

THE MAGAZINE OF CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN

CrossWalk

WINTER 2023

*Discover the
Wonder of
Christ's Light at
Christ Church
Anglican*

from the Rector's Desk

THE REV. TED DUVAL
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Dear Parish Family,

Greeting in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As I write this in early January, as a new year begins, it seems natural to step back and reflect on where we are as a congregation.

First - but only briefly - my gaze wanders to where we came from, and to what we lost and left, which was much. I will always believe that the court got it wrong, but that is an old story: people have been getting it wrong since the beginning - I am put in mind of Joseph's story, in which he, but especially his brothers, got much wrong, and yet God nonetheless made it right. So he was able to say, "As for you,

you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good..." (Genesis 50:20). My godly admonition and my pastoral counsel to you continues to be as it has been: let Peter's exchange with Jesus in John 21:21-22 become your story - whenever you are tempted to look back at the meaning and purpose and outcome of other disciples' situation, hear Jesus' words "...what is that to you? Follow me!"

And so we do! And when we follow the Lord in faith we do not always find ease (indeed, using that word makes me think of how negatively it is used in the Gospels - the rich fool of Luke 12 comes immediately to mind), but we always find provision. Believe me, I want to worry and be anxious with the best of them, but again and again I am called back to trust the Lord, admitting that graceful provision has been given. We owed over a million dollars, but paid not a dime and walked away with that obligation satisfied; we needed a Sunday morning worship space, and without missing a beat found one that had everything on my checklist; we needed land to build a church and were given it; we now face what will seem like an insurmountable amount of money in order to build, but already have received a million dollar gift toward it...among many other graceful and providential blessings. I say none of this to encourage "triumphalism" among us (the Lord never wants us to take Him for granted or to cease being humbly grateful), but because I want you to be hopeful, to walk together in faith not fear, and frankly, to be of good cheer - God is good, and it is His pleasure to give you the kingdom (Luke 12:32).

So we have entered into a new year. Among the other good news of it, we now have our own office and meeting space, right on Hwy. 17 N close to Hwy. 41 next to Jack's Cosmic Dogs restaurant. I see this not as an exclusively staff space, but also as something of a home-base for our congregation: you can stop by to drop off a check, or chat, or pick up study materials; you can make an appointment for counseling or ministry planning; and while space is limited, we're trying to configure it so there is small group meeting space, too. Folks, we're in business, so come be a part of it!

And the business we are in is the Lord's business. So in every reflection about CCA we should remember and consider our vision. **We are a church with one great purpose: "Make Disciples"** (Matthew 28:19) - thus, *in everything, becoming more like Christ*. By offering ourselves to God in common prayer and praise, by forming the life of Christ in all, by enjoying and caring for one another, and by serving needs in the world in Christ's name, we will turn to and trust Jesus' way, we will love and welcome others into the household of God, and we will always keep our ultimate focus on the Kingdom of God, our promised forever home.

Faithfully,
Fr. Ted

A Faithful Father, His Saving Son, and the Unified Body

By Jacqui Tabor, Vestry

"God works all things together for good for those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28)," Bishop Chip Edgar reminded our parish family when he came to talk with us soon after we had heard the ruling in April. This verse could not have proven more real in these last months for Christ Church Anglican. God's heart for His people in this church flowed through our vestry prayer team time together from the very first time we met to pray in the Historic Church and as you all know, it only continues to manifest abundantly to this day.

Jesus told us in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." Our Father has taken us on an incredible journey praying together in His Son's name. We are so grateful that this not only included the vestry prayer team, but also faithful prayer warriors who came alongside us many times when we prayed in person or when we agreed to pray at certain times. Together, we all rediscovered the beauty of the words and worship in the Psalms (60, 75, 145, 71, 20, 84). We also shared passages in the Bible we were led to in individual prayer time. We were reminded that we had to stand (Ephesians 6) and remain in the Vine (John 15) through it all. There were times when we would meet after hearing news, or in anticipation of a meeting, that the perfect words to pray were already there for us in the pages of Book of Common Prayer (see pages 642-683). From a prayer for vestry meetings to praying for guidance; it was there ready to be used as a powerful resource. And not only did we pray, but we were reminded of the power of decrees and declarations particularly straight from the Word.

We cannot thank each of you enough for joining with us in your own prayers: prayers for our parish as a whole; and for the clergy, staff, and leadership during all of this. It was humbling to hear how many people kept saying to us on the Vestry and Contingency Committee, "We are praying for you!" or "Please let us know how we can pray." And to be told how so many other churches, including from outside our diocese, were praying for us was such a gift as well. Not to mention the many individuals outside our parish who would say they were praying for us. It is overwhelming to ponder the love that lifted us up, both within and without.

Finally, for all of you who answered the prayers to be the literal hands and feet to our church in this time, we are so very grateful. As we petitioned our Father through His son Jesus, so many of you became the answers to those prayers in every imaginable way. From cookies lovingly brought to us before our emergency vestry meeting after the court ruling, all the way through the many donations already received toward the building fund, and everything in between. May God bless each of you and your families for being so willing to answer those prayers. The continued love and unity we have found in one another at this time has been a powerful testimony of the unity of the Body.

*"It is overwhelming to ponder
the love that lifted us up,
both within and without."*

As one of our vestry prayer team members recently declared once we had acquired the land, "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen!" Ephesians 3:20-21



THE
STORY
of GOD
with US

Written by
KENNETH PADGETT
& SHAY GREGORIE
Illustrated by
AEDAN PETERSON



THE
STORY
of GOD
Our KING

Written by
KENNETH PADGETT
& SHAY GREGORIE
Illustrated by
AEDAN PETERSON

Written by
KENNETH PADGETT
& SHAY GREGORIE
Illustrated by
STEPHEN CROTTIS

The
forgotten
King

Written by
KENNETH PADGETT
& SHAY GREGORIE
Illustrated by
STEPHEN CROTTIS

*I felt like an
outsider, but I
wanted in.*

HOW WOLFBANE BOOKS WAS BORN

By Rev. Shay Gregorie

Sometimes God shapes our lives with overheard conversations. We should be mindful of what we say. Outsiders may be listening.

When Catherine and I were engaged we began attending a small church plant in Park Circle. Soon thereafter I overheard a conversation that altered the course of my future family's life forever, perhaps for generations. I heard one father ask another father, "How has your family worship been?"

I stopped dead in my tracks.

"What in the world is family worship?", I thought. I was intimidated by the unknown. I felt like an outsider, but I wanted in.

From the context of the conversation I realized that apparently family worship was a designated intentional time within

households for things like prayer, singing, Bible reading, and teaching — worship and growth. Furthermore, I intuited that it was an expected norm in this church community, and these fathers bore the responsibility of initiating and keeping this household rhythm.

I thought to myself, “How cool is that?!”

Soon Catherine and I were married, we began to have children, and I developed relationships with these other dads. Then I learned from them. I learned that there’s no specific prescription for how family worship works. All families are different.

Grace abounds.

I learned that I didn’t have to know everything about the Bible before I started leading my family in a discipling relationship. I could simply bring them along for the journey that I myself was walking. I learned to share what I was learning, and how I was growing. Then I’d fail, repent, strive for faithfulness, repeat. The journey continues today. As parents we are all works in progress.

Along the way we’ve had nine children. I finished seminary and was ordained an Anglican priest about six years ago. During my time in seminary my heart for encouraging others in family worship grew, and I met another Lowcountry native with the same heart — enter Kenneth Padgett. Like me, Kenneth is a huge Bible nerd, but he decided to go pro. He’s currently in the midst of a PhD in Old Testament at a university in the UK.

One area of study that we were both drawn toward was Biblical Theology — tracing theological themes through Scripture. We found it incredibly helpful to be able to trace the entire story arc of the Bible following particular themes. It brought all of Scripture together and formed a map that made God’s story immediately more navigable. An ocean is much easier to cross if you know where all the winds and currents are flowing.

We began to meet regularly to talk about Scripture, tell stories, and share ways to teach the Bible to our kids. After a couple years we began to write stories together, stories that told the one Great Story, the story of Jesus our Saving King. We’d start in Genesis and end in Revelation, but keep it under ten minutes in length.

We knew we wanted to get these stories to more families. We had a vision for beautifully illustrated books that told God’s Story in a compelling way for all ages. Thus, Wolfbane Books was born. The name is in homage to C.S. Lewis (a video on our website explains further).

So far we’ve released two books in *The Story of God* series, and one rhyming parable called *The Forgotten King*. Our prayer is that we can continue creating books that cultivate biblical imagination and draw families into a deeper devotion to Jesus. Since our first book was released in December of 2021 they’ve already made their way into thousands of homes around the world.

Good stories win hearts. The True Story of Jesus the Saving King *changes* hearts. May it always be on our lips — “... You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” Deut. 6:7

If anyone ever needs encouragement or ideas around family discipleship, or maybe you feel like an outsider in this conversation, please don’t hesitate to reach out. Our family rhythms matter. With the Lord’s help, they may even bless our descendants for generations.

find out more at
wolfbanebooks.com



Some Thoughts on Volunteering

By Katie Kellett

A certain rector I know has consistently delivered a message to his parishioners that they should share their “time, talent, and treasure.” And it occurred to me recently, as I thought of this common “triple T” refrain, that some of us (myself included!) could easily react as follows:

“Time? *I barely have any extra time as it is! I am overloaded with commitments already to my work and family. Plus, I got roped into serving on the neighborhood HOA board this year, and I have my classes at the gym, and... and...”*

“Talent? *TALENT? I can’t even carry a tune! No one wants me baking or cooking or knitting, either, as that would be a disaster. What talent could I possibly offer the church?”*

“Treasure? *We are scraping by to cover our bills these days. Our health insurance went up this year, along with everything else. We are paying college tuition for one child already and will add another hefty tuition bill for our second child next year.”*

A few years ago, it dawned on me after hearing the “triple Ts” one Sunday that sharing “time, talent, and treasure” did not have to mean grand gestures (or grand checks for that matter, though we praise God for those!). We can share these things in the simplest ways, by volunteering and each doing our part to sustain the life of the church.

It is OUR church, after all. It is ours to build (literally these days as well as figuratively!), to grow, to nurture, to maintain. This is, undoubtedly, the most important “group project” each of us will participate in during this lifetime, and we all know how quickly things can go awry in group projects when the weight of the work is distributed unevenly.

So, when you hear that next call for volunteers or the next reminder to check the website for service opportunities, I challenge each of you, as you are able, to volunteer your time, talent, and treasure at least ONE time in 2023. This could mean helping with the break down after the service one Sunday, taking a meal to the parents of a newborn or a grieving family in the congregation, or any number of small (but important!) acts of service that remind us we are one body in Christ.

I challenge you to leave behind the doubts and hesitations that prevent you from volunteering as lay readers (God does not mind if we occasionally mispronounce the words, and you cannot imagine how many times I sounded out “Ephrathah” before reading it aloud to you all!); I urge you to let go of any feeling that you are “unqualified” to sign up as a greeter (all it takes is a smile!), and I encourage you to sign up to bring in the goodies for Café 23:5 just one Sunday this year. You do not need to be a skilled baker, nor do you need to spend a lot of money: Christ Church Kids and Youth (and yes, perhaps some of us “Big Kids,” too) aren’t known to turn down an inexpensive, store-bought cookie!

Volunteering at Christ Church can be done with a minimal impact on your time (arrive early to a service you are already attending to serve as an usher!) or your finances (Oreos will work just fine). As we read in Nehemiah, “Many hands do indeed make light work, join in the work of God today and see the power of His Word become a mighty wall in our broken world.” Let us work together in 2023 to relieve those reliable hands who consistently serve by becoming a church with many hands who joyfully serve!



By Lisa New
lisaboykin@hotmail.com

*We were never meant to do
this Christian journey alone.*

As a mother, do you ever feel like you just aren't getting it right? As the whining seems like it's never going to end, do you feel like you're all alone? Do you ever feel overwhelmed? Do you ever feel like you're at the end of your rope and just don't know how to do the next thing? We, as mothers, have all been here. We know the truth of the Gospel and that we are called to make disciples (even in our homes!) but remembering it and applying it in the thick of parenting can be difficult. We were never meant to do this Christian journey alone. Community is so important! That is why we have a bible study for mothers!

I have been in the Mother's Bible Study since it began. Deacon Joyce Harder lead a group of mothers on a journey to learn the Bible and to fellowship with other moms. We began every Wednesday with an N.T. Wright study of a Gospel or a letter from Paul. As we applied the lesson to daily life, we would frequently end up crying and supporting each other in some facet of life as a mother. We referred to our time as our Mom Spa.

We left each week closer to Jesus, the one who gave us this amazing gift of children and feeling closer to each other. This study reached the ears of some mommas at the day school and they have since become members of Christ Church and close friends. We have celebrated highs and walked together through the lows of life all while putting Christ at the center. Our Momma Joyce has moved on to another path and now Catherine Gregorie has become our leader. We meet in her home every Wednesday 9:30-11 (Yes, there IS free childcare!) and discuss Philippians using N.T. Wright's *Paul: The Prison Letters*. This group continues to grow closer to Our Lord and each other as we dissect Scripture bit by bit. I always look forward to this time every Wednesday because it gives me the fuel I need for the rest of the week. It is so comforting to fellowship with other moms who are walking the Christian walk while discipling little ones in this ever-changing world. If you're interested in joining or have any questions, feel free to email me. We'd love to have you!

Students | Respite.

Alonzo Crawford, Director of Student Ministry
acrawford@christch.org

In the epic novel, *The Lord of the Rings*, by J.R.R. Tolkien, a small (pun intended) group of hobbits from the Shire set out on an adventure of epic proportions. They are first tasked with taking the One Ring to Rivendell where it will be decided what to ultimately do about this massive problem presented to the leaders of the Free Peoples of Middle-earth. What should be done with the One Ring? Should it be destroyed? Should it be hidden and guarded from the Dark Lord Sauron? Or, is it possible that the Ring could be used as a weapon against Sauron? After hours of debate it is eventually decided that the Ring should indeed be destroyed. The hobbit Frodo volunteers to take on this monumental task and becomes the unlikeliest hero. He is aided by a number of folks along the way, most especially his gardener turned dear friend, Samwise Gamgee.

If you have read the novel or at least have seen the Peter Jackson films, then you are familiar with the dangers Frodo and his companions face all along the journey. From the Old Forest all the way to the caverns of Mount Doom, the hobbits are continually thrust into life threatening situations where their characters are tested and proven. Of course, as modern people we love those fast-paced battle scenes and moments of high intensity. However, the next time you read the LOTR or watch the films I would encourage you to pay attention to the scenes sprinkled throughout the rest of the story. I'm talking about the ones a little more slower paced and expositional. I think you will find, as I did eventually, that these are indeed some of the greatest moments of the story.

In particular, pay attention to the sections of the story where the companions find opportunities of rest and respite. They are able to take a break from the dangers, toils, and snares of the road to Mordor

and war to experience moments of refreshment and renewal. I'm thinking of a chapter towards the beginning of the story when Frodo, Sam, Merry and Pippin are rescued from Old-man Willow (a murderous tree) by Tom Bombadil. Tom invites the four little hobbits to spend several days in his house where he and his wife, the river nymph Goldberry, offer them soft beds, hot food, cool drink, a warm fire, and soothing music. There is a particularly humorous scene where the hobbits bathe in the river and take some time to run around naked in the grass for a while without a single care in the world.

The infinitely mysterious Tom Bombadil, the oldest known creature in Middle-earth, understands how important this time of retreat is for the hobbits. He seems to understand how perilous the journey is that is before them, so encourages them to take their minds off of it for a while and just enjoy good fun and good rest with good company. Indeed, this will help prepare them for the road ahead and the tests of endurance they will face.

Moments like 'in the house of Tom Bombadil' happen all throughout the story. I think Tolkien was deliberate about adding these to his story. He understood the vital importance of a little R&R in the journey of life and the wonders it has on a person's ability to keep going. To keep fighting. To stay the course. Tolkien knew this and all the great military commanders throughout history knew this. Every group engaged in an objective or mission needs times of retreat and rest if they hope to be successful over the long haul.



This is exactly how I view the monthly Fourth Friday events for our Student Ministry. On the fourth Friday of each month we get together for a fun event or outing as a youth group. If Sunday Morning Discipleship and Second Sundays are times of instruction and training, then Fourth Fridays are times of respite. When I plan our Fourth Friday events I do so with the objective of providing an evening of fun and fellowship for our group. There is no agenda set. There is no lesson planned. There is only fun to be had together.

So far we have gone bowling, escape rooms, an evening of board games at Game Night Charleston (joined by Fr. Ted and his family!), trampoline parks, and ice-skating with much more to come! It is not hard to say that the students look forward to Fourth Friday each and every month. Fourth Fridays also provide fantastic opportunities for them to invite their friends; some have even been back to attend worship and discipleship classes on occasion.

Life is hard, yes, even as teenagers. They are encountering numerous challenges on a daily basis. Some challenges are universal to all teenagers throughout all time. Some challenges are newer and more unique to this upcoming generation. All that we do as a ministry is done to equip them to navigate these challenges as faithful and thoughtful disciples of Christ while they travel through their particular stage of life. They may not be at the end of the journey (Mordor) but they are certainly at a stage no less perilous (the Old Forest). Every part of our ministry structure is just as valuable as the next. Sunday Morning Discipleship is designed to increase their knowledge and love of the Scriptures which will uphold them throughout life. Second Sundays are designed to train them to align their hearts and minds to the truths of God. Fourth Fridays are designed to bring them all together to regroup, take a breath, and get ready to go again.



Recently, the Men of Christ Church undertook a several week study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians at their weekly Tuesday morning Prayer Breakfast. Leading the study was CCA member Gary Mullaney. As Gary skillfully led the men through this beautiful and powerful New Testament letter, Fr. Ted thought, "here is a lifelong Bible learner, lover and leader who the congregation would be blessed to learn more about." What follows is the interview Fr. Ted had with Gary.

Fr. Ted: Gary, as you led the men through Ephesians, it was clear that it was not your first time studying the Bible. I believe you told me once that you had a formative experience in college: tell us what set you on such a good path to Bible study and teaching, and what has deepened that path through the years.

Gary: At NC State I was active in Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. One of their strengths is teaching students how to study the Bible and how to lead small group studies. I learned the "inductive method", which starts with observing the text carefully ("What does it say?"), then moves to interpretation ("What does it mean?"), and finally to application ("What does it mean to me?").

Later I was blessed to meet and marry Nancye, who shares my love of scripture. As we moved around with my career, we found ways to participate in and lead Bible study groups. Nancye recently joined Bible Study Fellowship, an in-depth program that several CCA members have been part of.

When we were first at Christ Church we joined the Discipleship class led by Fr. Joe Ananias. Joe later asked me to lead some classes, and I found that the CCA members' reverential attitude toward scripture made it a particularly rewarding experience.

Fr. Ted: As knowledgeable as you are about the Bible, it's obvious to me that for you the study of Scripture isn't just "a head thing": can you share something of what the Word has meant to you in challenging times (or good times!); how it shapes your heart, or engenders hope or joy, if that has been the case?

Gary: I try to view the Bible as essential daily fuel for the Christian life. When times are good and I am tempted to "coast", the Word challenges my complacency and calls me

"higher up and further in". In hard times, it provides comfort and encouragement. The Bible reveals the nature and character of God. I am trying to grow the habit of "praying the scriptures" to align my prayers with what God has revealed to be his will.

Fr. Ted: So, one can learn some good strategies when reading and studying the Bible: are there a few approaches you could suggest to the congregation that might enhance their ability to understand what they're reading? Considering a passage's context, or making a simple outline of a section, for example?

Gary: Pray for understanding. Recognize and honor the type of literature represented by the book you are studying - history, prophecy, poetry, wisdom, apocalyptic, gospel, epistle. After getting an overview of the book, read the passage under study in its context aloud several times. Notice any key words that are repeated or emphasized. Try to identify the main point that the author was inspired to convey to his audience. Extract and list as "bullet points" or an outline the supporting details for this main point. Finally, consider how to respond in faith and obedience.

Fr. Ted: So, not everyone was able to come to the Ephesians study - give us one or two key insights that the Spirit led Paul to write in that letter.

Gary: The first three chapters are a stunningly beautiful and powerful restatement of the good news of the gospel - our lost condition and our need, and God's plan and purpose carried out through Christ to redeem and restore a people for himself - the new humanity. It's like the first seven chapters of Romans, but shorter and more poetic. Also, the whole letter to the Ephesians helps us understand what God intends his church to be, and calls believers

to be fully connected to each other as one body. We're just now getting to the second half of the letter, which talks about a Christian lifestyle.

Fr. Ted: This is one I get a lot - do you have a favorite verse, or passage or book of the Bible, and why?

Gary: Nancye and I have always been impressed at the unity and consistency of the Bible as a whole – 62 books, but one story of a righteous, patient, loving God pursuing a rebellious humanity to restore and bless them. For me personally, Ezekiel 32:26 has been a source of hope: I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. As you reminded us in a recent sermon, this heart-replacement process takes a long time (like water wearing rock away), but we can trust the promise.

Fr. Ted: Changing the subject a bit here at the end, you spoke passionately at a recent Vestry meeting about worship at Christ Church. I think it would be encouraging for others to hear how you experience our attempt to worship the Lord sometimes in a "traditional" manner and sometimes in a more "contemporary" style.

Gary: When the land parcel review was underway, you asked vestry members to pray, consider and respond to the question: What facilities would CCA need in a new campus to fulfill our calling? It struck me as a relative newcomer to Anglicanism and to Christ Church that our unique strength was the consistently beautiful and soul-lifting quality of the worship experience in both traditional and contemporary styles. How many churches get both of these things so right? Surely God will grant that we will have the space and people to keep this up!

Fr. Ted: Thank you, Gary! There is more to share, but I hope this encourages other members to read and reflect on the Bible, and to know that they have a friend and ally in you. Any final thoughts about Bible study or the life of Christ Church Anglican?

Gary: A podcaster I listen to says it is his mission to enable Christians to "think biblically" about every question and decision they face. It's great to be part of a local church that works toward the same end through preaching, liturgy, and the many discipleship options.



*Gary
pictured
with wife,
Nancye, at
the theater
of Ephesus*

say hello!

There are some new faces in our community. Find out what brought them to Christ Church Anglican.



My husband, Rob, and I moved, with our two children, Caitlin (then 6) and Logan (then 3), to Mt. Pleasant from Newport Beach, California in October, 2016. Our first introduction to Christ Church occurred when we were looking for a pre-school for Logan. We called Christ Church Anglican Day School and were surprised and delighted to speak to Amanda Varn, Rob's cousin-in-law. It was the first of many special connections. A spot opened up for Logan soon thereafter, and our journey with Christ Church had begun. In addition to attending a science class that year, Logan and Caitlin have attended Summer Fun Week (VBS) every year, always a warm and loving experience. Father Ted, the teachers and all the clergy are very involved with the children, teaching them about Jesus and the Bible with lessons, songs, and fun activities. In 2018, our surprise baby, April, joined our family. When she was old enough, she experienced the same privileges, love, and attentiveness in the Mommy's morning out class, as well as the preschool the following year.

In March, 2021, my husband's parents, Dan and Patsy O'Connor, moved back home to Charleston and were interested in attending Christ Church Anglican. (At that time, we had been attending Saint Andrews.) In August of that year, my brother-in-law, Daniel, passed away unexpectedly, and our whole family found ourselves in a whirlwind of shock and grief. When my mother-in-law reached out to Amanda, she immediately put her in touch with Deacon Joyce, who guided them with such love through the anguishing process of planning a funeral. Everyone in the church was so giving and attentive. It was a huge blessing in a very difficult time. I cannot say enough about what that support meant to my parents-in-law and all of us. Daniel is buried in the Historic Church graveyard.

the o'connor family

Shortly thereafter, the whole family joined Christ Church; my in-laws reaffirmed their faith; our two youngest children, Logan and April, were baptized, with Mark and Amanda Varn as their godparents. April and Logan enjoy the children's ministry with Heather Pienkos. She always reaches out during the week with texts and notes. Also, our two youngest sing in the children's choir with Levi Henkel. Caitlin enjoys the youth ministry with Alonzo Crawford and the other young people. She is learning a lot about scripture, as well as participating in fun activities.

Belle Croft has been there, looking out for us, the whole time, always checking in and giving us information. She brings lots of sunshine to us and to the church.

All in all, it has been an extraordinary experience. Thank you, Father Ted, all the clergy, and wonderful parishioners at Christ Church, for so many blessings!

In Christ's Love,
Nicolette O'Connor

After Trey and I were married in 2013, we looked around Charleston for churches. I (Sarah) grew up Presbyterian. Trey grew up in the Episcopal church, and we were both the most comfortable there, so we began attending and became members of a large Episcopal church downtown. Despite Fort being baptized there and us attending a number of couple- and family-building classes, supper clubs, and events, in addition to the services, we never seemed truly tied into the life of the church. We also began to be uncomfortable with what was being taught and preached—it didn't always align with what the Bible said. This was even more important to us as we involved our children in the programming. In the spring of 2022 we began to look for a new church home. We were drawn to Christ Church because it was Anglican and had steadfastly (and publicly) stood for biblical truth, at a very hard cost. We were so welcomed by everyone during our first visit in June, and kept coming back. We pretty quickly knew that we'd found our new home. We loved the services, the discipleship hour tackling hard cultural issues and how we Christians were to address them, the programming for children (Heather and Ms. Joann are amazing), and the great programming for women (Bloom) and men (MOCC). I joined



the curry family

the mothers of young children bible study on Wednesday mornings, and Trey has really enjoyed his time in the Tuesday morning men's study and helping out with MOCC. It's been so helpful for our young family to be surrounded throughout the week by fellow believers and friends. We have also been blessed to see the faithfulness of the congregation as you've walked a hard road in losing your first church home. You have been a wonderful example of persevering in hope and continuing to shine the light of Christ into the community—it certainly drew us. We are thankful to be new members of this church body, and were very thankful to baptize Eliza into this community of believers this January!



**SAVE THE DATE
FOR VBS**

June 26-29 Lifepark Church

GUESS WHO we need right now? We need to **CONNECT-4** VBS volunteers! Do **UNO** how you can serve? Don't be **SORRY** about making the best decision of your **LIFE** by signing up to volunteer this year! It's an **OPERATION** that's worth the **RISK**. *Interested in volunteering? Let us know at ChristCh.org/VBS*

Sharing gifts of beauty & nature.

By Marie Hoyle

My passion for floral design and design in general began in my youth when my uncle purchased a 200 acre 18th century farmstead in the Shenandoah Valley. I spent the majority of my youth watching him restore and create this beautiful farm that could be shared by so many. This included English gardens, nature trails, labyrinth, a greenhouse gift shop, workshop for floral designs and a tea room. Much of my time was spent behind the scenes helping my mother and my uncle do floral arrangements, set up for Teas and luncheons or help out in the kitchen. We shared a passion for serving others using the natural beauty of what was around us. Many were touched by his creativity in the garden. I'm delighted that when the time came to sell the property it was able to remain in the hands of a likeminded buyer who wanted to preserve the beauty and history of what had been created. Little did I know at the time but those many holidays and weekends helping in the family business would then extend in my own career of design. I feel my talents and experience can be shared the best possible way of serving God and others.



Marie joined Bloom Women's Ministries at the November meeting at the keynote speaker and workshop host. At that gathering she shared her memories of her time on the farm with her uncle with demonstrating how to incorporate biblical herbs in everyday use and in decorations like an Advent wreath. Following that gathering, Marie also served as a lead in preparing our worship space for our Christmas services on our Flower Guild.

MUSIC NOTES

DR. LEVI HENKEL
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In December, Christ Church Anglican musicians came together to present "Joy! He Shall Reign," a Christmas celebration of praise to the community of Franke at Seaside. In two performances, we shared the gospel in song from solos through quartets to full choir works. In addition to long-serving musicians, we welcomed Holland Ensminger, Miriam Gregorie, Mallory Gum, and Marie Yarbrough to our forces. While these events take extra toil from our volunteer musicians, they are rewarding opportunities to expand our repertoire and share with the community. Look for the choirs' next performance on March 10 with Holy City Brass!



2022-2023 SEASON

EAST COOPER CONCERT SERIES

CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN PRESENTS

HOLY CITY BRASS &
CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN CHOIRS

FRIDAY, MARCH 10
7PM - PALMETTO PRESBYTERIAN

GREEN LEVELS

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
7PM - HOLY CROSS, SULLIVAN'S

TICKETS ON SALE AT CHRISTCH.ORG/ECCS



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