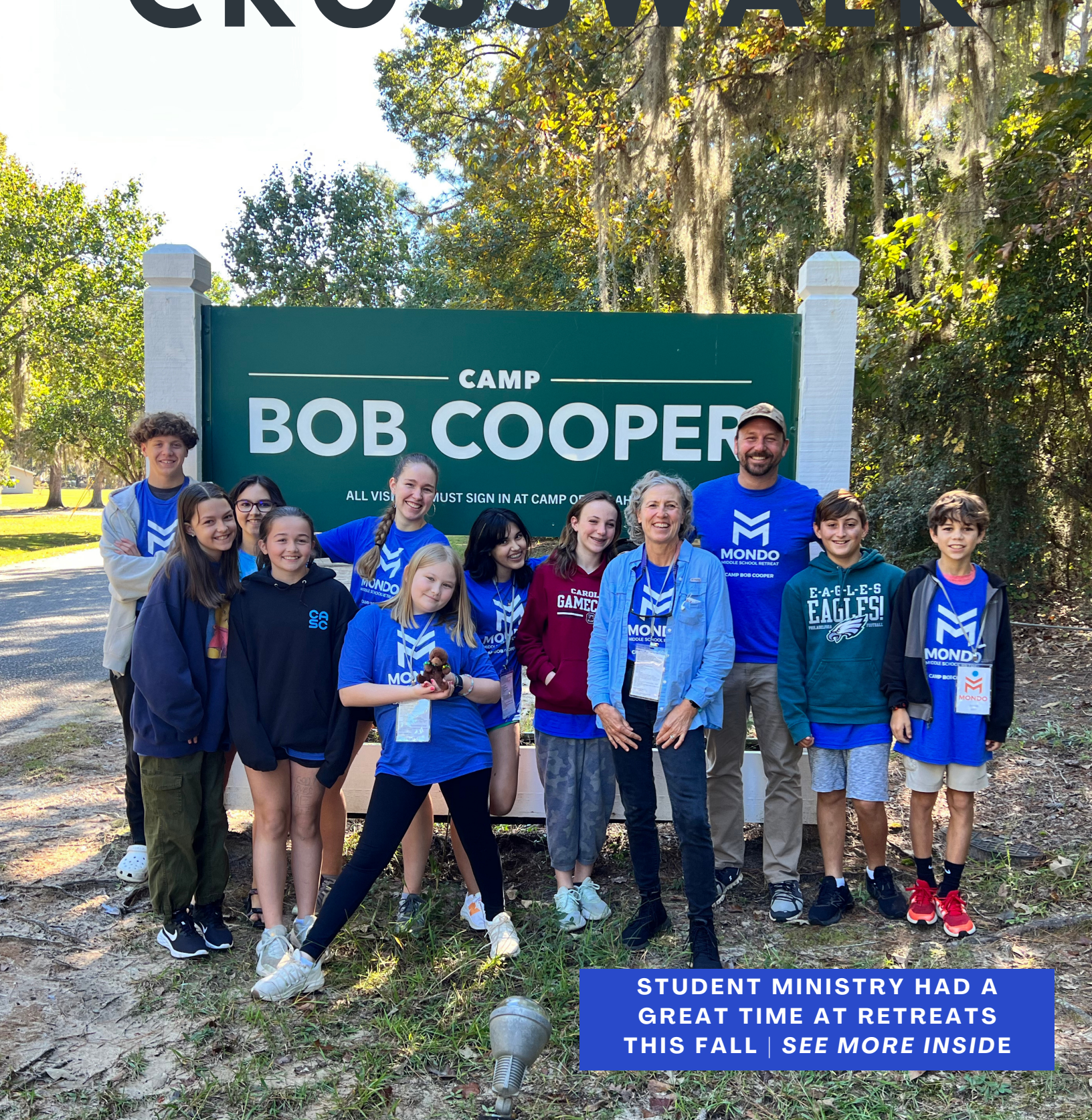


THE MAGAZINE OF CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN

CROSSWALK



STUDENT MINISTRY HAD A GREAT TIME AT RETREATS THIS FALL | SEE MORE INSIDE

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

Dear Parish Family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Advent (Lat. *Adventus*, 'coming,' i.e. of Christ). That's how the Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church's Advent entry starts.

Coming. Something is coming. Rather, Someone is coming. Our Parish Vision Statement asserts that our congregation's life is to reflect four Gospel commands, the fourth of which says that "we are always to keep our focus on the Kingdom of God," and then references Mark 13:33-37, in which the last thing Mark's Gospel has Jesus teach before His Passion is the call to "watch." Watch for what? For something that is coming: rather, for the One who is coming, the Son of Man, Jesus of Nazareth Himself, who is Savior and Lord.

The One whose first call was to "follow me" (Mark 1), bookends that with His last call to "watch for me" (Mark 13).

The command to watch for the coming of Jesus has negative and positive aspects.

Negatively, it means *not* putting our first and best attention...everywhere else, to the exclusion of watching for the coming of Christ. And yes, I realize how, well, how absolutely absurd that sounds in our world of information overload and task uber-busyness! It almost feels like we deserve a medal if we are able even to remember to try to maybe give such a thing as "watch for the

coming Christ" *any* space/time in our busy lives!

Which means that there has to be a positive, that is to say, a proactive, aspect to this command, or it will never happen: and so indeed we are given tried and true spiritual disciplines, habits for disciples, that enable us to become present to this command and its fulfillment. And you know what they are!

Prayer, individual and private, corporate and public. Bible reading and study, individually and corporately. Worship. Receiving the Sacrament of the Altar. Activity (= ministry) for the sake of the One who calls us to watch. In brief, all the life of the Church; all the things that put us in the presence of our Lord and His Word, His people, His ministry, His Table, His world. **All these things will open our eyes to His coming, now, and shape and ready us for His coming at the End.** Which is what we *really* want and *really* need, and again, what these things *really* do.

Advent isn't anything but a way the Church is just trying to help us mark off some head and heart and life space to turn our attention to watching for the coming of Christ. Maybe you let it work just that way on you, maybe you don't - but it's sure a sweet effort on the Church's part in any event: like, when I am about to walk out the door in the morning and Katherine says "remember to..." and I think, "oh yeah, goodness, I'd already gotten a million *other things* in my head - *so thank you for reminding me of what I'd said I wanted to do today.*" Thank you, Advent.

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This time last year I brought to your attention the exciting hymnal projects underway in our province and diocese. At that moment we were combining three service times into one, and the most reasonable way to accommodate has been to put lyrics on the screen and music into our existing *Rejoice* books. We are about to take the next step forward, and I want to offer a brief word of history, plans, and exhortation.

History

When I first came to Christ Church I knew a new hymnal would be in our future. *The Hymnal 1982* has been a far-reaching pillar publication for 40 years, but it understandably doesn't have anything in it published after 1982. Significant new hymns such as "How Deep the Father's Love" (1996) and "In Christ Alone" (2001) as well as revived hymns such as "It Is Well With My Soul" (1873) can't be found in *The Hymnal 1982's* pages. I considered it the movement of the Holy Spirit when an anonymous memorial gift was made specifying that the money was to be used for the music ministry, and Handbells or a Hymnal was specifically suggested.

Plans

In the next few months we will be replacing our *Rejoice* books with a published hymnal. As they already are, some of our preludes and communion music will continue to be from beyond the canon of the hymnal and led from the screen. Consider a few reasons hymnals are important. 1) Hymnals canonize our sung faith. As a hymnal is developed,



multiple theologians and musicians gather to think carefully about what is worth singing and what accurately expresses our faith. 2) Hymnals display our rootedness in history and unity with the greater church. A hymnal embodies a tradition that has been embraced not merely by our musicians or local congregation, but by our province and church universal throughout the centuries. 3) Hymnals shape us in a consistent manner. Over the course of a decade, we can expect ourselves and our children to memorize the core of our musical canon. Together we can see the notation to guide our corporate voice.

Exhortation

As I encouraged you a year ago, I encourage you afresh that hymnals are helpful tools to pick up and put into use. You might not consider yourself a musician, but over time you can learn to follow the notes on the page in a way that helps you participate fully in the congregation's song. Everyone can follow the words, and eventually most can notice the shape of the melody in the ups and downs of the notes or the pattern of the rhythms in the shapes of the notes. Every time you join your voice in song with the gathered congregation, you "join your voice with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven who forever sing to proclaim the glory of God's Name." How could anyone want to be an observing bystander to that opportunity?

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The Fellowship of the Heirs of the Incarnation

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The season of Advent, Christmastide, and Epiphany all point to the unbelievable, immutable, incarnation of God himself in Jesus Christ. For the Christian, it is an event that literally cannot be celebrated enough. While we celebrate different seasons in the church calendar, and it is good to do so, the underpinning of each and every celebration, remembrance, even the penitential moments, is the joy that is found through the incarnation. There are two separate passages of the early church that highlight what the incarnation has done for God's people individually and how they collectively responded. Both of these passages are central to the life at Christ Church as we seek to "Make Disciples."

Heirs through the Incarnation

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those

who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So, you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. Galatians 4:4-7

In Galatians 4, Paul succinctly articulates the heart of God's plan for us—that we become heirs. The Christmas story of a baby being born in humble, if not dismal, conditions is only celebrated because what His life, death, and resurrection accomplished for us. In these few verses Paul appeals to the reader to remember that we are no longer as we were before the incarnation. Jesus was born in the same way as we are. He experienced the same life that we do, and although He subjugated himself to the same levels of human fallenness, He overcame it for the sole purpose of us being able to have unmediated access to a holy and righteous God—whom we can now call "Father."



The incarnation was always the plan. Jesus was always going to be the way that we are able to go and be in relationship with God. That is why Paul says, “When the fullness of time had come...” The Law’s primary purpose was to instruct and make oneself in right standing before a Holy and righteous God. It also made clear that God’s people were never able to fully keep it. The Law paved the way for the salvific work of the Cross. The incarnation of God’s son, the true heir, who had all the rights as a son, chose to lower Himself in order for us to inherit all the rights Jesus innately possesses. It is through our redemption that we receive that adoption. In our adoption we inherit the promise of the same communion with God that Jesus himself has the privilege to hold. The incarnation of Jesus was birthed out of a love for His people to finally be where they were always created to be, face to face with Him.

The Fellowship of the Incarnation

It is through this understanding of the incarnation that we not only have a different relationship to God the Father, but it also changes the way that we relate to others who share in that same inheritance. The incarnation not only redeems us before the throne of God but also binds us together with other believers. If we are all heirs, then we are also all part of the same family. The Christian in their adoption not only receives the rights of an heir, but also receives many family members who they share their inheritance with. The Christian cannot fully grasp their inheritance without also sharing it within their community. In fact, it is the community of the Church that is part of the inheritance that we receive and need. The question that the church always must ask is, what does this type of inheritance look like day to day? The early church has an answer.

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers...And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. Acts 2:42; 46-47

It is telling that much in Jesus’ earthly ministry was centered around community. It is telling that immediately after Jesus’ death most of the disciples were found in community. It is telling that they experienced Jesus’ resurrection in community and that after His ascension the disciples spent all their time nurturing, edifying, and building community. Clearly, God cares about community. Acts 2 gives the template of how we share in the inheritance of the incarnation through: teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, prayers, attending worship, being in each other’s homes, and living in such a way that gains favor by all.

I am grateful to say that here at Christ Church I have experienced this type of Acts 2 community. Many enjoy being around one another and regularly worshiping with one other. There is a hunger to go deep and understand more of what God desires for us. It is clear that many have chosen to love one another and continue to build and invest in this community for the Kingdom of God. The slow trickle of “doing life” together is one of the most holy and life-giving aspects of God’s gift to us as His heirs.

Two areas that I have seen this up close have been within our “Family Life Ministries.” On top of our normal gatherings on Sundays and other regular opportunities we have begun a six-week Dinner and Discussion Series on parenting young children. We also just had our first Family Fellowship Gathering. Both are centered around intentionally gathering with each other to fellowship, to grow, and to eventually invite others into the life that we are sharing. The only secret sauce to modeling and spreading the Gospel to others is to be a community that wants to share that inheritance day by day. As we continue to do this, it would be surprising if the Lord does not add to the number who join us, and Lord willing, to the number of those saved. Even if that type of growth does not happen, Christ Church will still glorify God and add to the Kingdom as we are faithful to the inheritance that we share.

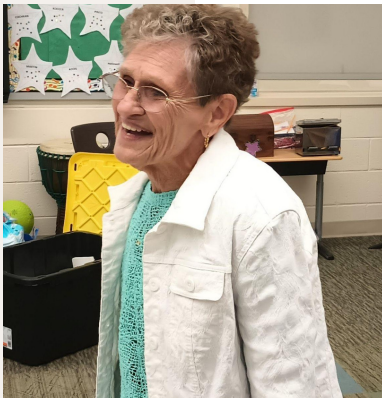
I am thankful for this community that we share with one another. Let us continue to foster, nurture, encourage, and simply be with one another as we are all heirs of the Incarnation. We are the Fellowship of the Incarnation.

meet the CHILDREN'S TEAM

We have amazing Children and Nursery workers here at Christ Church Anglican. These are workers who when your kids and babies walk in the room, call your child by name and ask how they did on their test earlier that week, how their sick aunt is doing, or how they are loving fishy crackers! These ladies are super special to have on our Children's Ministries team because there is no greater treasure on this side of heaven than the little ones God has given us and these ladies know this and take their job seriously! Let's take a moment and get to know this team better.

Ms. Joann

Joann has been married for 42 years to her husband Jorge and they have one son Chuck and one daughter Tammy. She has worked for CCA for so many years in the nursery and we can't keep up with her still to this day! She adores each baby and watching them grow and she comments that "the years seem to pass very quickly"! Mrs. Joann never forgets a baby even when they have all grown up. You'll find many of the kids, teens, or young adults will visit Mrs. Joann with a thankful hug! We appreciate Mrs. Joann's dedication to our ministry!



Ms. Nicole

Nicole has been involved with children's ministries for more than 15 years and it all started with her children Reid (24) and Cara (19) being involved in Christ Church Day School. Nicole is very valuable in getting details squared away to make sure Children's Church is running smoothly. But Nicole's favorite part of our ministry is the Christmas Pageant and the moving up ceremonies when kids "grow up." We are thankful for Nicole's continued support in our ministry!

Ms. Nicolette

Nicolette, married to Rob, has a beautiful family with two kids, Logan and April and a teen, Caitlin who all have been involved in our church for several years and we are grateful for her joining in every other week for additional help with our little ones and sometimes with our big kids! We are so blessed to have Nicolette who is often found rocking our sweet ones in Christ's love!



Ms. Catie

Catie is the daughter of Kim Banks and has grown up in CCA and now hails from Clemson University but classes and distance does not stop her from coming home on the weekends to spend time with our CCA babies! You'll always find Catie on the ground playing and laughing with the babies for truly she has a special bond with them all! We are so thankful for Catie's dedication to our babies!



Ms. Kierra

Kierra got involved in helping with our VBS the last two summers and then was enlisted to work in our Nursery full time this summer! Kierra and her parents are neighbors of the Allen family. We are grateful to Chelsea Allen for inviting her to work with our littles as she is quite smitten with all of our babies! And we are quite smitten with Kierra!



Ms. Bella

Ms. Bella is the newest member of our team. She is married to her husband, Josh, and has a 4 month old beautiful girl, Sonnie. She has fit right in with our team and enjoys watching the little ones in our Nursery hitting milestones and growing! We are so grateful for her continued dependability in the Nursery!

Again, we are very grateful to have this wonderful team of workers to pray, worship, and sing along with your kids in Children's Church and in the Nursery! They are showing by example to the children what is important and what matters on Sunday mornings: Jesus! Thank you Ms. Joann, Ms. Nicole, Ms. Nicolette, Ms. Catie, Ms. Kierra, and Ms. Bella!



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TEMPUS FUGIT!

Have you ever heard that before? You most likely have but in English. *Tempus fugit* is Latin for “time flies.” This phrase has evolved over the centuries to our modern English understanding of “time flies when you are having fun.” My first two months at Christ Church Anglican have most certainly flown by. It feels like just yesterday I was sitting down to have lunch with Father Ted at East Bay Deli to talk about the Director of Student Ministry role in which I currently serve.

We would admit that the older and wiser we get we recognize just how precious time really is to us. Time is very important because it’s something that we cannot get back. The good news is that the Scriptures instruct us to redeem the time in Ephesians 5:15-16 ESV, “15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of (redeeming) the time, because the days are evil.” Another way to understand the word redeem in the context of this passage is to rescue [time] from loss. The Scriptures instruct followers of Jesus to redeem the time by being wise with it. We truly have to make the most of it. It’s up to us to be mindful of the time that the Lord has given us and how to steward it well.

Well, why do I write all this about time and its importance? If there is one thing I have learned from working with children, students, and families is that this season of life requires great intentionality. The days are long but the years are short. Talk about time flies! Parenting requires moms and dads to be mindful of all that they say, think, and do as they seek to point their children to Jesus. How we as parents invest our time is one of the biggest indicators to our children as to what is most important to us.

With all of that being said I wanted to share with the church three ways that I prayerfully desire to invest most of my time in my role here at Christ Church. It is my greatest desire to invest my time training and equipping middle school and high school students here at Christ Church Anglican to help them grow in their walk with Jesus. As a result of these efforts, they will have an eternal impact on the world in which they live, work, and play to the praise and glory of Jesus.

One - Help them grow in their love for the Lord.

Order is important. Before the great commission comes the great commandment. When Jesus was asked which was the greatest commandment in the Law, he said to those asking the question, "...37 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment," *Matthew 22:37-38*. Our greatest purpose in life is to love all of who God is with all that we are. There are many ways that we can love God according to His word. I want to help students love God by teaching them to invest their time reading, studying, meditating, memorizing, and praying His word. I want to help students love God by honoring Christ and yielding to the Holy Spirit to obey the Scriptures and walk in the freedom and fulfillment offered. This is the greatest pursuit of the Christian, both young and old.

Two - Help them grow in their love for the Church.

When one experiences the supernatural outpouring of love and affection for God, it results in a deep love and affection for His people, the Church. The Church is made up of men, women, boys, and girls who follow Jesus. These are imperfect people who worship a perfect Savior. There are almost 60 "one another" commands in the Scriptures. God instructs us to love, pray for, bear with, sing to, honor, be at peace with, be devoted to, instruct, greet, serve, care for, and build up one another. This is just the short list! I want to help students see that the church is part of God's plan to conform them into the image of Jesus. God has given us the church to shape and mold each other to walk and talk like Jesus.

Three - Help them grow in their love for the lost.

It's been said that the supernatural overflow of being a disciple is making disciples. 'We are a church with one great purpose: "Make Disciples."' I see this sentence every day I walk into our office building. It's posted on the glass entrance doors into the building. I am reminded daily of the church's mission to see North Mt. Pleasant come to know and follow Jesus. I want to help students see that the Lord has called them to be His light shining in darkness no matter where they find themselves day to day. He is with them and will never forsake them as they have the great privilege of proclaiming the good news of the gospel daily. I want to help students continually see that they are ambassadors for Christ, that God is making His appeal through them that others can be reconciled to God.

These are the things worth investing time into. This is a weighty endeavor but also a worthy one. I want to encourage the families in our church, especially parents, that parenting is a "long game." Parenting continues long after high school graduation. The mistakes we make today don't have to determine our tomorrow. God's mercies are new every morning! Join me in helping our students grow as followers of Jesus. With God's help these things are more than possible!

Time flies when you are having fun serving the Lord.

OUTREACH MINISTRY FOCUS

EAST COOPER MEALS ON WHEELS (ECMOW)

On a fall September afternoon, six members of Christ Church Anglican had a great lunch together with a large community of friends. It was the 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Lunch for those serving East Cooper Meals on Wheels (ECMOW).

Lisa and Jimmy New, Donna and Ken Schnupp, and Lori and Rob Bellacicco have enjoyed delivering food to those in need throughout the East Cooper area for a while now, as well as helping with other needs of these recipients, and of course attending the annual ECMOW Gala!

For several decades, ECMOW has provided daily meals to those in the East Cooper who find themselves in short-term, or even long-term, need of assistance. Their services are not “needs based”, so a

person's income level does not matter. ECMOW can provide daily visits and food as long as a person has a need such as health or mobility concerns, a recent surgery, financial hardship, etc. Plus, they do not charge for their meals. Support for their work comes through donations.

If you know anyone with a short term or long term need for help putting food on the table, ECMOW is there to provide assistance.

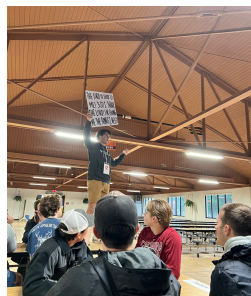
For more information, feel free to call ECMOW at 843-881-9350! If you would like to do a “ride-along” and see what it is like, ask any of us who are involved. We would love to spend the time with you and show you our ECMOW delivery route!



CCA ECMOW VOLUNTEERS (L-R: ROB BELLACICCO, KEN SCHNUPP, DONNA SCHNUPP, JIMMY NEW, LISA NEW, & LORI BELLACICCO) PICTURED WITH GEORGE ROBERTS, DIRECTOR OF MOW, AND KELLY CHAPMEN, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



REGENERATE & MONDO 2023





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