant



Coming Together on Sacred Ground

Our Baptismal Covenant covers many important subjects, from what we believe to how we promise to live our lives. During the liturgy, the final question the celebrant asks the congregation is, "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?" Our response as faithful Christians is, "I will, with God's help." How fitting, as it seems that any amount of justice work can only truly be accomplished with God as our guide.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry refers to the Episcopal Church as the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement, through which we are moving toward becoming Beloved Community, where "all people may experience dignity and abundant life and see themselves and others as beloved children of God."

To get there, we must first acknowledge our past and the role of the Episcopal Church in unjust and racist acts in history. The Episcopal Church created Sacred Ground to help us uphold the final statement of our Baptismal Covenant and to begin this journey.

Sacred Ground is a ten-session course and includes conversations around assigned readings and videos



that cover topics including Indigenous history, the role of the Episcopal Church in antiracism work and white privilege, divisions in America, and much more. Each session is around 90 minutes long. It turns out that striving for justice and peace, and respecting the dignity of every human being requires us to come face-to-face with our past.

Sacred Ground meets participants where they are and allows for healing and critical thinking about what next steps they can take in their own journey.

Join us in becoming Beloved Community by taking a first step toward this important justice work. Registration is open for our fall Sacred Ground groups. To register or learn more, visit www.christchurchcharlotte.org/sacred-ground or contact Lindsay Masi at masiL@christchurchcharlotte.org.

Here is what some of our participants have said about their own experiences:

"Sacred Ground is a unique and safe space to learn how our history informs where we are today, gain new perspectives on the role of the church in creating a more just society, and explore our own personal/community experiences through the lens of race."

"This course will equip you for our multicultural world. I'm really glad I participated and I'm glad Christ Church had this."

Hope Tied with Ribbons

Though each flower arrangement is small, it provides beauty and kindness at a difficult moment.



At every burial in our Memorial Garden, Lulie Mallard or Betsy Johnston bring flowers, often in a jar, and always tied with ribbons. The posy hangs on a shepherd's crook at the site where beloved ashes are put into the ground. It is a quiet ministry they share.

The grieving families usually don't know Lulie or Betsy. Nor do the families ever see them. Lulie and Betsy show up well before the burial service to place the flowers.

Lulie started this ministry sixteen years ago when Eric Locher's mother, Joann Locher, died and was to be buried in the Memorial Garden. Lulie and Eric became friends serving on the Building, Grounds and Memorials Committee together. Lulie wanted to do something special for Eric. She brought the little jar of flowers, and has been doing it ever since. "It makes me feel good to help when folks are giving somebody up to the ground." Lulie also oversees the maintenance of the Garden and can be seen frequently in her sunhat and garden gloves pruning with clippers or putting plants in the pots around the Christ Church grounds and the Memorial Garden.

Betsy says bringing flowers to burials has been the most rewarding ministry she has had at Christ Church. "I feel connected to every person buried there," Betsy said. "My mother and father are there, and I will be there one day. It is an ongoing heritage of love and a feeling of fellowship. I can't imagine a burial with just a hole." She calls the ministry "the magic of love and faith through flowers."

For nearly forty years, the Memorial Garden has been the final resting place for many parishioners and their family members. In 1981, parishioner and Vestry member Carroll Tomlinson suggested the Vestry consider building a columbarium for cremations. In 1983, the Vestry decided to create a garden where ashes would be buried instead of a columbarium. The result was our Memorial Garden, a place of the living and the dead, a place where small posies soften hard occasions. Carroll, who was diagnosed with cancer in 1984, was buried in the Garden in 1985 at age 59.





Hope Abounds

"Vocation is the place where our deep gladness meets the world's deep need." – Frederick Buechner

We find our calling at the intersection of what we need most to do and what the world most needs to have done. One of the really wonderful aspects of working in outreach and mission is seeing the good that comes out of helping meet the needs of this world and in developing deeper relationships with a wide variety of people in many different places.

Out of that sharing of our talents and resources, we not only bring joy and hope to others, we also receive and learn from them and find ourselves filled with joy and hope as well. It is a mutual up-building.

Watch for the Hope Stories video series, which will feature some of the amazing work of Christ Church partners and volunteers.

What will they inspire in you?



Moveable Volunteer Possibilities

It's hard, sometimes, to volunteer as an individual or a family when there are a lot of unknowns – we don't know much about the site, what's expected of us, or who else

might be there. That's why we created Moveable Volunteer Possibilities (MVPs) – opportunities for individuals, friends, or small groups from Christ Church to volunteer together at some of our community partners or other area agencies.

So far, we've hosted four MVPs:

- Provided hospitality at a Novant vaccination site
- Packed boxes of food for home delivery at Loaves & Fishes warehouse
- Helped Charlotte Bilingual Preschool prepare for the new school year by moving furniture and school materials
- Gleaned tomatoes from a farm in Concord to help with food insecurity in Kannapolis.

Each time we got to know one another a little better as we shared a deeper experience of our partners' missions. Visit www.christchurchcharlotte.org/outreach to see photos from these experiences.

We hope you will consider volunteering with us this fall. Upcoming opportunities include:

- September - Help prepare and serve a community meals at Galilee Ministries
- October - Hike a greenway and clean up a stream with Catawba Riverkeepers
- November - Assemble furniture and sort donations at Crisis Assistance Ministry
- December - Volunteer with Leah's Hopes and Dreams street ministry, including a sock, underwear, hat, scarf, and glove drive (knitters and crocheters welcome!).

Details will be listed at www.christchurchcharlotte.org/act.

Rama Road Girl Scouts Need Caring, Energetic Adults

Want to help girls build up courage, confidence, and character so they can make the world a better place? Starting September 20, we need volunteers to work with 4th and 5th grade girls at Rama Elementary School on the first and third Mondays, 2:30 - 4:30 pm. Contact Julie Stedman at julescs@aol.com for more information.

Exciting New Partnership

For the past three years, The Academy of Goal Achievers (TAOGA) and the Christ Church Youth Council have participated jointly in *The Space Between Us* sessions, led by Alice deVries and Courtne McIntosh. These have been extremely meaningful to the youth from both groups and this year, through the generosity of the Christ Church Foundation, we have entered into an official community partnership.

The Academy of Goal Achievers is a resource for parents, students, school administrators, and the community, centered around Youth Leadership Mentoring Groups. They work to prepare young adults and parents for post-secondary education and careers. Our partnership with TAOGA will provide Christ Church members opportunities to serve as mentors and career coaches. We look forward to working closely with this special organization.

Thanks a TON!

To be more precise, thanks a ton and a quarter! One of our community partners, Loaves & Fishes, is a food pantry that provides groceries to our neighbors in need. In 2020, they provided groceries to over 120,200 people, compared with 80,232 in 2019 – an increase of 50 percent! During the pandemic, many of the food drives held by local churches and other organizations did not take place. Those two factors have created a significant deficit in food supplies.

In June, Christ Church volunteers packed boxes for home delivery to people who are homebound. We held a "Monday Madness" one-day food drive that challenged Christ Church parishioners to drop off as much food as they could in one day. The response: 2,572 pounds of canned fruits, veggies and meats, pasta and rice, cereals, and so much more!

Two days later, volunteers from Christ Church picked 2,200 pounds of tomatoes to share with neighbors in Kannapolis (see photos, page 6).

Thank you to all who contributed, gleaned, received, organized, and transported so much food for being a source of hope for our hungry neighbors.



CHRIST CHURCH VESTRY ELECTION

At our annual parish meeting on December 5, the people of Christ Church will elect five persons to serve on the Vestry for a three-year term. Those elected will fill the positions currently held by Doug Ey, Susan Hamilton, Julie Marr, Randall Mountcastle, and Betsy Zarzour. The new Vestry members will serve with the following members beginning in 2022: Louise Bonner, Laura Copps, Cindy Costa, Jane Coulter, Fletcher Gregory, Alison Gugenheim, Bill Lorenz, Geoff Peters, Ken Thompson and Chris Ullrich. Service on the Vestry is an important ministry in our parish. The Vestry is responsible for the executive and organizational affairs of Christ Church and provides lay leadership in the spiritual life of our parish.

The Election Process

The Rector and the Senior Warden, in consultation with the Vestry, have appointed a nominating committee to ensure that an adequate number of qualified nominees for vacancies on the Vestry are presented to the congregation at the annual meeting. The members of the nominating committee are: Jane Showalter (Chair), Amelia Abbott, Laura Copps, Jane Coulter, Randall Mountcastle, Ken Thompson, and Doug Ey, Senior Warden (ex-officio). At least four weeks before the annual meeting, the nominating committee will deliver to the Rector the names of its nominees. Additional nominations for the Vestry may be made in writing, with the consent of the nominee, and delivered to the Rector no later than twelve days before the annual meeting, at which time the nominations will be deemed closed. Information about the nominees will be published prior to the annual meeting. Last year, the annual meeting was not held due to COVID restrictions. We hope and expect to return to this

important tradition on December 5. In the unexpected event the meeting is again cancelled, the By-Laws provide for the same nominating process, and election by the incumbent Vestry members.

Who Can Serve

The nominating committee is charged with developing a diverse slate that will assure our Vestry continues to have the skills it needs to lead our parish. Those skills include an understanding of the various needs of our parishioners and our community, and of the governance and traditions of the Episcopal Church, as well as experience in board service, financial management, and personnel management. All nominees must be confirmed Episcopalians and communicants in good standing. Under Diocesan Canons and our Bylaws, “good standing” means that for the past year the nominee “has been faithful in corporate worship (unless for good cause prevented) and has been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.” Nominees must not have served on the Vestry during the preceding two years. In addition, it is customary for the committee to include on its slate at least two parishioners who have not previously served a full term on the Vestry.

How You Can Help

The nominating committee welcomes your assistance in identifying qualified potential candidates for the Vestry. Please send your suggestions no later than October 15 to Nominating Committee Chair Jane Showalter at janevshow@gmail.com or 704-904-5138. The nominating committee will consider all suggestions.



Preparing *Children* for a *Hope-Filled* Future

Christ Church Preschool and Kindergarten (CCK) is one of the largest missions of Christ Church, serving 230 students and employing over 40 staff members. In the midst of this global pandemic when children craved social interaction outside of their homes more than ever, CCK brought hope to many families with a successful 2020 – 2021 school year. With reduced class sizes and proper precautions in place, CCK was one of the only schools in our area to offer a half-day preschool program to all age groups (Toddlers – Kindergarten).

Through a challenging year, the CCK staff did what they do best: love children, teach them to love one another, and help them to learn and grow in a Christian environment full of love, laughter, and a lot of fun!

We turned music class into movement class and created spaces for classes to spread out to enjoy science, Christian education, and story time. The laughter and conversation heard through the hallways of CCK provided HOPE that children could continue to learn and grow despite the limitations of this global pandemic.

CCK families also helped provide hope for others when so many needed support in our community. Our Threes classes collected canned goods to support Loaves & Fishes as part of their Thanksgiving unit in November. Twos collected pet supplies for a local animal shelter in February, as part of their study about pets and how to care for them. A drive-thru food drive in December provided two carloads of canned goods for local food banks.

In the spring, CCK families donated almost 12,500 diapers for organizations serving the youngest and oldest in our community. Classes also participated in writing cards and letters to residents at Southminster to brighten their day.

The end of the school year brought great hope for CCK families as we celebrated our oldest students with in-person Fours Moving Up and Kindergarten Graduation ceremonies.

With the wonderful support of the greater Christ Church community, especially the Church staff and Vestry, the CCK Administrative Team and Board have worked this summer to plan and prepare for 2020 – 2021, with great hope for another successful year of cultivating our children's unique gifts and talents and inspiring them to lifelong learning, serving others, and loving God.





Singing in the Choir: Volunteers Welcome

Unable to sing in worship for more than a year, choir members are finding themselves revived by Thursday rehearsals and Sunday worship. While there was singing during the pandemic with our virtual choir recordings, it was a very safe but unsatisfactory way to make music.

Choir is about being part of something that is bigger than yourself. It is a community where everyone gives their individual best for the good of the whole. Alice Parker, a well-known musicologist has said, "Singing is the most human, most companionable of the arts. It joins us together in the whole realm of sound ... and far transcends what any one of us could do alone. It is a paradigm of union with the creator."

Of course, singing in the Christ Church Choir requires some skills. During the pandemic those included being a tech wizard, managing large-format files, recording at the highest sound quality, and videoing yourself in the center of your screen with no shadows or unusual things in the background. Now that we can make music together in person, we only need worry about reading music and using our voices. It sounds much simpler, right?

The Christ Church Choir is composed of professional singers and volunteer singers. One group supports the other.

Section leaders provide the backbone of the group. They are experienced vocalists and good music readers who less experienced readers can follow. They are here every Sunday so that volunteers can take breaks when busy. Volunteers provide the spirit of the parish and the heart of the choir community. They, too, offer musical leadership through their knowledge of and passion for the liturgy, hymns, and anthems of the Episcopal tradition.

We need more volunteers. Joining the choir requires a simple conversation with Ben Outen, along with choral experience, music-reading ability, a joy for singing, and time on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings.

Singing, like other activities, requires conditioning. If you don't think you are singing your best now, know that weekly singing in a choir is the best way to regain vocal range, flexibility, and coordination. And best of all, rhythmic breathing, breath control, and being a part of a group focused on a lively purpose contributes to your overall wellbeing. The ability to do something for others (like leading worship) has an intrinsic value that is incalculable.

If you are interested in joining the Christ Church Choir, call Ben Outen at 704-714-6942 to schedule a conversation.

Christ Church Choir Academy

Music Club (Pre-K & K)
Wednesdays, 5 - 5:30 pm

St. Nicholas Choir (Grades 1 - 8)
Wednesdays, 5 - 6:30 pm

After a year and a half of Zoom choir rehearsals, our children's choirs are regathering in person (masked and distanced) this fall!

The newly renamed Choir Academy consists of two singing ensembles: Music Club (PreK and K) and the St. Nicholas Choir (Grades 1 – 8). Through a structured, fun curriculum based on the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) training program, choristers will develop their vocal skills, learn music theory, and build a lifelong knowledge of the hymns, songs, and choral music of our faith.

In addition, Choir Academy offers opportunity for personal development. Joining the Choir Academy gives children an opportunity to find and share their voice, build lasting friendships, develop life skills, and serve others through song as a team.

For more information, contact Olivia Beaver at beavero@christchurchcharlotte.org. To register, visit www.christchurchcharlotte.org/music-signup.

Our Rama friends will also participate in Choir Academy, with your help.

We are delighted to welcome selected students from Rama Road Elementary School into the Choir Academy as well. We are providing after-school transportation on Wednesdays from Rama Road Elementary to Christ Church, where students will participate in fun and educational activities leading up to the 5 pm St. Nicholas rehearsal.

We are in great need of volunteers for this new program. Specifically we are looking for volunteers willing to drive the Church bus (no special license needed), serve as bus chaperones, and/or guide the students in after-school activities planned by our music staff. If you are interested in learning more about these volunteer opportunities, please contact Jerrick Cavagnaro at cavagnaroj@christchurchcharlotte.org.

An Invitation from Charles Milling

Dear New Christ Church Family,

Julie, Ellis, and I are thrilled to be in your community! And, I am personally fired up to be serving God here alongside this outstanding staff. Wow! What an incredible group of individuals.



If you are wondering what the Contemporary Music Ministry will look and sound like, or how your favorite services or songs will change, I want you to know that I am here to listen and absorb right now. So, please don't hesitate to reach out. Over the next month, and especially over the next year, the staff and I will be dreaming about long-range ideas, all while keeping pace with the treasures that were here before I arrived. I

am excited to get busy! Things will evolve slowly and organically as the Holy Spirit moves the needle. Please introduce yourself to me when you are here and relay your joys of the past and hopes for the future.

I've always gently wondered where people like Robert Plant, Sting, Branford Marsalis, James Taylor, Bono, Steve Winwood, the Boss, or Bruce Hornsby go to church on Sundays when they are not on tour. And, better yet, where do their killer bandmates attend? Do those cats occasionally play in the contemporary band at their church? This is when I catch myself and remember that some of the greatest musicians I have ever known are not playing for a living. They are doing something else entirely, but they still have "it." And, some among those ranks are living right here in Charlotte, North Carolina – some who may even attend Christ Church. See where I'm going with this? Well, if that's you, or if you know of someone who needs a gentle nudge, let's please share a coffee soon. A Contemporary Music Ministry requires a vast, rotating network of skilled musicians. I am completely new to Charlotte – I know exactly two who are not already playing on Sunday mornings. So, please chime in and help me find my music family here!

Thank you for your time in reading this message and please come say hello when you get the chance!

Charles Milling
Director of Contemporary and Family Worship

*O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.*

– PSALM 98: 1

HOPE

THE GIFT OF

A Stewardship Message From the Vestry

Annual pledges funded more than 97% of the \$5.45 million Christ Church 2021 operating budget. Annual giving by nearly 1100 households, combined with gifts of time and talent, are the means by which Christ Church fulfills its aspiration to provide a spiritual home where we all can love God, care for each other, and serve the world. Accordingly, each year we ask parishioners to pause and prayerfully consider making a pledge to support the mission and ministries of Christ Church.

Preaching, teaching, service, and congregational care at Christ Church this fall will focus on the power of hope, and as such, the 2022 Annual Stewardship Campaign theme is “The Gift of Hope.” Though uncertainty remains in light of the unprecedented challenges presented by the pandemic, your Vestry and clergy are filled with hope that the parish will continue to respond generously to the limitless gift of God’s grace.

In late September, you will receive materials about The Gift of Hope campaign.

October 3 is “Gift of Hope” Sunday. We invite you to join fellow parishioners in presenting a pledge for 2022 at any of our worship services that day. If you are unable to attend worship in person on October 3, you may mail a pledge to the Church office any time, or make a pledge online at www.christchurchcharlotte.org/pledge or via Text2Pledge by texting your full name and pledge amount to 980-221-4035.

Every pledge – large or small – is a tangible expression of faith and hope, and an acknowledgement that all we have is a gift from God. Thank you in advance for prayerful consideration of your pledge for 2022.

The Christ Church Vestry

Summer Comes to a Close

Sunday, August 22 was a great day, with a big turnout for Discovery Worship and our last Summer Sunday Picnic of the season. We blessed backpacks for the school year ahead and enjoyed food trucks, frozen treats, and fun with friends.



Feeding *our* Bodies and Souls

What does a food service ministry do when Wednesday night dinners, Sunday brunches, and other gatherings around the table can't happen?

Chef Mary Linz made proverbial lemonade by starting our Food To Go ministry, providing a variety of delicious and healthy meals each week for Christ Church families and others to order ahead and pick up curbside.

It was a wonderful gift of convenience to those weary of cooking every meal at home or missing Mary's famous chicken salad, but it turned into an even greater gift for some.

Maggie Miller is a loyal patron. She not only bought food for her own household, she also took food to her daughter-in-law and three grandchildren, as they all grieved the loss of Maggie's beloved son.

While combatting breast cancer, Audra Tyree wrote Mary a sweet card, jokingly saying, "My husband would have wasted away while I was in treatment" if it weren't for Food to Go. "You and all that wonderful food were such a blessing to my entire family! My gratitude remains immeasurable!"

Says Mary and her daughter, Andrea Wimberley, who works alongside her in the kitchen, "We are grateful for the opportunity to provide meals for our Christ Church families. It is truly our pleasure."



Food to Go is Coming Back!

Beginning Wednesday, September 15

Chef Mary will be offering a new kid-friendly Food to Go menu. Delicious, easy meals for you, and a wonderful way to support our important food service ministry.

Menus will be posted weekly at www.christchurchcharlotte.org/kitchen. Place your order by Monday at 4 pm and pick up on Wednesdays any time between 3 and 7 pm.



Hope *Finds a Way*

An Outside-the-Box VBS

This summer, the Children's Ministry team knew how important it was to gather children together in person for Vacation Bible School (VBS), and this meant thinking outside the box. Our team, with the help of VBS Chair, Jannell Dunaway, thoughtfully created a plan that allowed children and adults to love God, care for each other, and serve our community, while safely being together on the grounds of Christ Church.

Vacation Bible School happened in the form of a weekend focused on Bible stories about God's beautiful creation, building our lives on a firm foundation, and loving one another as the Greatest Commandment calls us to do. We sang, danced, learned, played, and prayed together all weekend and were reminded how important it is to be connected to one another, even while masked!

Children were encouraged to bring book donations for the Habitat Restore; we collectively donated over 200 books to the "Books Build Houses, Too" drive. Our weekend concluded with a special VBS Discovery Worship service, a family service project of creating wreaths to adorn future Habitat homes, and writing letters of encouragement to Habitat families who had paid off their mortgage. We even were able to enjoy a meal together outdoors to wrap up our weekend. Our VBS weekend was full of hope!



Children's Fall Programming: Sunday School and 4th/5th Grade Navigators

We are so excited to offer children's Sunday School in person this year! With the help of parent volunteers, Sunday School leaders, medical professionals, and teachers, we established a Sunday School Committee that provided vital insight and direction for our team in planning children's Sunday School this fall.

Beginning Sunday, September 19, children's Sunday School will be offered utilizing as many outdoor spaces as possible. Each group – three-year-olds through fifth grade – will have a designated outdoor area for their class to gather on Sunday mornings at 10 am. Our primary goal is safety for our children and the wonderful leaders who are helping to cultivate our children's faith.

Our Navigators (4th/5th graders) will meet at 4pm on the third Sundays each month beginning Sunday, September 19. Our year together will begin with an introduction to Navigators, fellowship time, followed by worship at 5 pm. This group is designed specifically for fourth and fifth graders to navigate their faith together; we look forward to sharing the journey with these children. For details and the most up-to-date information, visit www.christchurchcharlotte.org/navigators.

Important Dates for Youth (Grades 6 – 12) and Their Families

Wednesday, September 15

- All Youth Kick-Off at 6:30 pm in the Church Circle - Food, fellowship, and fun to kick off the program year.

Sunday, September 19

- Donuts and Devotions at 10 am on the Blue Room Porch - Weekly Bible study and donuts begins.
- Tenth Grade Pilgrimage Interest Meeting at 10 am - Parents and their tenth grade students are invited to an informational meeting for the June 2022 Youth Pilgrimage.
- Sunday Night Live at 6 - 7:30 pm - Weekly gatherings for dinner, fellowship, and discussion begin.

Thursday, September 20

- Youth Council Application Deadline - Youth Council is a great leadership opportunity for high school students, serving the Church community in a variety of ways while deepening relationships with God and each other. All high school students are invited to apply. Download the application form at www.christchurchcharlotte.org/highschool.

Working with Our Youth Brings Hope

Hope comes from different places and in different ways. One beautiful way we have heard about parishioners finding hope is through volunteering with our youth programs.

Read how long-time volunteer Bird Anderson finds hope through his amazing ministry:

"I like the term 'yutes,' like Joe Pesci's character in My Cousin Vinny used to say. The yutes I have worked with over the last 20 years in the Christ Church Sunday School and yute programs give me great hope - hope for now and the future. I teach high school and middle school Sunday school, do yute pilgrimages, host cookouts, do chili cook-offs, etc. because I am selfish. I am not giving. I am taking – taking the energy and mostly positive mojo that these kids vibe; taking it and using that spirit with a smile. The hope they give me? It's from their smiles. It is from their perspectives. It is from their inquiry, innocence, experiences, mistakes, successes, wins, losses, discernment, questions, cries, laughter, and discoveries about life and faith. It is from their love. If the sample I see of yutes is in any way representative of the larger world, our future is in good hands."

Youth Council member Lena Bird offered this story of hope:

"Last spring, the Youth Council and I helped Soles for Kids with their annual shoe drive, which has collected over 700 pairs of new and lightly used shoes and almost 400 pairs of new socks for homeless children in the Greater Charlotte Area, and they're still going!

With Christ Church as a donation location, I saw what a community can do when it comes together, and was thrilled by the support I got from our Church. In only a week, we collected multiple bins full of shoes and socks, and this gave me hope for what people can accomplish when we work as a team. We have the power to better our society when we all work collaboratively to make positive change happen. I saw that in this shoe drive...."

We are so grateful for our youth and their leaders who love God, care for each other, and serve the world every day in so many ways. Their energy and commitment give us hope.

"A community that collaborates and supports one another is a community that has hope and can ultimately take this hope and turn it into reality, accomplishing anything they set their minds to."

— LENA BIRD

Grateful at GoodNews

We are grateful to all of our loyal customers who have supported GoodNews and our mission during the last year and a half.

We were thrilled to be able to return to the Atlanta market after 18 months, and we are excited to offer new merchandise, arriving daily.

Come back and shop to support our mission of funding projects and organizations for women and children.



You Belong

Looking for new ways to connect?
Watch for this booklet, coming to
your mailbox soon!

SAVE THE DATE

TRUNK
or
TReAT

October 25 at 5:30 pm

Details coming soon!

Help us reach more people!

Follow Christ Church on Social Media

Like and share our posts on Facebook:



Christ Church Charlotte

Follow us on Instagram:



@ChristChurchCLT

Weekly Calendar*

Fall Schedule begins Sept 19

* All events are subject to change based on evolving Covid safety protocols.

SUNDAYS

8:45 am	Contemporary Eucharist in All Saints' Hall
8:45 am	Holy Eucharist in the Nave
10 am	Faith Forum and Sunday School
11:15 am	Holy Eucharist in the Nave
11:15 am	Discovery Eucharist in All Saints' Hall
5 pm	Holy Eucharist in the Nave
6 - 7:30 pm	Sunday Night Live (Youth)

MONDAYS

9 - 9:30 am	Mindful Mondays
9:30 - 10:30 am	Reading Between the Lines Bible Study
11 am - 12 noon	Building up the Body of Christ Bible Study (Starts Sept 13)
5:30 - 6:30 pm	Faith and Wellness Small Groups (Sept 13 – Oct 18)
6:30 - 7:30 pm	A Place at the Table: Indigenous Peoples (Oct 11)
6:30 - 8 pm	Middle School EYC (Episcopal Youth Community)
7 - 8 pm	High School Life Group
7:30 - 8:30 pm	Spiritual Encouragement & Exploration (Second Mondays; begins Sept 14)

TUESDAYS

8:45 - 9:45 am	Exploring Spiritual Practices Small Groups (Sept 7 – 28)
12 - 1 pm	Tuesdays With Outreach (Third Tuesdays, September – November)
4 - 5 pm	The Universal Christ Book Study (Oct 5 – Nov 2)
5:30 - 6:30 pm	Exploring Spiritual Practices Small Groups (Oct 5 – 26)
7 - 8:15 pm	Living with Grief and Hope (Oct 5 – 26)

WEDNESDAYS

10 - 11 am	Sages Coffee and Conversation (Third Wednesdays; begins Sept 15)
11 - 11:45 am	Midweek Mindfulness
12 noon	Holy Eucharist and Prayers for Healing
1 - 2:15 pm	Living with Grief and Hope (Oct 6 – 27)
5 - 6:30 pm	Christ Church Choir Academy (see details on page 11)
6:30 - 8 pm	Sacred Ground (see details on page 4)

THURSDAYS

7 am	Holy Eucharist in the Chapel (begins September 16)
10 - 11 am	Faith and Wellness Small Groups (Sept 9 – Oct 14)
11:30 am - 1 pm	Sacred Ground

View the entire Church calendar and details about how to participate at www.christchurchcharlotte.org/calendar/all-events.



In the Parish

New Members

Laura Barnard
Mary Lauren Bishop
Diane Carter
Margo and Adam Cash
Hollie and William Collins-Dean and Family
Keedick Coulter and Sam Felix and Family
Bruce Crumbliss
Kalli Ey
Alex Gajewski and Mariah Loop
Rebecca and Tyler Griffith
Heidi and Mike Hosmer and Family
Logan Howie
Courtney and Kyle Johnson
Ralph Kinsey
Anne Randall and Chris Klein
Amy and Chris Klett and Family
Liza and Ryan McNair
Alyson Kuroski-Mazzei and Family
Liz McFadden
Tammy Melton
Amanda and Jack Muren
Lauren and Nick Parks
Wayne Petrea
Ute and Ed Tucker
Claudia and William Pitt
Blair and Luke Scheuer and Family
Tillie and Mark Skoggard
Susan and Keith Sullivan
Austin and Patrick Szyperski
Suzanne and Chandler Turner

Births

John Traxler Ewing, son of Mary Brook and T.C. Ewing
Bennett Evelyn Smart, granddaughter of Mary Davis and Skip Smart
William Martin Bonner, son of Martha and Stuart Bonner
Charles Wood Meginnis, grandson of Tricia and Donny Harrison
Courtland Baker Jones, grandson of Suzanne and Louis Bledsoe
Jane Elizabeth Truesdale, daughter of Laura and David Truesdale

Alexandra Beatrice King, daughter of Jenna and Ken King
John Springs Petrone, son of Baxter and John Petrone
Louis James Leak, grandson of Donna and John (Buzzy) Leak
Olivia Lark Enright, daughter of Lark and Ryan Enright
Lila Rose Duvall, granddaughter of Jane and Howard Duvall
Seth Thomas Knight, son of Catharine and Seth Knight
Alice Farrior Merritt, great-granddaughter of Barbara Plumlee
Bailey Wilkinson Patrick III, son of Joan and Bailey Patrick
Dylan Patrick Murphy, son of Christie and Conor Murphy
Avery Loraine McNair, daughter of Liza and Ryan McNair
Frances Patterson Swift, daughter of Bethany and Carl Swift
William Brindley Gwin, son of Emma and Connor Gwin
Jack Edward Leonard, son of Abby and Dan Leonard
Elizabeth Anne Elsasser, granddaughter of Katie and Dave Elsasser
Howard Hamer Driscoll, grandson of Margaret and Ward Williams
Holden Walter Kerr, grandson of Mary Ann and Verdery Kerr
Clara Avery Burchette, daughter of Katie and Carl Burchette
Sophia Rose Johnson, daughter of Courtney and Kyle Johnson
Mary Reid Palmer, granddaughter of Henrietta Palmer
Mary Carleton Carter, daughter of Lauren and George Carter
Emma Wallace Bates, daughter of Mary and Brent Bates
Anne Miller Daughtrey, daughter of Annie and Will Daughtrey
Murphy Bea Ferguson, daughter of Claire and Russ Ferguson
Robert Briggs Boyd, son of Stuart and Bryan Boyd
Emma Alden Budinsky, granddaughter of Stuart and Tom Milton and great-granddaughter of Diana and Nick White

George Montgomery Adams, son of Brooke and Frank Adams
Claudia Smith Bray, daughter of Izabella and Richard Bray
Lindsay Coalter Anderson, daughter of Laura and Mitchell Anderson
Clara Alling Doerre, daughter of Carr and Matt Doerre
Parish Stephens Austin, daughter of Caroline and Chase Austin
John Laurens Threlkeld, son of Laurens and Michael Threlkeld
Thomas Rajan Merchant, son of Leigh Ann and Rajan Merchant
Luke Xavier Philpott, grandson of Marion Philpott Carson
Betsy Salisbury Weadon, daughter of Nancy and Benjamin Weadon
Harrison Luke Allen, son of Chris and David Allen

Baptisms

Oakley Hines Baker, daughter of Elizabeth and Michael Baker
William Miller Blough, son of Lucy and Logan Blough
Emma Starke Currin, daughter of Nancy and John Currin
Charles Guyton Fraser, son of Alex and Elliott Fraser
Sarah Wangu Harding, daughter of Irene Harding
Grace Middleton Hill, daughter of Elizabeth and Zach Hill
Elizabeth Ryan Horne, daughter of Meggie and Paul Horne
Eleanor Elizabeth Jacobs, daughter of Ashley and Robert Jacobs
James Haywood Plyler III, son of Gatesy and James Plyler
Winifred Jane Tomsic, daughter of Patee and Matt Tomsic
Mae Jennings Williams, daughter of Lindsey and Ted Williams
John Ward Brady, son of Leah and David Brady
Alexander Knox Butler, Jr, son of Lucy and Alex Butler
Virginia Grace Goodwin, daughter of Tracy and Andrew Goodwin

By God's great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- 1 PETER 1:3

Oliver James Mazhari, son of Brooke and Michael Mazhari
Jane Abigail Nester, daughter of Susan and Jarrett Nester
John Matthew Nester, son of Susan and Jarrett Nester
Ellen Coker Ozburn, daughter of Hannah and Marc Ozburn
Alice Elizabeth Rome, daughter of Marika and Hunter Rome
Helen Scott Szyperski, daughter of Austin and Patrick Szyperski
Henry Thomas Deason, son of Sarah and Charlie Deason
Georgina Elizabeth Diminich, daughter of Kate Austin and Fabio Diminich
Elizabeth Mary Genevieve Jordan, daughter of Mary and Jim Jordan
Dylan Patrick Murphy, son of Christie and Conor Murphy
Jack Douglas Murphy, son of Christie and Conor Murphy
Lydia Jane Rhyne, daughter of Bethany and David Rhyne
Delphine Davis Smart, daughter of Alicia and Louis Smart
Anne Hollowell Viccellio, daughter of Laura and John Viccellio
Weber Bates Adair, son of Emily and Bates Adair
Grace Luke Gates, daughter of Lindsay and Scott Gates
Frances Wells Howard, daughter of Darcie and Ross Howard
Olivia Stratton Hufham, daughter of Anette and Baxter Hufham
Conrad Hull Keesee, son of Emily and Jordan Keesee
Katherine Tobias Ninemire, daughter of Annie and Wade Ninemire
Walter Wrinza Pitt III, son of Claudia and William Pitt
Margaret Llewellyn Warren, daughter of Falconer and Scott Warren
Clara Avery Burchette, daughter of Katie and Carl Burchette
John Traxler Ewing, son of Mary Brook and T.C. Ewing
Emma Lucille Groner, daughter of Christine and TJ Groner

Camilla Lucille Hull, daughter of Coley and Teddy Hull
Ford Trowbridge McKim, son of Caroline and Stephen McKim
Emma Ann Parks, daughter of Lauren and Nick Parks
Bailey Wilkinson Patrick III, son of Joan and Bailey Patrick
John Bealer Tcherkezian, son of Meghan and Mark Tcherkezian

Marriages

Ann Louise Seaton and Conor Ross Keeley
Mary Elizabeth Hair and John Adair McGinnis
Elizabeth Lauren Mealy and Braeden Charles Burgin
Ashley Anne Borys and Thompson Alexander Westerberg
Leigh Rogers Kandzari and Philip Gendron Porcher
Elizabeth Weil Wooten and Christopher William DeFago
Sarah Garvey Seaton and Daniel Saunders Ponce
Elizabeth Gibbs Sasser and Taylor Michael Cullen

Deaths

Thomas (Tommie) Houston Wilmoth, mother of Deborah Motto
RoseAnn Mayo Lee
Daniel Ernest Gooding
Philip Conrad Hammond, Jr
J. Wesley Gray, Jr, father of Joyce Cmiel
Florence Bartleson Smart, mother of Skip Smart
Henry Jefferson Stuckey III
Kaye Greene
Divver Barkley Hendrix
Bill Meredith, nephew of Donnie Harrison
Michael Pennycooke, father of Makeda Pennycooke
Irene Imbrogno, mother of Ed Imbrogno
William Horne, brother of Gordon Horne
Monte Paul Montgomery, father of Tom Montgomery

Donald Lee McCollum, father of Daryl McCollum
Robert Matthews Hopkins
Walter A. Reynolds, father of Lynn Weller
Melanie Buchanan Mohan, sister of Carol Morano
R.T. (Sandy) Evans, brother-in-law of Susan Durham
Everett C. Weeks, brother-in-law of Karen Oldham
John (Jack) M. Smith
Claude Armstrong Plumlee, Jr
Thomas Walter Glenn III
Jack Doyle Hain, father of Travis Hain
John Victor, brother of Jane Showalter
Arvil Ray Callis, father of Jennifer Hamm
Martha Ann Shearouse, sister of Judy Dasher
Hubert (Reuben) Stratton Hufham, Jr.
Beverly Cavender Mason, mother of Cathy Lowe
Robert Edward Kirk, father of Laura Copps
Martin John Kreshon, father of John Kreshon
Lillie Swaffield Cowan
Susan Singiser White
Pinkney Beryl Young III, father of Clay Young
Andrew Jackson Stiles III, father of Ned Stiles
Kathryn Elizabeth Benton Wyatt, mother of Landon Wyatt
Joseph Robert Motto
Lulie Barteo Hodges, mother of Lulie Mallard
Armistead Wellford, father of Dorothy Connor
Frances Marks Arnold Parker, mother of Marks Arnold
Linda Anne Harvey, sister of Faye White
Anthony Croker Poole, father of Rupert Croker Poole
Nancy Elizabeth Harris Hemmig
John Anderson Norman, father of John Norman
William Stark Grenier, son of Nicole and John Grenier
James Thompson Bladon
James Garland Case, father of Joshua Case

Christ Church members are listed by name only. Non-members are listed with their connection to a Christ Church member.

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Phone: 704-333-0378

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**Following the 10 am
Worship Services**

**Bring a blanket for a picnic
and activities on the lawn**

TRACKLESS TRAIN
GAMES · DUNKING BOOTH
THE TRAILBLAZERS BLUEGRASS BAND
CHEF MARY'S FRIED CHICKEN & FIXIN'S

**We will continue to monitor
Covid positivity rates and adjust
accordingly; check back for
updates. In case of rain,
event will be cancelled.**

September 12

FALL
PARISH
DAY

