SUMMER 2025

The Disciple

Life at Christ Church Charlotte



With GRATEFUL Hearts

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.

– PSALM 136:1

Don't you love good news? If so, read on for stories that will warm your heart. This issue of *The Disciple* is dedicated to everyone who is making good things happen at Christ Church and in the world, the ones featured here and all the others.

The people in these stories are serving and giving in ways that feed their spirit. If you would like to explore opportunities to be involved in these or any other ministries, contact Katherine Vest, Director of Engagement, at 704-714-6947 or vestk@christchurchcharlotte.org.

We are so very grateful for you!

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Honoring a Friend, Saving Lives

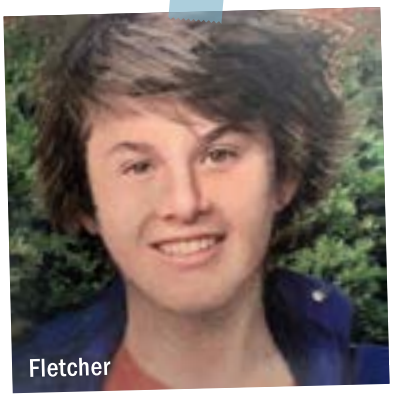
A Blood Drive Rooted in Love and Community

On Sunday, December 22, Christ Church Charlotte had the privilege of hosting a special blood drive led by one of our own young parishioners, Michael Witt, a college student at Wofford College. The drive was not only a generous act of service during the holiday season, but also a deeply personal tribute. Michael organized the event in honor of his friend and former classmate, Fletcher Pierce, who tragically lost his life in a car accident in 2021.

Michael and Fletcher were students at Woodberry Forest School, a close-knit community where friendship and brotherhood run deep. Michael wanted to create an opportunity for his fellow Woodberry alumni to come together and do something meaningful while they were all home for Christmas break. What unfolded was a day full of heart, hope, and healing.

Partnering with One Blood, Michael and his friends welcomed dozens of participants whose donations have the potential to save up to 63 lives across the Charlotte area.


Michael


Fletcher

Beyond the life-saving impact, the spirit of the day was a testament to the strength of community and the lasting bonds of friendship. Woodberry alumni showed up not only to donate blood but to support each other, bringing homemade treats and hot chocolate to share with donors and volunteers.

The atmosphere in the room was warm and filled with quiet purpose. Every cookie passed, every cup of cocoa poured, every pint of blood donated was an act of love — for Fletcher, for Michael, and for every person whose life will be touched by these gifts.

This blood drive reminded us of the power young people have to lead with compassion and conviction. Through grief, Michael chose to give back. Through memory, he brought people together. And through this offering, he honored Fletcher's life in a way that will ripple out in life-giving ways far beyond what we can see.

We are proud to stand behind Michael and grateful to all who participated in this sacred act of service.

There will be another blood drive on Sunday, August 17 from 9 am – 1 pm in M207. You are encouraged to donate and spread the word so that we can continue to provide the gift of life for those in Charlotte and beyond.

Each blood donation can help save or improve the lives of at least three people.

A Legacy of Joyful Formation

Bo Thomas and the First Grade "Funday School" Team

For more than 35 years, Bo Thomas and his dedicated "Funday School" teaching team have been a foundational part of Children's Ministry at Christ Church. Their warm, consistent presence in the first-grade classroom has made Sunday mornings something children look forward to – and created a lasting impact that stretches far beyond the church walls.

Generations of children have passed through Bo's classroom. Many who are now youth — or even adults – still stop by for a visit, a piece of candy, and a familiar smile. Remarkably, some of the current "Funday School" teachers were once Bo's students themselves, a testament to the deep connections and enduring influence of this ministry.

It takes **85 – 100** volunteers each year just for children's Sunday School.

Bo's co-teacher, Annie Greene, elaborates: "Bo has been pouring his heart into 1st grade Funday School for 40 years — and he even taught me about 25 years ago. He is the reason I started teaching, and now I'm lucky enough to teach alongside him. His deep love for the kids, his gift for capturing their hearts and minds, and the way he brings the Bible to life have touched countless lives. Every Funday, it's such a joy to see older students — 2nd graders, 3rd graders, and beyond — come back just to give him a hug (and maybe some candy) and say hello. His impact is lasting and full of love. Christ Church is so incredibly blessed to have him. "

Bo's own journey into teaching began when he returned to Charlotte in 1980 and felt drawn to re-engage with Christ Church as an adult. "Since I've always loved children, I decided to try teaching Sunday School," he recalls. "There was a need for 5th grade teachers, so I volunteered to help in the class. I had a wonderful time and still remember some of the children – but decided that teaching younger children might be better suited to my intellectual level," he adds with characteristic humor.

The following year, Bo moved to first grade and quickly realized he'd found his perfect fit. "The children were excited to be there and eager to learn," he says. "My class was re-named 'Funday School,' and it's remained that for years." From stories of the Old Testament to the parables and miracles of Jesus, Bo has found great joy in helping young learners grow in faith.

But the joy hasn't been one-sided. "It has been a privilege to meet so many exceptional children and families, and it's an honor to teach alongside so many gifted adults," Bo says. "Preparing for the lessons has deepened my own understanding of the Bible and strengthened my faith. Watching other talented teachers has helped me grow as one."

After more than three decades, Bo reflects on this ministry not just as service, but as one of life's greatest gifts. "Teaching first grade Funday School has been one of the joys of my life. Seeing my students grow up in our church enriches my soul. I am the lucky one."

Thanks to Bo and his team, Sunday School at Christ Church is more than just a class — it's a place of joy, connection, and formation that helps children carry their faith with them every day of the week.


“I am the lucky one.”
– BO THOMAS

Behind the Music

The Generosity That Keeps Us Singing

Every Sunday, the music ministry at Christ Church brings depth and beauty to our worship. From the choir and band to our children's ensembles and instrumentalists, the contributions of many talented individuals enhance our shared experience of the liturgy. Yet much of the vital work that supports this ministry happens quietly, behind the scenes.

Among those quietly making a difference are Sarah Tull, Kate McLoughlin, and Theresa Gibson — dedicated members of the Christ Church Choir who have taken on the enormous task of organizing and maintaining our music library. This collection includes more than 1,200 choral anthems, as well as hymn descants, instrumental pieces, and various anthologies. A visit to the choir room reveals shelves filled from floor to ceiling with this carefully managed library.

For years, Sarah and Kate have volunteered their time during the week – outside of services and rehearsals — to file, catalog, and care for this extensive collection. Their attention to detail and consistent commitment ensure that the music staff and ensembles can function smoothly. When Sarah needed to take a step back recently, Theresa stepped in without hesitation, allowing the work to continue uninterrupted.





Our music library contains over **1,200** choral anthems plus many other works.

Kate also serves as the choir's robe captain, taking care to welcome new members and outfit them with robes that fit properly — an act of hospitality that goes a long way toward making people feel at home. She has brought the same care and coordination to our growing children's choir, where she has ensured that each young singer is properly robed — a considerable task as they continue to grow and change.

The generosity and dedication of Sarah, Kate, and Theresa are deeply appreciated by the music staff and the entire Christ Church community. Their behind-the-scenes service is an essential part of what allows our music ministry to flourish — and what helps our worship inspire and uplift, week after week.

A Gift of GRATITUDE

Martha McKaughn's Generous Support of Outreach

Martha McKaughn, a longtime educator and member of the Christ Church community, recently made a heartfelt decision to support the church's outreach ministry as she retired from her teaching career at Charlotte Country Day School this year.

In her own words, Martha shared, "I wanted to give to Christ Church because of all they have given to our family through the years. I have not been able to be involved in many Outreach programs due to my work schedule, but I thought maybe this would be a way to help out."

Martha's connection to Christ Church runs deep. She began her career teaching in the CCK Preschool and is excited to soon return as an assistant in the Kindergarten classroom.

Known for her humor and humility, Martha politely declined the customary recognition for her years of teaching — opting instead to offer this generous donation. She has chosen to split the gift between Christ Church Outreach and another local charity. Befitting her lifelong dedication to educating children, Martha's gift will support our partnership with Rama Road Elementary School.

Martha's thoughtful generosity exemplifies the spirit of giving that sustains and strengthens our community. Her gift ensures her impact will be felt where it is needed most, and we are deeply grateful.

"I wanted to give to Christ Church because of all they have given to our family through the years."

– MARTHA McKAUGHN





Small Hands Make a Big Difference

Living our Mission Through Service



The Church of the Transfiguration in Bat Cave, with whom we partnered last fall, has served as a community relief hub in the still-recovering areas of Western NC.



[Our mission is] to cultivate our children's unique gifts and talents to inspire lives of learning, serving others, and loving God.

– CCK MISSION STATEMENT

At CCK, our mission is more than words on a page — it's the heartbeat of everything we do. Inside and outside our classrooms, we are committed to nurturing compassion and a spirit of service in our children. Through hands-on projects, classroom conversations, and community involvement, CCK families and children have joined together in meaningful service projects to support those in need.



Last fall, in the wake of Hurricane Helene's devastation, our efforts turned toward our neighbors in Western North Carolina. Partnering with the wider Christ Church community, we collected over 300 packages of diapers, 180 cases of baby formula, and 400 boxes of baby wipes. These essential supplies were delivered just weeks after the storm, offering relief and hope to families affected by the disaster.

Our commitment continued into the spring, when CCK families gathered school supplies for students in Edneyville, NC, and donated canned goods and cleaning supplies for families in Bat Cave, NC. We are grateful for the opportunity to support these communities and look forward to continuing our partnership in the year ahead.

One of our most beloved CCK traditions is the annual Cookies for Kids' Cancer Bake Sale, now in its fourth year. Each class contributes by baking and selling treats to raise money for childhood cancer research. This year, thanks to our families' generosity and participation, we raised $7,080. With a matching gift from OXO, our total donation reached an incredible $14,160.



Through these acts of service, our children learn that even the smallest hands can make a big difference. We remain committed to living out our mission — fostering lives of learning, loving, and serving – together.

Living Fully Into the Way God Made Us

A Journey of Generosity and Discovery

When Christ Church began exploring how to deepen our ministry of generosity, we knew we wanted to broaden the conversation. For years, generosity had been primarily associated with financial giving — important and essential — but incomplete. We longed for something that would invite parishioners to consider how they might share not just their treasure, but also their time and talents. From that desire, *Wonderfully Made* was born.

Jennifer Bennett has been part of this journey from the very beginning. A longtime parishioner and thoughtful leader, Jennifer joined a small group of church members discerning how to help people connect their spiritual lives with their gifts and callings.

Children of God

Jennifer had her own experience with accepting God's gifts. One morning several years ago, she met a friend for breakfast, facing some challenge with one of her children, and sat down with the proclamation, "I am a horrible mother." The friend replied that Jennifer was a child of God doing the best she could to parent her child. The friend emphasized that none of us should succumb to a label other than our God-given label of "child of God."

Jennifer carried this with her on her faith journey, realizing that we are all in life together as children of God, trying to employ our gifts in different ways to parent, be a partner, be a friend, work, or whatever calling is demanding our time and attention. Through a discerning consideration of our gifts and how to draw on them most effectively, we live fully into the creation of God we each represent. We each are *wonderfully made.*



"We didn't start with a curriculum," she says. "We started with a question: How can we help people recognize that they are wonderfully made by God — and that their lives, gifts, and passions are a reflection of that truth?"

That question led to months of research and conversation. Jennifer and others explored a variety of tools — spiritual gifts inventories, personality assessments, and vocational reflection resources — all with an eye toward crafting something that was both spiritually grounded and deeply practical.

Then, after retiring from her career at Bank of America, Jennifer did something generous and bold: she volunteered to write the curriculum herself.

Wonderfully Made Workshops

Working closely with fellow parishioner and staff member Natalie Akin, Jennifer shaped *Wonderfully Made* into a workshop that invites participants to reflect on who they are, how they are uniquely gifted, and where God might be calling them to use those gifts — at church, at home, at work, and in the world. The two women led pilot groups through the material, listened closely to feedback, revised the content, and refined the experience.

As Jennifer puts it, "I believe that when we understand ourselves as wonderfully made, we tap into not only our desire to give, but our ability to give generously. We begin to live more fully — and give more freely. It's a joy to help others discover that truth."

Now, *Wonderfully Made* is a regular part of life at Christ Church. Jennifer and other lay leaders facilitate workshops throughout the year, each one drawing parishioners who are curious about how God is calling them to show up with intention and joy.

At its heart, *Wonderfully Made* is about generosity — not just what we give, but how we live. It's an invitation to offer our whole selves in response to God's love and creation.

Here's what one participant had to say:



Participating in the Wonderfully Made *workshop was such a rewarding experience and I truly felt like I unlocked insight that I didn't have before.*

It was a wonderful and well-thought-through series, and I equally enjoyed connecting with the group — fellow parishioners that I may not have known closely otherwise!

– DARCIE HOWARD

"We started with a question: How can we help people recognize that they are wonderfully made by God...?"

– JENNIFER BENNETT



Wonderfully Made

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

christchurchcharlotte.org/wonderfully-made

The Hospitality Behind the Hospitality

Celebrating the Ministry of Welcome at Christ Church

At Christ Church, we try to practice extraordinary hospitality. It's more than a friendly hello — it's about creating a space where every person feels seen, welcomed, and included. This spring, that spirit was on full display at Vespers in the Garden, an annual event that celebrates and welcomes those who have joined our community in the past year.

Hosted by the Hospitality Committee, this year's event was held in the beautiful gardens of Jane and Carl Showalter. The Showalters generously opened their home and were actively involved in the planning and setup, helping create a setting that felt personal and warm.

Led by Chair Caroline Austin, the Hospitality Committee includes 24 members who approached the event with dedication and care. From writing invitations, arranging flowers, setting up before the event, and cleaning up afterward, their behind-the-scenes work is a reflection of their love for this ministry. Vespers co-chairs Lauren Parks and Katie Salmon went above and beyond — making multiple site visits and designing beautiful, thoughtful invitations and signage that helped guests feel comfortable from the moment they arrived.

Clergy, staff, and Vestry members were also there to greet newcomers and share more about worship, programs, and



“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”

– HEBREWS 13:2



ways to get involved. And of course, no act of hospitality is complete without sharing a meal. Chef Andrea’s delicious dinner received rave reviews.

The gathering ended with a candlelit Vespers service led by members of the Christ Church Choir. The beautiful music and liturgy provided a lovely and meaningful close to the evening.

Each year, Vespers in the Garden invites newcomers to a night of fellowship — but more than that, it invites them into a family. Every host, committee member, clergy, staff, Vestry member, and choir singer embodies the spirit of extraordinary hospitality. And in giving this gift, they receive it in return — experiencing for themselves the joy of being part of a caring, connected, and faithful community.



A Sacramental SPACE

Celebrating the Grand Opening of the Center for Wellbeing & Care

On Sunday, October 20, 2024, the Christ Church community celebrated a milestone moment with the grand opening of the Center for Wellbeing & Care — a space envisioned, built, and now brought to life as a sacred offering for the flourishing of our parish and the wider community. With joy and gratitude, we opened the doors to a place where healing, connection, and spiritual wholeness can take root and grow.

The Book of Common Prayer defines a sacrament as "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace." In this way, the Center itself is a sacramental offering — brick and mortar made holy by its purpose. It is outward and visible in every sense: inviting architecture, warm rooms for counseling and care, spaces for learning, movement, and mindfulness. But more deeply, it is a vessel for the inward and spiritual grace of God's healing, presence, and love. Here, we make tangible our belief that wellbeing — in body, mind, and spirit—is essential to the life of faith.

At Christ Church, we have long believed that care is core to our calling. The Center now allows us to live more fully into that vision. It houses our Pastoral Care and Counseling Ministries, hosts support and spiritual practice groups, and creates space for community conversations around holistic wellbeing. It is not just a physical space — it is a ministry, one shaped by the needs of our time and the hope of the Gospel.

As we move into this next chapter, we do so with deep gratitude for generosity that makes it possible, and with great hope. We pray that the Center for Wellbeing and Care will be a threshold of grace — a place where people can bring their whole selves, find companions on the journey, and encounter the healing presence of Christ. May all who walk through its doors be reminded that they are beloved. And may this Center be, now and always, an outward and visible sign of the inward and spiritual grace that God offers to us all.

Need help? Contact the Center at 704-714-6971.



THE CENTER FOR
Wellbeing
& Care
at Christ Church Charlotte

A Pillar of Quiet Consistency and Deep Wisdom

Wayne Ballard brings scripture to life for others

In every community of faith, there are individuals whose quiet consistency and deep wisdom serve as pillars for others. Dr. Wayne Ballard is one such person. A dedicated lay leader, Wayne is a familiar and faithful presence in our worship services, where he often reads the lessons at 8:45 am services in All Saints' Hall or the Church. His commitment to the life of the parish is evident not only in his presence, but in the way he leads, teaches, and encourages others to engage more deeply with scripture and with one another.



On many Sunday mornings at 10 am, you can find Wayne leading *The Weekly Word,* a Bible study that has become a cornerstone of our adult formation ministry.

With clarity and humility, he invites participants into a deeper exploration of the text, always grounding discussion in scholarship and pastoral care.

Wayne's background in Hebrew studies brings a rich layer of insight to his teaching, often helping the group uncover nuance and meaning that might otherwise remain hidden. At the same time, his training in higher education administration shines through in the way he facilitates conversation — thoughtfully, inclusively, and always with a posture of learning.

"Wayne exemplifies the best of what lay leadership can be: rooted in knowledge, guided by faith, and marked by a generous spirit."

– THE REVEREND ALLEN PRUITT

Wayne holds two Ph.D. degrees — one in Hebrew studies and the other in Higher Education/Higher Education Administration — making him uniquely equipped to guide others both intellectually and spiritually.

Despite his academic accomplishments, Wayne is never one to seek the spotlight. His quiet leadership, careful preparation, and genuine love for both scripture and community speak volumes. He exemplifies the best of what lay leadership can be: rooted in knowledge, guided by faith, and marked by a generous spirit.

We are deeply grateful for Wayne's presence among us — for the questions he poses, the wisdom he shares, and the way he models what it means to live a thoughtful, faithful life. His contributions continue to shape our community in meaningful ways, week after week.



Sue White
Nancy LeDonne

The Power of a Name Tag

(and a Prayer Shawl)

We are a church who has made nametags a part of our culture — whether attending Sunday worship, a Tuesday meeting, or a Saturday volunteer event. This helps us to know and welcome each other by name, allowing our very large parish to feel like a smaller community.

Sometimes a nametag does more than that, becoming a connection point that reveals a meaningful story or shifts a relationship to a deeper place.

Christ Church has recently revived its charitable knitting ministry, now known as Sacred Stitches. Parishioners gather once a week to be in community with each other while creating items like prayer shawls and chemo caps that will be blessed at a worship service and gifted to someone in our church family who is suffering from physical, mental, or emotional pain.

One day, two finished prayer shawls were dropped off with a sticky note listing two names, presumably indicating who had created them. The names were unfamiliar to Katherine Vest, our Director of Engagement, so she looked them up in the church database and was surprised to see that one of the women had died several years earlier. How did a shawl with her name on it land in our hands four years after her last breath?

The second name on the sticky note was Nancy LeDonne. Katherine sent a quick email to Nancy offering a word of thanks for the beautiful items, letting her know about the weekly Sacred Stitches gatherings, and inviting her to join. End of story. Until... a nametag appeared.

One Sunday morning, while greeting in the Rotunda, Katherine noticed an unfamiliar face and glanced at the person's nametag: "Nancy LeDonne." In a flash of recognition and excitement, she introduced herself and began chatting about the shawls.

Nancy shared that the second name on the sticky note had been her mother's — Sue White. Sue had been an avid charitable knitter whose final contribution was a shawl she had been unable to complete before she died. As Nancy healed from this devastating loss, she picked up a pair of knitting needles and her mother's partially finished work to complete what her mother had started. Thus, both women had shared in its creation, across different space and time. A legacy of love and connection that tethered a daughter to her mother by a soft skein of yarn.

It was a beautiful story — one that sparked more conversation. Katherine mentioned that Christ Church would be offering knit and crochet lessons during Lent to introduce new people to Sacred Stitches. She asked if Nancy would consider participating and perhaps sharing her knowledge as one of the instructors.

This same invitation, sent by email a few months earlier, had not created a spark of interest. But everything shifted now that a personal connection had been made. What was once a generic and perhaps unappealing offer had morphed into a kind of vocational calling for Nancy, and she jumped in with both feet.

She began helping the next week and quickly became a favored instructor, teaching this time-honored craft to her church family — the same way her mother had taught her.

This wonderful story came to light thanks to a nametag. Meaningful connections and community were built because of a nametag. A new generation of "Sacred Stitchers" was born, all thanks to a nametag.



Our middle &
high school students
logged a total of

2,368

service hours over the
last calendar year.

Full Circle

J.D. Ey's Story of Faith, Friendship, and Giving Back

When J.D. Ey reflects on his childhood at Christ Church, he remembers more than just Sunday school lessons or church events — he remembers the people. Whether shooting hoops in All Saints' Hall or walking alongside friends on pilgrimage, J.D. experienced God most vividly through the community that surrounded him.

"From Sunday school teachers to pilgrimage leaders, I was surrounded by staff and volunteers who were great role models," J.D. shares. "They encouraged us, listened to us, and helped us grow in our faith. And some of my closest friends to this day are people I met through Christ Church. We came from different schools, but the shared experience of growing up here brought us together."

J.D.'s journey at Christ Church has been marked by meaningful milestones — he was baptized and confirmed here, and years later, he and his wife Kalli were married by The Reverend Lisa Saunders (a member of our clergy). In a full-circle moment, they recently celebrated the baptism of their son, Johnny, surrounded by the same spiritual family that shaped J.D.'s early years.

Now, as an adult looking back, J.D. sees clearly how much his Christ Church mentors meant to him. "I really looked up to those adults," he says. "They created a space that felt safe, positive, and distinct from school or home — something that complemented those parts of my life and had its own lasting impact."

When J.D. and Kalli returned to Charlotte, he stepped back into youth ministry as a leader with both Youth Council and Life Group. "I saw myself in those students," he says. "And now I'm hooked." Known among youth for his kindness, consistency, and genuine care, J.D. is quick to say the learning goes both ways. "I learn so much from listening and getting to know our high school youth at Christ Church."

Today, J.D. continues to give back as both a youth leader and a member of the Vestry, helping to build the same kind of spiritual home that nurtured him. His story captures the heart of our vision for youth at Christ Church: that every young person finds a place to belong, discovers their gifts, and uses those gifts to create belonging and connection for others.

Through his leadership, J.D. is helping cultivate a culture of extraordinary hospitality — one that celebrates each individual, fosters sacred spaces of listening and growth, and empowers all of us to love God, care for each other, and serve the world.





Living our Faith

Recent Highlights from our Outreach Ministries

Each year, Christ Church parishioners live out their faith through service in a wide variety of outreach ministries. Whether through hands-on work, gathering supplies, or building relationships with our partners, these efforts are meaningful expressions of our commitment to the wellbeing of all. Here are just a few recent examples of that work in action:

ECW Lenten Service Week

This Lent, the Episcopal Church Women (ECW), led by Chair Laura Copps, continued a growing tradition of service and learning through a multi-week series of community outreach experiences. With support from church staff members, Katherine Vest and Laura Konitzer, this year's Lenten Service Week became a rich journey of connection and compassion.



The program began on Ash Wednesday, as a group of women gathered to attend the noon service together, marking the start of Lent with shared reflection and intention.

From there, each week brought a new opportunity to serve and learn:

- On March 11, the group gathered supplies and made 200 sandwiches for Operation Sandwich, supporting Roof Above's efforts to provide food for our neighbors experiencing homelessness.
- The next day, volunteers met at the Habitat for Humanity warehouse to help construct tiny homes for hurricane relief efforts in western North Carolina.
- On March 20, the group visited BraveWorks for a "Sip and Shop," learning more about the organization's programs for women healing from trafficking, domestic violence, and addiction.
- A visit to Charlotte Bilingual Preschool followed, where ECW members toured the school, decorated spring-themed bulletin boards, and restocked the family clothes closet with donations from Christ Church Kindergarten families and parishioners.
- On March 31, Kimberly and Geoffrey Mize hosted a gathering where parishioners heard from Adelaide Martin about the Housing Impact Fund and Christ Church's role in supporting a Community Health Worker for the Shamrock Gardens community.
- The Lenten series concluded with a joyful spring celebration at Shamrock Gardens on April 17, where ECW volunteers brought yard games, popsicles, and Easter crafts for the children.

Through each of these experiences, participants deepened their understanding of Christ Church's community partnerships — and how our time and presence can make a lasting difference. All women at Christ Church are part of ECW and are warmly invited to join future service events and social gatherings.

Beloved Community Workday at Galilee Ministries

On a sunny Saturday this spring, about a dozen Christ Church members gathered for a workday at Galilee Ministries, a diocesan mission and longtime partner in the work of Becoming Beloved Community. Coordinated by Scott Geyer and Gilbert Browne, this group of dedicated volunteers helped begin the creation of a new meditation garden on Galilee's grounds.

The work was hands-on and humbling: digging garden beds, edging, and layering newspaper and cardboard to suppress weeds and prepare the soil. Over time, this space will become a peaceful place for reflection and prayer, complete with benches, a fountain, windchimes, and bird feeders.

The meditation garden is a small but powerful symbol of Christ Church's ongoing commitment to justice, reconciliation, and spiritual healing through relationship and action.

Together, these outreach efforts reflect the heart of Christ Church's mission: to love God, care for each other, and serve the world. From building gardens to building friendships, our parish continues to grow in faith through service.

Learn more about the needs in our community and how you can help at christchurchcharlotte.org/outreach.







Profiles in JOY

These young parishioners have discovered the secret to a more joyful life!



"'Janie calls it the church dance party.'"

Janie Ralston

Janie LOVES the music at the Discovery Eucharist, and calls it the "church dance party."

Come dance with Janie and her friends, Charles, and the band on Sundays in All Saints' Hall!

"Scott absolutely loves helping Chef Andrea and Leslie!"



Scott Albhorn

Scott is one of our rockstar Wednesday night dinner volunteers. Scott puts flowers, salt, and pepper on tables, picks out the ice cream flavor, gets ice for drinks, and more. His mom shared this photo with a note saying, "He absolutely loves helping Chef Andrea and Leslie!" This kind of joy is what makes Christ Church special.

YOUR GENEROSITY
at work in the world

This year, funds allocated from the annual stewardship campaign, the Christ Church Foundation, and the Transforming Hearts campaign have totaled $2,180,327 for outreach and mission, and supported 48 different organizations in Charlotte and beyond.

Outreach Grants
Total Budget $450,000

Housing Stability & Solutions to Homelessness

Charlotte Family Housing	$40,000
Roof Above	25,000
Habitat for Humanity	60,000
The Relatives	5,000
Samaritan House	5,000
YWCA (WIT/Families Together)	10,000

Economic Opportunity & Stabilization

Crisis Assistance Ministry	$40,000
Nourish Up (Loaves & Fishes)	23,000
BraveWorks	13,500
Common Wealth Charlotte	11,000
Furnish for Good	5,000

Children, Youth & Educational Equity

ourBridge for Kids	$7,000
Charlotte Bilingual Preschool	12,000
Freedom School Partners (at Rama)	48,000
Communities in Schools (at Rama)	65,000
Rama Road Elementary Annual Budget	9,000
Heart Math Tutoring (at Rama)	10,000

Reconciliation & Restorative Social Justice

Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte	$22,500
RAIN	2,500
Foster Village	8,500
MeckMIN	4,000
YWCA (Eliminating Racism)	8,000
Time Out Youth	7,500

Miscellaneous/Other

MeckMin Dues	$1,000
Research & Development	500
Undesignated Outreach	2,500
Immediate Response	2,000
Administrative: Room in the Inn	1,500
Administrative: Education & Advocacy	500
Administrative: Habitat for Humanity	500

Mission Funding
Total Budget $31,000

Diocese of Costa Rica	$14,250
Diocese of Botswana	14,250
Thistle Farms	2,000
Undesignated	500

Christ Church Foundation Outreach Grants (including Habitat Fund)
Total Funds $92,176

Academy of Goal Achievers	$8,000
Baby Bundles	3,000
Families Forward	3,000
Harvest Center	5,000
Safe Alliance	7,500
Southminster	10,000
Wayfinders	5,000
Dahlia Grove	5,000
QC Family Tree	2,500
Carolina Farm Trust	7,500
Council for Children's Rights	2,598
Mind, Body, Baby	5,000
RIght Moves for Youth	5,000
Catawba Lands Conservancy/Carolina Thread Trail	2,500
Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation	2,500
Trees Charlotte	2,500
CCF Habitat Fund	15,578

Transforming Hearts Capital & Ministries Campaign

Total Allocated for Outreach & Faith Community Partnerships to Date	$1,617,151
King's on Lamar/Roof Above	250,000
Shamrock Gardens CHW	400,000
Freedom School	175,000
Hurricane Helene Relief	50,000
Habitat for Humanity	250,000
Braveworks	250,000
Crisis Assistance Ministry Challenge Grant	142,151
St. Michael's and All Angels Partnership	100,000

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1412 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28207-2543

Christ Church Charlotte
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
704-333-0378

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Summer Events at Christ Church

AUGUST 3 – 17
Rama Road Elementary School Supply Drive

AUGUST 10 & 24
Sunday Fundays

AUGUST 17
Blood Drive
Newcomer Coffee

AUGUST 23
Wellbeing Retreat: Summer Quiet Day

AUGUST 24
Blessing of the Backpacks
Starting Point Class

SEPTEMBER 6
Children's Choir Kickoff

SEPTEMBER 7
Fall Parish Day

Find details about these events and more at christchurchcharlotte.org/calendar.