

GOOD NEWS

STORIES FROM CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, DAYTON

Fall 2026 | No. 2 Vol. 6



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GOOD NEWS at Christ Church

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WELCOME TO OUR FALL ISSUE

As we enter into a new season together, it brings me great joy to highlight the common life we've shared over the summer months.

This issue is overflowing with stories of belonging, faith, community, and hope. I am so grateful to the members of our parish who said "Yes!" to writing pieces for this edition. What a gift it is to offer and receive these stories. In the second portion of this issue you'll find highlights of upcoming programs offered at Christ Church this spring and summer.



Whether you've been at Christ Church a short time, or for many seasons of life, we're so glad to be walking the journey with you.

Happy reading!

Director of Communication & Parish Life

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WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH

“Come and see.” — John 1:39



John’s Gospel begins with two curious disciples asking Jesus where he is staying. Instead of telling them, he offers an invitation: “Come and see” (John 1:39). Come, find out for yourself. These three simple words changed their lives and can change our own lives too. The invitation to come and see remains one of the most powerful ways we are drawn closer to Christ, and toward discovering how God is already active, all around us.

This invitation, to find out for yourself, lies at the center of our life at Christ Church. Each week, we gather to worship, learn, serve, build relationships, care for one another, make music, share meals, welcome newcomers, and reach beyond our walls in service to the greater community. Through you, God is doing remarkable things and each of us has a place in that work.

This fall, think about how you might “come and see” Christ Church in a new way. Get curious like the disciples. Join a ministry or small group. Attend a class. Serve alongside others. Sing, pray, learn, volunteer, lead, or simply show up for something new. Our faith grows when we step beyond the familiar and meet God somewhere unexpected.

The invitation to come and see is bigger than ourselves. The disciples offer the same simple words to others as well. They offer others the same invitation almost immediately, just verses later, “Come and see” (John 1:46). They did not try to convince others with a perfect argument or explain everything about who Jesus is. They simply invited them to experience it for themselves.

May you find this newsletter to be full of stories which offer an invitation to a deeper, richer, fuller life in the Spirit. However you choose to join us, I hope you will listen to Jesus, find out for yourself. Come and see where Christ is calling you to grow, serve, and belong, while widening the circle of those called to do the same.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter".

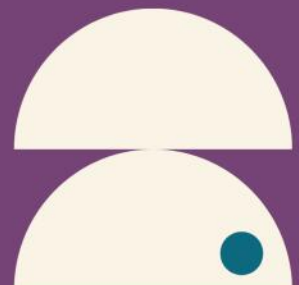
Rector, Christ Episcopal Church





TAKING GOD AT HER WORD

By Esther Brownsmith



After growing up in a casual and very conservative church, my relationship with liturgy and gender as a young adult was a work in process. During my first chapel service as a divinity school student, we sang a classic Anglican hymn—“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”—but we used a melody by Calvin Hampton, an openly queer composer, and substituted feminine pronouns for God. I bristled at the time: in a religion rooted in the past, I wondered, what did it mean to introduce radical changes? But the more that I settled into my own principles and identities, the more that I sought spaces whose language depicted a God and a Church that were radically affirming of women, LGBTQIA+ people, and people with disabilities, along with every other beautiful form of human embodiment.

Even at Christ Episcopal Church, much of our normal liturgical language

imagines gender as a binary and God as masculine. When the vision for a CEC “Pride Mass” began to emerge in conversation, I knew that I didn’t just want us to hold a regular Book of Common Prayer service with a sermon about LGBTQIA+ acceptance. Rather, I wanted to work with all the other LGBTQIA+ individuals at CEC to make a service that was built from the

ground up on radical inclusion—a service that recognized that we weren’t merely a population for church outreach. **We were the Church.** In collaboration with my fellow dreamers on the planning committee, I sought space for the liturgy I already craved for myself: a liturgy that affirmed every embodied identity as a reflection of God’s gloriously prismatic self.

The event this June, “Made Good: An Episcopal Celebration of Queer Joy,” surpassed all my hopes (thanks, in large part, to the wide array of CEC volunteers who stepped up to make it happen). We wove together scripture with elements of global Christian liturgy to proclaim God as seen in humans of all genders and sexualities, and we celebrated that God with singing, praying, preaching, and moving our bodies—as well as some queer brunching. Rainbows decorated the nave, the altar, the

*And here’s
the secret:
God’s word
is love, a
dazzling
rainbow-
hued love.*

communion bread, and the people joined in worship. Once again, I sang “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”: “If our love were but more faithful, we should take God at her word.” And here’s the secret: God’s word is love, a dazzling rainbow-hued love. In that moment, I could feel it more profoundly and intimately than ever before.





WHO IS THE GREATEST?

VBS

IS THE GREATEST!



By The Rev. Peter Homeyer

In June, Christ Church did something we haven't done in many years, we hosted a week of Vacation Bible School! For five evenings we ate dinner together, prayed, sang songs, listened to Bible stories, and had art, science, and craft projects for children of all ages. Jason Hindsman even came and taught us ASL for the songs! It was a great time, filled with music, laughter, movement, lessons, and the joy of the Holy Spirit.

Different personal schedules made every evening a new mix of old and new members. Overall, 38 teachers, volunteers, parents, and children took part. And everyone joined in.

Our theme was, "Peace Like a River" Throughout the week we explored how peace comes by having Christ in our hearts, through prayer, sharing, caring for creation, and creative problem solving. Our lessons from the life of Jesus reflected this message: Mary and Martha preparing for Jesus' visit; Zaccheus offering half of all he had; feeding the 5,000; Jesus calming the storm; and the question of Who is the Greatest.

Everyone who joined in was the greatest! Our families and volunteers were enthusiastic participants. A special thank you goes to Father

Greg Sammons for leading music and Jen Sammons, our Director of Children and Youth Ministry, who provided inspiration and leadership throughout.

Consider joining us next year to experience VBS for yourself. Until then, here's a song we sang together reminding us that peace takes time and begins with our own intentions. Ask someone who joined us to show you the ASL signs which go along with it!

*Peace
(Peace)
Peace will
(Peace will)
Peace will come
(Peace will come)
And let it begin with me*

*Oh, my own life is all
I can hope to control
Oh, let my life be
lived for the good
Good of my soul
Let it bring*

*Peace
(Peace)
Sweet Peace
(Sweet peace)
Peace will come
(Peace will come)
And let it begin with me*



THE SOUND OF MUSIC IN SUMMERTIME

By Yun Kim



Summer 2027 Solo Soundtrack

What a wonderful lineup of summer soloists & musicians!



Janice Harrison

"Alleluia, Sing to Jesus"

Mark Hayes



Esther Brownsmith

"Antiphon for O virtus Sapientiae ("Divine Wisdom")"

Hildegard of Bingen



Jane Clinch and Margaret Clinch

"Lord of All Hopefulness"

Irish ballad tune



Barb Cerny

"Gather Us In"

Marty Haugen



Sky Blumenscheid

"Take my Life and Let it Be"

Francis Ridley Havergal



Linda Bush

"I Want to Be Like Daniel"

Linda Bush



Jesse Cook

"Someone's knocking at your door"

Spiritual



Lydia Geis

"I Have a Dream"

ABBA



The Jubilee Ringers

"Gracious Spirit, Dwell Within Me"

Adoro devote arr. Yun Kim



Emily Joyce

"Crowded Table"

The Highwomen



Elizabeth Blackwell

"God Bless America"

Irving Berlin



Greg Sexton

"I Hope I'm Doin' This Right"

Paul Thorn



Sky Blumenscheid

"She Keeps Me Warm"

Mary Lambert



Linda Bush

"Proud to be Loving You"

Linda Bush



VBS Kids & Adults

"A Medley of VBS Songs"



Stephanie Sexton

"Praise the Lord"

Isabella Melodies

One of my great joys at Christ Church is collaborating with the musicians within our parish to help them discover and nurture their unique musical talents to experience the joy of sharing their music with others.

I feel extremely fortunate to have been working with our two choirs: the Christ Church Choir and the Jubilee Ringers. Being able to create various kinds of gorgeous harmonies with our choirs has been a true blessing! However, during the 'off-season' in summer, our music ministry shifts its focus to solo repertoire and the many soloists in our midst.

I've always been amazed at the considerable number of musicians we have in our church family and have found their eagerness to share their musical gifts so inspiring. We musicians all know that any worthy musical offering comes with dedicated practice, often accompanied by a few butterflies in the stomach, but we do it anyway because it is so rewarding. The deep joy that comes from spreading beautiful notes into the air in public, despite our vulnerabilities, is something only the performing musicians can experience.

This past summer at our 10:30am services, we were graced with musical blessings each Sunday from our own parish musicians. From seasoned soloists to newbies, from old hymn and pop tunes to self-composed new songs, from 17th century classics to contemporary praise songs, from chant melodies to camp songs, our summer musicians helped us deepen our worship, open our hearts, lift our spirits, renew our souls, and feel God's pleasure.

Since most of the solo music was chosen by our soloists, it has been a fun opportunity for me personally to learn a variety of their favorite music. I am always delighted to learn great music in all genres that are new to me, and this past summer, Esther introduced me to a lovely hymn tune by Calvin Hampton set to the famous text, "There's a wideness in God's mercy." Also, I vaguely remembered hearing "Day by Day" from the '70's musical Godspell, but learning it for Linda's solo (and providing backup singers!) was inspirational ... and so much fun! I also realized that its text was based on a 13th century prayer written by St. Richard of Chichester: "Day by day, oh dear Lord, three things I pray. To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day."

I dare say music can certainly help attain these three things. Music is a marvelous gift from God. Let's make more music together!

New Choir Season, 2026-2027

Come join us for weekly music-making and fellowship! We rehearse on Wednesday evenings at 6pm for one hour in the Choir Room located in the lower level. The Christ Church Choir welcomes anyone who loves to sing, learn new music and enjoy the fellowship. Come join our fun, nurturing group! For more information, contact Yun Kim at 513.330.3276 or yunkimhughes@hotmail.com.

Music News: Introducing Choirchimes!

Through the incredible generosity of one of our parishioners, Christ Church has acquired a brand-new set of 37-note Malmark Choirchimes, in loving memory of The Rev. Sallie Bailey. These chimes are hand-crafted in Pennsylvania and are reputed to be the best of their kind. Christ Church is so lucky to own these beautiful instruments and to be able to hear them for many years to come. The Jubilee Ringers simply can't wait to play them!





By Jenni Boyd

I was 13 years old when I sat in a confirmation class listening to the adults in the room discuss their “gifts of baptism.” In an exercise meant to explore and understand our gifts, I sat at a table looking at a blank worksheet completely confused. While others around me started talking about how they always loved singing and making music, or taking joy when they were assigned to do the readings that Sunday, I prayed to God asking for just a little sign of what my gift was. Instead of an answer, an image of a ball of yarn kept popping up in my mind. Not just any yarn, the old, worn, used, ball of yarn that my great-grandma kept in an old tin can on her shelf with a crooked steel crochet hook sticking out of it.

But why yarn? I didn’t know how to knit or crochet or do anything with yarn. And yet, this image in my mind persisted. When the priest came around to ask what I wrote down on my worksheet, I just said “I must not have a gift.” I was so embarrassed that I couldn’t explain this image of a ball of yarn. I still remember her kind voice saying “that’s o.k., your gifts have a way of finding you when you need them.”

6 years later I found myself sitting by my grandfather’s hospital bed after he had a second heart attack. I was worried sick and didn’t know what to do with myself. My grandma pulled a ball of yarn and two knitting needles out of her tote bag and suggested I knit my worries into something productive. She patiently showed me how to twist and pull the yarn into something that eventually resembled a scarf. And it helped! The worry subsided as I focused on the task at hand. And from that moment on I was hooked on yarn, literally. Grandma later taught me how to use a crochet hook and I learned to crochet. It’s a hobby that has become a true passion for me.

But what amazes me, is that while it has become a

way for me to clear my head and work out my anxieties, it’s also been something I can share with so many others. I’ve made baby blankets for welcoming little miracles into this world, including for my own two kids. I’ve made slippers to comfort sick friends or as Christmas gifts during the years that money was too tight to buy anything. I made hand warmers for co-workers who type in cold offices. And I’ve taken great joy in teaching others how to get started as well.

Yarn is meant to be shared and I’ve started to see the significance of why this gift was given to me.

Yarn has become a metaphor for seeing the beautiful ways God weaves us all together. When I worked as a flight attendant, I always sat outside the crew rooms with my yarn in hand. So many people saw this as a welcoming sight and would come sit beside me to tell me their stories. Their mom used to make blankets for them. Or their late wife used to make the softest scarves. It was a gateway to meeting amazing people and sharing a human connection, even for the briefest of moments.

I’m still new to Christ Church and I’ve wondered where my place is here in this congregation and how to connect with all the new people I’ve met. I cannot express how incredibly grateful and relieved I was when Margaret made an announcement that there was a craft group here at the church!!! Even amidst new and unfamiliar faces, I’ve found a way to connect with people and learn their stories. And I can’t wait to continue to get to know everyone.

As my husband, Crue, begins his own journey of faith and prepares to be baptized, I can’t help but wonder what amazing (and hopefully quirky) gift he will be blessed with. And wonder if it could ever be anything as weird and wonderful as the gift of “Yarn.”

FALL CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday Worship 12pm | Sunday Worship at 8am & 10:30am

9/27 Building Tours | Spark Family Programs | Usher Training

9/27 All-Parish Worship | Parish Photo | Projects Blessing | Luncheon

9/27 The Great Lady Concert Series presents: pianist Nanyi Qiang

OCTOBER

Wednesday Worship 12pm | Sunday Worship at 8am & 10:30am

10/03 "Take, Eat" Ministry Serving Lunch at St. Vincent Shelter

10/04 Worship: St. Francis Pet Blessing, Stewardship In-Gathering

10/04 Adult Forum: The Ministry of a Deacon | Spark Family Programs

10/11 Worship: Healing Sunday, Stewardship In-Gathering

10/11 Adult Forum: Jesus and The Powers | Spark Family Programs

10/18 Worship: Stewardship Final In-Gathering, Blessing of Food Donations,
Ofrenda opens in the Nave

10/18 Adult Forum: Jesus and The Powers | Spark Family Programs

10/18 Vestry-Hosted Coffee Hour & "Beautiful Things" Stewardship Celebration

10/18 Spark Outing: Pumpkin Patch & Hayride at Fulton Farms

10/25 Worship: Bell Choir Performs, Halloween Fun - Costumes Encouraged!

10/25 Adult Forum: Jesus and The Powers | Spark Family Programs

NOVEMBER

Wednesday Worship 12pm | Sunday Worship at 8am & 10:30am

11/01 Worship: All Saints Sunday, Final Day of Ofrenda, Bell Choir Performs

11/01 Adult Forum | Spark Family Programs

11/07 "Take, Eat" Ministry Serving Lunch at St. Vincent Shelter

11/08 Worship: Healing Sunday

11/08 Adult Forum: Jesus and The Powers | Spark Family Programs

11/08 Waffle Shop Jr. hosted by Spark Family Programs

11/11-14 96th Annual Waffle Shop

11/15 Worship: Blessing of Food Donations

11/16 No Adult Forum | Spark Family Programs

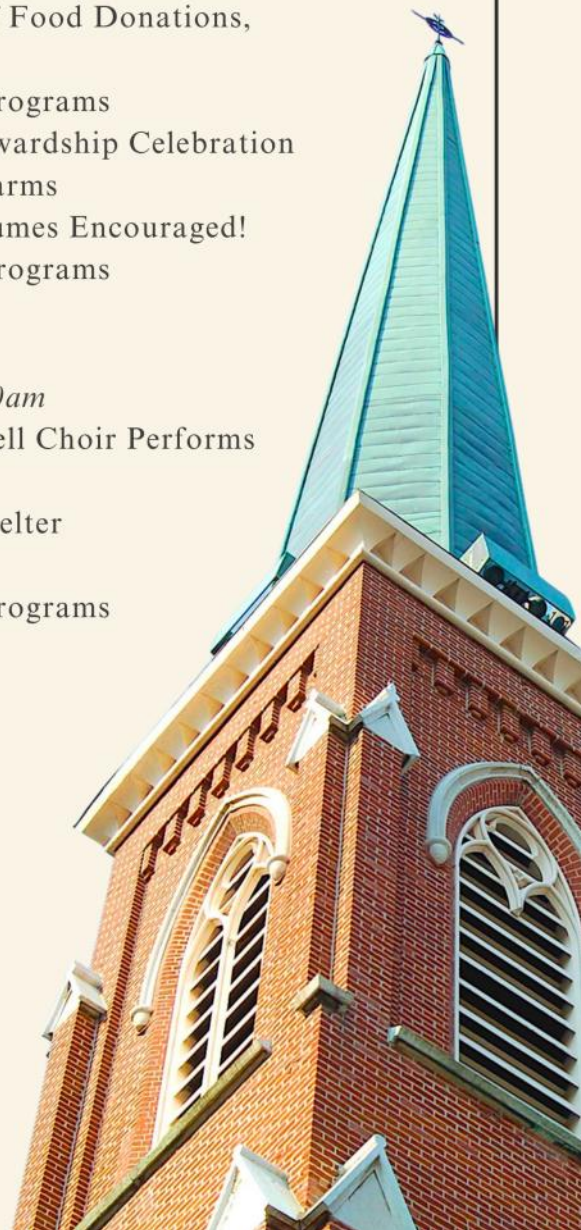
11/20-21 Diocesan Convention

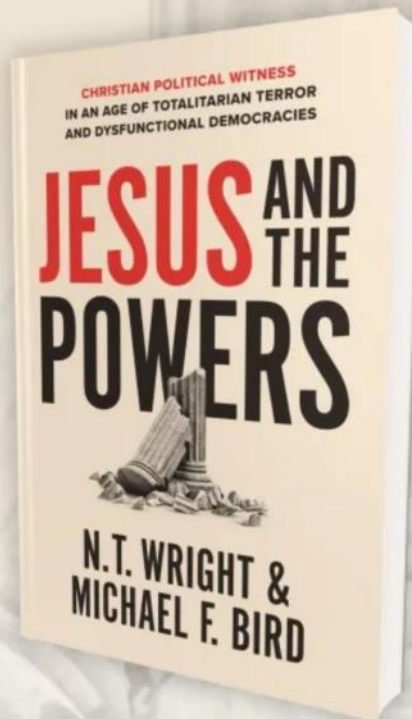
11/22 Worship: Christ the King Sunday

11/22 All-Parish Advent Event

11/22 Hanging of the Greens

11/26-27 Church Office Closed for Holiday





ADULT FORUM

OCT 11 - NOV 8 | SUNDAYS 9AM

BOOK STUDY

*Join us at 9 am from October 11 through November 8
to discuss “Jesus & the Powers” by N.T. Wright.*

This book offers a timely, biblically grounded framework for how Christians should navigate political witness, cultural fragmentation, and worldly authority in an age of totalitarian terror and dysfunctional democracies. N.T. Wright is an Anglican Bishop and distinguished theologian.

Copies of the book can be ordered in advance from Amazon, or are available without charge by contacting the office.

LET'S MAKE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

And God saw that it was good!
+Genesis 1:10



2027 Stewardship Campaign at Christ Episcopal Church, Dayton

Above all, a Stewardship Campaign is an opportunity to celebrate and invest in what's most beautiful about our church community, from worship to mission to transforming lives. And God knows the world needs more

beauty and goodness these days! Keep reading to explore ways you can engage in our campaign, *Let's Make Something Beautiful!*

What is a Stewardship Campaign?

Stewardship is our grateful response to God's abundance in our lives. During an annual Stewardship Campaign, we renew our commitments to give our time, talent, and money as an expression of faith and a personal response to God's generosity.



How you can engage in our Stewardship Campaign:

30-Day Beauty Challenge

You're invited to practice beauty in all kinds of ways – and not just with your checkbook. The 30-Day Challenge offers simple, daily prompts to notice beauty and grow in gratitude, kindness, and joy. Give it a try! Copies are posted in the Front Hall, and can be found on our website at www.daytonchristepiscopal.com/stewardship

Christ Church's Most Beautiful Things

Share what you find Most Beautiful about Christ Church! In October we'll narrow it down by voting, and reveal our favorite 5 most-beautiful things on October 18 in celebration of the final in-gathering Sunday. Submit your nominations online at www.daytonchristepiscopal.com/stewardship

Submit a 2027 Pledge

Pledge cards are sent by mail to all active membership households. Extra pledge cards can be found on the reception counter in the Front Hall beginning September 27. Pledge Cards can be returned by mail, completed online, or placed in the offering plate during worship on the following in-gathering Sundays: October 4, 11, 18.



**LET'S MAKE
SOMETHING
BEAUTIFUL**

30 DAY BEAUTY CHALLENGE

NOTICE. ADMIRE. REJOICE!

1	Compliment two people today: someone you love, and a stranger. Lift their spirits!	2	What's one thing in the world that still fills you with wonder? Seek it out today.	3	Perform a small, beautiful act of kindness today. Expect nothing in return!	4	What's a song or piece of music you find beautiful? Listen to it today. Share it with a friend.	5	BEAUTY WALK #1 What's the smallest, most beautiful thing you can find? Be filled with wonder.	6	Beauty in the sky: Find a beautiful cloud or starry constellation. Let your imagination wander.
7	Friendship is beautiful: Send a quick text or call an old friend. You might make their day!	8	What's a favorite, beautiful place in your town, city, or neighborhood? Swing by for a visit.	9	Pay for someone's coffee, tea, or treat. Generosity is beautiful!	10	What's your favorite poem? Read it aloud to a family member or friend.	11	BEAUTY WALK #2 What are the biggest beautiful things you can find? An oak tree? A skyscraper? Take time to marvel.	12	Send a thank-you note to someone you admire. Name something beautiful they've brought into the world.
13	What's the most beautiful animal in your area? Compare notes with a friend.	14	What's the most beautiful animal on Earth? Find and share a photo or video that does it justice.	15	What's the most beautiful book you've ever read? Revisit a favorite passage today.	16	BEAUTY WALK #3 Bring a bag, and pick up litter as you go. Beautiful!	17	What's the most moving act of "moral beauty" you've ever seen? Do something today inspired by it (even something small).	18	Food is beautiful! Go get (or make!) an especially "beautiful bite."
19	Think of someone you admire. What's a beautiful quality they possess? Tell them today.	20	Forgiveness is beautiful: Look for an opportunity to forgive today.	21	BEAUTY WALK #4 Have you ever discovered beauty where others saw none? Visit a place others might overlook and see what beauty is waiting to be found.	22	Research an animal you find "ugly" – and identify one (or two!) beautiful things about it.	23	What's the most beautiful movie you've ever seen? Watch it again – or have a "Beauty Film Festival" with family or friends.	24	Choose a nonprofit doing beautiful, inspiring work – and make a donation. Invest in beauty!
25	Make some art today: Pencil, paint, collage, clay, music, or a beautiful meal – your choice!	26	Support a local business that makes your community more beautiful. Give them a boost – and a positive online review.	27	BEAUTY WALK #5 Choose a favorite color and see how many times you can find it.	28	What's the most beautiful painting or drawing you've ever seen? Compare notes with family or friends.	29	For you, what's one of the most beautiful stories or passages from the Bible? A story, a teaching, a parable, a song – your choice.	30	Reflect on the past 30 days of beauty. What changed? What surprised you? What might you carry forward?

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS . . .

The 25th Annual Downtowners' **Christmas Concert**

Tuesday, December 8 at 1:30pm

The 25th annual Christmas concert featuring our beloved Percy Jones and Friends.

This special celebration of the birth of Jesus has brought the Dayton community together at Christ Church for a quarter century with the beautiful sounds of voices, harps, flutes, strings, woodwind and brass instruments, handbells, organ and piano.

Mark your calendar and invite your family and friends to this Silver Anniversary Edition!



**Get more of our
content online**

BE PART OF THE GOOD NEWS

- Follow us on Facebook & Instagram
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- Keep up with our mission & ministry at
[daytonchristepiscopal.com](#)
- Worship with us anytime, anywhere
[youtube.com/@christchurchdayton](#)

