

SUMMER 2024

# The Disciple

Life at Christ Church Charlotte

SEEDS OF

*Generosity*

'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

- MATTHEW 13:31-32



# SEEDS OF *Generosity*



*Sometimes* the smallest of generous actions can make a big difference in the lives of others, often in ways we don't even realize. Everyone has God-given gifts which can be used to live out our calling as children of God.

Inside this issue are stories of Christ Church parishioners who planted seeds of generosity that grew into beautiful, often unexpected, glimpses of the Kingdom of Heaven. From behind-the-scenes acts of service to a lifetime of faithful work, these are just a few of the remarkable and inspiring scenes happening in our parish and the wider community every day.

We are grateful to everyone who plays a part in our mission to Love God, Care for Each Other, and Serve the World in the name of Christ.

Look for interesting numbers and fun facts reflecting the generosity of our parish throughout this issue.

## contents

### 4 Forging Powerful Bonds

A hike and so much more

### 10 It's All About Love

Together with God we *can*

### 12 Hope Soars

Using his passion for service

### 14 Building Bridges

If you don't know Joanne Jenkins, you should

### 18 Your Generosity at Work in the World

This year's outreach grants





A scenic view of Mount LeConte at sunrise. The sky is a gradient of blue and orange, with the sun low on the horizon. A thick layer of white clouds fills the valley, with distant mountain peaks visible above the cloud layer. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted branches of evergreen trees.

# Forging powerful bonds on Mount LeConte

Sunrise on Myrtle Point



## By Stuart Garner

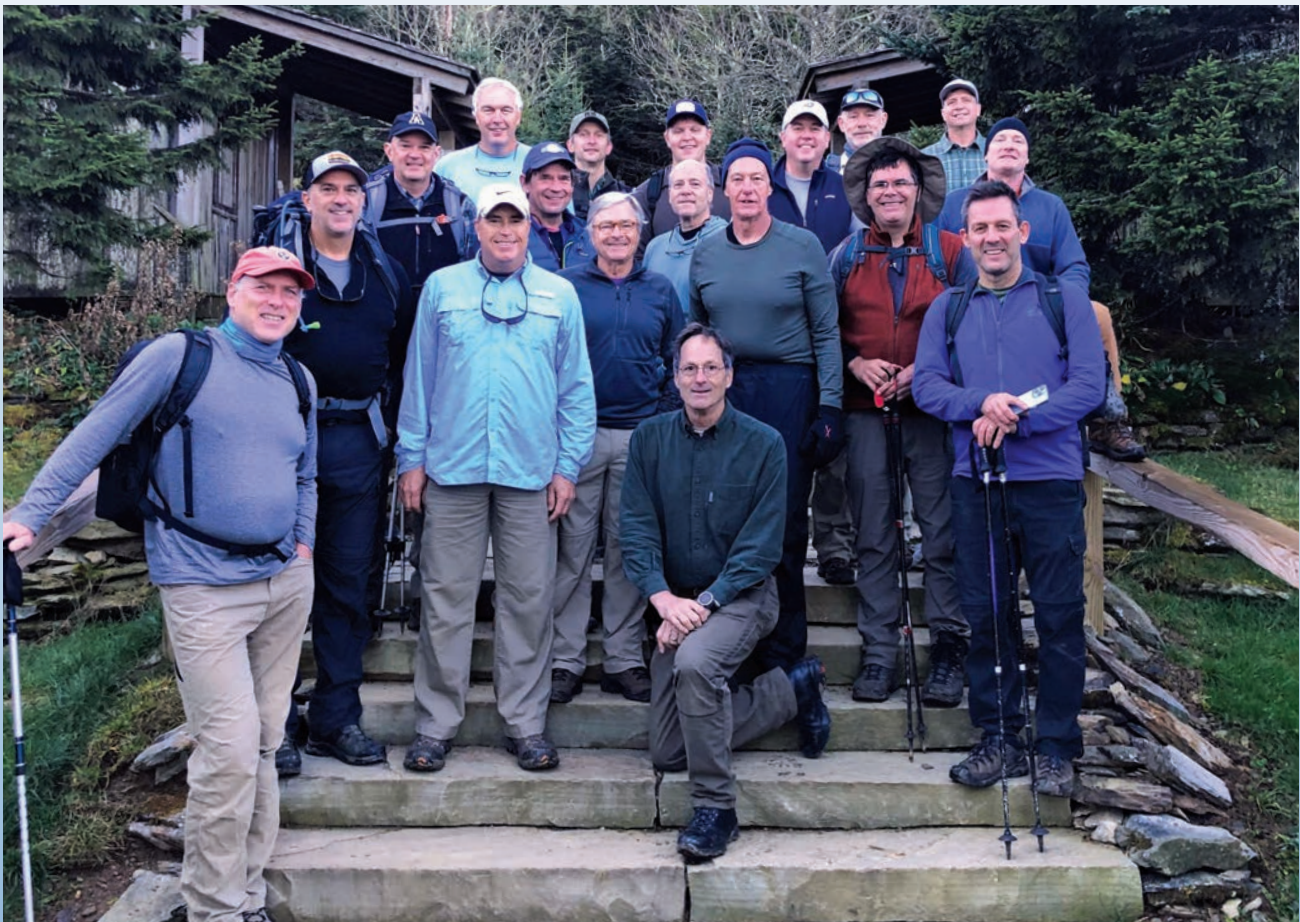
I have spent time in the mountains of East Tennessee and Western North Carolina for decades. My wife was raised nearby in Maryville, TN, so we had gone to LeConte as a family a few times. We thought it might be an enriching men's ministry experience. Eighteen years ago I mentioned it to Verdery Kerr, and the annual men's trip to Mt. LeConte was born.

I never thought of myself as a leader, just a facilitator. At the time I was so busy in my medical practice I was really isolated from the congregation. I was just "Ginger's husband." But sometimes you do things that serve others and you don't realize you're doing it, or the depth of the impact.

The real leaders that allowed this event to take root were Verdery, Ferman Wardell, who became the emcee for the Wednesday night dinner convocation, and my wife, who always got us a reservation. Reservations are hard to get and have to be made a year in advance. Somehow, she always found us a spot.

Once we had several trips under our belt with her support, the Christ Church group got on track. From six men on a trip, Christ Church became 20+ each year. I became the caretaker. Setting up reservations is now my responsibility, and I am no longer just "Ginger's husband."

*(continued)*



## ABOUT THE TRIP

Anyone physically capable of hiking eight miles at an easy pace to the summit of Mt. LeConte is invited. It started out with six men in one cabin, now it is typically 20 - 28 men in five to six cabins.

We have always tried to keep things simple and understated. A Wednesday night get-acquainted fried chicken dinner at our hotel in Cherokee, NC, has become the norm, followed by the Thursday hike up the Boulevard Trail to the lodge on the summit of Mt. LeConte, and then a Friday morning hike down the Alum Cave Trail. By acclamation I've been forbidden to change the format. It breaks up the work-week and gets men home for the weekend with their families.

The lodge on Mt. LeConte is a welcoming, rustic group of cabins with a dining hall. The setting at 6,400 feet is refreshing. The cabins are heated but without electric lights. There is no WIFI. At night, the lights of Gatlinburg shine below us. Sometimes if you lean out with your arm extended your cellphone might acquire a signal. Supplies are brought to the lodge by llamas.

The food at the lodge is simple and always the same. We eat family style. Dinner is beef tips, mashed potatoes, green beans, cornbread, and cookies. Bad jokes and tall tales flow freely. Breakfast is coffee, Tang, sausage, eggs, grits, and biscuits with apple butter.



Men of all ages  
gather on the first  
Wednesday morning  
of most months for the  
Men's Big Breakfast.  
Watch for details!

**"Sometimes you do things that  
serve others and you don't realize  
you're doing it or the depth of  
the impact."**

- STUART GARNER

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A member of our clergy sets a theme over dinner on Wednesday, we hike on it, and after dinner Thursday we talk about it. Profoundly personal stories have been shared over the years that forge quietly powerful bonds among those present. All of us become comrades in a community formed by the exertion, the weather (snow, cold, rain, fog, or brilliant sunshine), the spellbinding scenery, and the time together.

Thursday evening concludes with Compline on the summit after the sun goes down. It's hard to put into words how impactful celebrating Compline on a mountaintop at sunset can be.

Many get up early Friday to watch the sunrise on Myrtle Point. After breakfast together we hike down the mountain, arguing over who snores the loudest: Verdery Kerr or Adam Zeck.

## WHY IT MATTERS

This hike has become a pilgrimage-like event for many of the participants who return yearly. A continuity has been established that adds to the familiarity of the experience. Fathers and sons often come together.

Comradeship, the sense of community formed by these experiences, is shared by those of us who organize and those who join us. Walking creates friendship. It levels the playing field.

There is a small group of repeat participants that creates cohesion, but most of the time the majority experiences something new, and the personality of the group changes each year -- sometimes pensive, sometime boisterous. We all remember fondly the young man who carried a 12-pack





of beer (on ice!) up the mountain on a hot fall day and shared it with all of us as we reached the lodge. Or the man who surprised us with bagpipes, which he pulled from his pack and played “Amazing Grace” as we finished Compline.

The freedom to be quiet, to walk at one’s own pace, or to share very personal thoughts while walking or rocking in a chair on the cabin porch, makes this excursion unique.

I just had lunch with a man who has been on seven or eight trips. I asked him why he kept coming back. He said he was never comfortable with Bible study groups or conferences with scheduled discussion periods. He described the LeConte trip as a uniquely spiritual time that plays out over the time together. You might only see someone once a year, but on their return you greet them like family.

**Plans are in the works to gather once again and spend time together in God’s country, October 30 – November 1.  
To reserve a spot, contact Stuart Garner at 704-996-9230 or [sjggag@bellsouth.net](mailto:sjggag@bellsouth.net).**

# For the Joy of Singing

Robert and Caitlin Jones share their musical gifts.

Robert Jones and Caitlin Whalan Jones joined the Christ Church Choir in October 2017, when they were both hired as section leaders. Caitlin, an alto, and Robert, a tenor, quickly became treasured members of our choir and parish community.

Though they had met a year earlier while singing in the Charlotte Master Chorale, their connection with each other deepened as Thursday night rehearsals and Sunday worship brought them together week after week. Eventually Robert and Caitlin announced their engagement and were married in 2019.

Both continued faithfully serving during the pandemic, when “singing in the choir” meant recording vocal parts at home and sending them to our AV team to be blended with other recordings to produce a choral video.

In July 2022, Caitlin and Robert welcomed their daughter, Kennedy. Juggling the demands of parenthood along with their “day jobs,” Robert and Caitlin

decided to step down from their paid positions in the choir but chose to continue offering their musical gifts as volunteers, finding new joy in singing for the love of music and their Spiritual Home.

We are grateful to Robert and Caitlin for their continued participation in our music ministry, and fortunate to hear their beautiful voices resonating in the Church on Sundays.



## Did you know?

Choir members commit to over three hours of rehearsals and worship services each week. What a gift of time and talent!

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Want to share your musical gifts through our music ministry?

Contact Ben Outen, Director of Music, at [outenb@christchurchcharlotte.org](mailto:outenb@christchurchcharlotte.org) to learn more about participating in the choir or band.

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# Setting the Table for Eucharist

Michael Murphy creates sacred spaces to welcome all ages to worship.



Michael Murphy may not realize he has a fan club but after several people mentioned how much they appreciate him, we thought it was time for a shout-out.

ONE typical Sunday requires at least 48 volunteers serving in worship roles, and at least 24 more shepherding our children and youth.

Michael serves on the Liturgical Commission representing the Altar Guild, but that doesn't paint the whole picture. You will find Michael in All Saints' Hall many Sundays preparing the altar for the Contemporary Eucharist. He also serves as a Lector and Chalice Bearer when needed. But his impact even reaches our littlest parishioners, as he often jumps in to help set up for the Discovery Eucharist as well, creating a sacred space for young children to participate in this important worship experience.

You may even see Michael serving at the Church during the week, and he always has the friendliest and most welcoming smile.

We are so grateful to Michael for his willing spirit and faithful service.

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## Want to volunteer?

For Children's Ministry, contact Sarah Ford at [fords@christchurchcharlotte.org](mailto:fords@christchurchcharlotte.org).

For Youth Ministry, contact Savannah Jane Williams at [williamss@christchurchcharlotte.org](mailto:williamss@christchurchcharlotte.org).

For ushers, Altar Guild, and other liturgical positions, contact Emily Skinner at [skinner@christchurchcharlotte.org](mailto:skinner@christchurchcharlotte.org).

For greeters, contact Kathryn Saunders at [saundersk@christchurchcharlotte.org](mailto:saundersk@christchurchcharlotte.org).

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# It's all about LOVE

A Festival for the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement

By Peggy Curlin

*Last summer, Peggy Curlin served as a volunteer at an Episcopal Church event in Baltimore. This is her reflection on that transformational experience.*

July 9 - 12, 2023, the Episcopal Church hosted an extraordinary event at the Baltimore Convention Center, a churchwide festival of worship, learning, community, and action for the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement (that's us!). The hundreds of festival attendees – lay and ordained of all ages, genders, and ethnicities – came to Baltimore from all nine provinces of the world-wide Episcopal Church.

As I was visiting my family in the Baltimore area at that time, my sister-in-law and I signed up as volunteers. We stuffed swag bags, helped attendees find their way to workshops, worship services, facilities, and lunch stations, and did whatever else was needed to keep things running smoothly. Volunteers received festival swag, free lunches and snacks, and many words of appreciation from organizers, presenters, and attendees.

We rode home humbled, invigorated, and thankful to be a part of this passionate community of faith and love, courage, and cooperation.





## BISHOP CURRY'S SERMON

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry concluded his wonderful sermon with, "Archbishop Tutu used to say, 'By himself, God won't. By ourselves, we can't. But together with God, we can.' The God who the Bible says is love.

"Together with the God who is the source of love and life, together with God we can; we can make poverty history together in partnership with God. We can do justice and love mercy and walk humbly with our God. Together with God we can clean up this environment so that there is plenty good room for all of God's children. Together with God we can create societies and a world where everybody is treated as God's somebody. Together with God we can create a world where justice really does roll down like a mighty stream and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Together with God, we can learn how to lay our swords and shields down by the riverside, to study war no more. When the power of love overcomes the love of power, then the world will know peace."

## ONE SMALL ACT OF GOD'S LOVE AT A TIME

The big festival tents of Evangelism, Creation Care, and Racial Reconciliation encompassed worship, exhibits, dozens of workshops, and panels, all in an energetic, positive, realistic, prayerful, and hopeful environment. The touchstones of worship and liturgy, formation, justice and advocacy, leadership, preaching, stewardship, and joyful music supported all aspects of the event.

The festival provided terrific resources and tools for evangelism, as well as support and renewal for those teaching and working to make God's love known in this broken world. Evangelism is about more than filling our pews. It includes living out our baptismal vows with the faith, trust, and courage to share God's love more fully and reflect the Good News of Christ Jesus.

My personal bias is that Creation Care is the underlying cure for all the issues facing the world today: creation is the ultimate evidence of God's love, and if we learn to care for creation we realize it encompasses everything: the universe, our planet, and ALL things found therein – natural resources, plants, animals – including our human species, created in the image of God.

Racial Reconciliation means learning to live together as one human family, acknowledging our complicated history, accepting the fact that we more often than not have treated each other with hostility or indifference rather than love, atoning where possible for the sins of the past, and working to bring about a world where everyone is valued. It's all about LOVE.



**"Together with God we can create societies and a world where everybody is treated as God's somebody."**

– PRESIDING BISHOP MICHAEL CURRY

That's what this festival was all about – action, in community, by each of us, one small act of God's love at a time.

## A HIDDEN TREASURE

Christ Church's own Charles Milling, Director of Contemporary and Family Worship, and his band, Live Hymnal, served as the Festival's house band. He shared: "What a gift it was to serve with my Live Hymnal brothers and sisters, pouring ourselves out for the causes of love, care of creation, and racial reconciliation. It was fitting that our favorite songs are about these topics. It was easy to pick them! This event was a hidden treasure. Next time we need to let the world know."

What impressed me the most about the Festival was the energy and focus of the young people in attendance, many serving as leaders and organizers. God is raising up a new generation eager to work towards the fulfillment of his kingdom. Alleluia!

Videos of Opening Worship with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and several other festival presentations are available at [facebook.com/PBMBCurry/videos](https://facebook.com/PBMBCurry/videos).

# HOPE soars

For Steve Hope, a pilot's license was more than the chance to visit grandchildren. It was an opportunity to volunteer his time with Angel Flights.

By Stephen Hope

*When Steve Hope was in the four-year Education for Ministry (EfM) class, he was simultaneously working to earn his pilot's license. He would tell us about the joy of flying, particularly as he and his wife could use this skill to visit their grandchildren.*

*Fast forward a few years, and at an EfM book club gathering (an offshoot of their class), Steve shared that he had since realized he could only see his grandchildren so often, and joyriding without a purpose wasn't what he wanted to do. So, he decided to volunteer his time with an organization called Angel Flights. We'll let Steve share the rest.*

A four-year-old autistic boy traveling with his mother from Columbus, Ohio to the Raleigh-Durham airport to go to Duke University Hospital for a stem cell transplant.

A man traveling from Greensboro to Newnan, Georgia for a periodic cancer treatment.

A husband with brain cancer traveling with his wife and five-year-old son from Savannah to Raleigh-Durham for treatment at Duke.

In all three cases, another pilot had picked up the patients in their hometown and flown them and, in some cases

their family members, to me. I then flew them to the city where they were receiving treatment. The four-year-old and his mother started in Chicago and met me in Columbus, Ohio. The man I picked up in Greensboro was from outside Philadelphia and the brain cancer patient was from Daytona, Florida.

Angel Flights is an incredible network of pilots who donate their time and their planes (including fuel) to perform these missions for patients who must travel to receive medical care but may not have the means to fly commercially. Many of these patients are receiving frequent periodic treatments away from home, and the costs of flying commercial would be burdensome or even prohibitive. I've flown one woman from the Charlotte area to the Atlanta area several times. She receives treatments every three weeks.





If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.

- PSALM 139:9-10



Angel Flights has strict standards for qualifying pilots and pairing up patients with pilots for a mission. Volunteer pilots must go through a screening process which includes having a certain level of flying experience and an instrument rating enabling you to fly in marginal or bad weather.

For me this has been a perfect way combine service with my passion for flying. The patients are extremely grateful. I've even made some new friends. I love that their motto is "Where Hope Soars." I'm not sure anyone there has realized that one of their pilots has the last name "Hope."



### Education for Ministry (EfM)

A small group bible and theology study, EfM offers theological training to equip lay people for ministry in the world, whether through a particular vocation, living out one's Christian faith in the secular workplace, serving others, or teaching Sunday School. Participants commit to meet weekly, September through May, for one year.

We have two active groups at Christ Church, with four trained mentors, and hope you will consider joining us. Contact Scottie Stamper at [stampers@christchurchcharlotte.org](mailto:stampers@christchurchcharlotte.org) to learn more.

# Building Bridges is her calling

Joanne Jenkins creates Beloved Community wherever she goes.

If you've been around Christ Church for very long, you probably know Joanne Jenkins. But you may not realize all the ways Joanne is building bridges in our community. On May 2, Mecklenburg Ministries Interfaith Network (MeckMIN) honored Joanne with its Bridgebuilders Award.

## RETIRED? NOT EXACTLY!

MeckMin describes Joanne as "a devotee to reconciliation and peace-seeking across the myriad divides among humans. Retired after working 44 years in nonprofits serving the needs of our most fragile neighbors, Joanne is now providing support and leadership to Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte, a mission of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. She also spends many hours volunteering on various committees and projects throughout the city and state. She's a member of Christ Episcopal Church, a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, and she says that she 'likes to keep it simple and quiet.'"

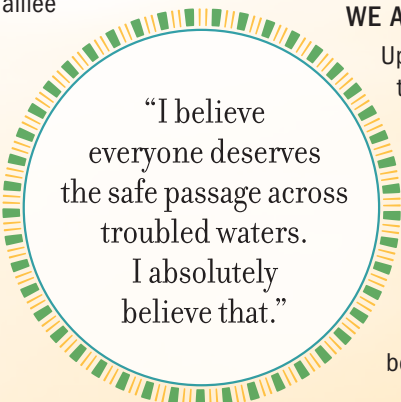
At Christ Church, Joanne serves faithfully on the Outreach and Mission Commission. She is also on the Altar Guild, a Chalice Bearer and Lector, Sacred Ground facilitator, WEBS and Thursday morning Bible study participant, and member of our Beloved Community group. Beyond our parish, she serves on the Bishop's Diocesan Racial Justice and Reconciliation Committee. A lifetime Episcopalian, she is faithful to the core and lives our mission to Love God, Care for Others, and Serve the World every day. If you don't know Joanne, you should, and the best place to find her is at the Contemporary Service on Sunday mornings.

In her presentation of the award, Christ Church Outreach Director Laura Konitzer noted, "Joanne challenges us to think about how we can show up more authentically and live in a better community with our neighbors. Joanne is curious and kind. I think she's read every book ever written. We don't really think she sleeps. Her life is lived so selflessly in service to our community."

What a blessing Joanne is to our parish and to the Charlotte community. Join with us in celebrating this well-deserved honor.

## WE ARE ALL BRIDGE BUILDERS

Upon receiving the award, Joanne shared these remarks:



"I believe  
everyone deserves  
the safe passage across  
troubled waters.  
I absolutely  
believe that."

"The best thing I can say, the only thing I really need to say up here this morning, is thank you. That is the most important thing today. I want to say that to Mecklenburg Ministries and to each of you because we are all bridge builders. If we weren't bridge builders we would not be in this room.

"Mecklenburg Ministries has been a very consistent incubator for building courage in people to do the kind of work that we need to do. Everybody needs a safe place and safe people who keep showing up. Everybody needs that kind of support because social justice and compassion work is very, very, very hard. And just when you think you've got one footpath cleared, somebody comes along and dumps something right there.

*(continued)*









MeckMIN represents nine different local faith traditions, including Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Baha'i, Hindu, Sikh, and Unitarian.

"I think bridge builders are spiritual engineers. They are always trying to look at something in a different way. Bridges carry a lot of weight all over the world. And bridges know what's in the water, bridges can feel what's in the water. They can feel the trembling of the earth.

#### **SAFE PASSAGE ACROSS TROUBLED WATERS**

"And somehow they stay up. And somehow they create ways for people to get across. And everyone, and I really mean everyone, especially those people that are just opposite of you. However you are going to describe it, politically, through your faith practices, all the other ways that you like to divide each other up and label. But I believe everyone deserves the safe passage across troubled waters. I absolutely believe that.

"And for a city that doesn't have a visible river going through it, Charlotte has some mighty swirling pools, a lot of currents, and you can get caught in these swirls and all you're trying to do is make it to shore. And there are people who are swirling in some of the neighborhoods of Charlotte.

#### **WE ARE THERE TO ENSURE WE ALL MAKE IT**

"They're swirling. There are people who just got here, to Charlotte, with their infants tied around their neck, having walked from Venezuela for a month, and they're trying to get to shore. And every — every — human being deserves not to have to suffer or drown themselves. And that's what I think bridge builders do; we are just there to ensure that we all make it. You don't know how, but you'll make it and you're not alone."

"Thank you for everything that you all are doing. Thank you for acknowledging the fact that as soon as 9 am comes and we have said 'Amen,' our work is going to be waiting right outside the door. We just need to take our blinders off and let a little bit of light in and be ready for surprises.

"I know I'm the one that's usually walking around with some Quikrete and a caulk gun just quietly trying to keep things together until somebody smarter can come along. So, guys, peace be with you and thank you for this award."

MeckMin is our partner in the work of interfaith community bridge building. The next Open Table will be Thursday, September 19. Visit [christchurchcharlotte.org/outreach](http://christchurchcharlotte.org/outreach) for details and to sign up.



# Funny stories and heartfelt generosity

“Pinkney Rankin said he loved Christ Church so much he knew he would continue to make an annual pledge, even from the grave.”

By Joe Kluttz

In 2009, when I was asked to help start what became the “Oak Circle,” I began with a little research. As it turned out, there was one, and only one, planned gift documented at Christ Church: it was in the form of a thoughtful letter penned by Pinkney Rankin a few years prior. He and Jo had worked with their lawyer to make sure they could include Christ Church as part of their legacy of generosity in Charlotte and beyond.

Months later, as the Oak Circle was taking shape, I spoke with Pinkney and Jo about their extraordinary forethought. In typical style, he responded with a witty, Pinkney-esque response that in few words reminded all of us why planned giving is important at Christ Church. To paraphrase, he said he loved Christ Church so much, he knew he would continue to make an annual pledge, even from the grave.

One further note about Pinkney. To launch the Oak Circle, our steering committee decided to have an event in the Blue Room, inviting people to come and share their reminiscences about Christ Church. We asked Pinkney to be our emcee.

We had no idea how parishioners would respond to a planned giving promotion. With Pinkney as the headliner, though, before we knew it we had people hanging from the rafters. The many funny and heartfelt stories that he and others told that day contributed to a truly great event. That got us started and the rest is history.

Since the beginning of the effort, Christ Church has received over \$3 million through the commitments of Oak Circle members who have passed away, and we have documented bequest intentions from 135 living parishioners (representing 85 households).

Pinkney passed away in March 2024 at the age of 98, but in a very real sense his soul lives on in the Oak Circle.

**Did you know?**  
85 households  
(135 individuals) are  
currently members of  
Oak Circle.



# Your Generosity

## at work in the world

This year, funds from the annual stewardship campaign as well disbursements from the Christ Church Foundation provided \$572,000 for outreach and mission and supported 42 different organizations in Charlotte and beyond.

### Outreach Grants

Total Budget \$450,000

#### Housing Stability & Solutions to Homelessness

Charlotte Family Housing	\$40,000
Roof Above	30,000
Habitat for Humanity	60,000
The Relatives	10,000
YWCA (WIT/Families Together)	10,000

#### Economic Opportunity & Stabilization

Crisis Assistance	\$40,000
Nourish Up	23,000
BraveWorks	13,500
Common Wealth CLT	11,000

#### Children, Youth & Educational Equity

Thompson Child/Family Focus	\$7,500
Charlotte Bilingual Preschool	12,000
Freedom School Partners	48,000
Communities in Schools	65,000
Rama Road Annual Budget	9,000
Heart Math Tutoring	10,000

#### Reconciliation & Restorative Social Justice

Galilee Ministries of East CLT	\$22,500
RAIN	5,000
Foster Village	8,500
Center for Community Transition	8,000
YWCA (Eliminating Racism)	8,000

#### Miscellaneous/Other

MeckMin Dues	\$1,000
Research & Development	1,000
Undesignated Outreach	2,500
Administrative: Pilgrimage/Mission	500
Administrative: Room in the Inn	1,000
Administrative: Habitat Build	500
Immediate Response	2,000

### 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

Total Funds \$76,000

Academy of Goal Achievers	\$10,000
Baby Bundles	3,000
BraveWorks	2,500
Community Kitchen Program	5,000
Families Forward Charlotte	4,000
Furnish for Good	5,000
Harvest Center	5,000
ourBridge for Kids	2,000
Safe Alliance	10,000
Southminster	10,000
The ROC	6,000
Time Out Youth	2,000
Wayfinders	7,500
Nourish Up	1,500
Reimagining America Project	2,500

### Christ Church Foundation Habitat Fund

2024 CCF Habitat Fund	\$15,000
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# Leaving a *Legacy*

"The Oak Circle is the easiest club to join."

By Frank & Peggy Horne

We both believe in the mission of Christ Church and have been blessed to raise our children and grandchildren in our Spiritual Home. When we think of the future we want to leave a meaningful gift to help Christ Church. We trust that a planned gift to Christ Church will help the legacy continue.

We are especially focused on the Christ Church Foundation. It offers us the ability to give a planned gift that will impact our children and grandchildren, and hopefully yours too, for many years to come.

A gift to the Foundation allows us to designate our gift to a specific fund (Outreach, Habitat, Scholarships, Clergy Housing, or Christ Church's Buildings and Grounds) or leave the gift unrestricted.

If you prefer to make a more immediate impact, you can plan for a gift to the Church as a whole. Everyone can make a contribution to whatever is most important to them.

The Oak Circle is the easiest club to join. Just make a planned gift to our Spiritual Home and you are in! It is really simple to set up. In our case we added Christ Church as one of the beneficiaries to our insurance policy.

Financial support of our Spiritual Home and its mission is an enduring need. We encourage each member to consider a planned gift. We hope you will join us and other Christ Church families who have made a similar commitment.



Learn more about Oak Circle at  
[christchurchcharlotte.org/give/#planned-giving](http://christchurchcharlotte.org/give/#planned-giving).



# transforming HEARTS

Our Vision for Faith, Connection, and Wellbeing

We are making history together! Thanks to your generosity, big developments are underway in our ministries and on our campus.







This campaign raised over \$33 million in pledges for projects which include new and improved spaces, outreach, the Center for Wellbeing and Care, and deepening faith formation for all ages.

While the Nursery Suites are under renovation, the Nursery has been temporarily relocated to L101 & L102. The Parlor has been relocated and redecorating is in progress, with new furnishings on the way. The Blue Room is temporarily closed to accommodate work on our new Center for Wellbeing and Care. And the expanded parking lot is almost finished!

Visit [christchurchcharlotte.org/heart](http://christchurchcharlotte.org/heart)s to learn more about these projects, as well as outreach and other initiatives funded by the Transforming Hearts, Changing Lives campaign.

# Notes of *Gratitude*

Your generosity empowered these students to do great things



**Graham McPhail, Sophomore at NC State University, Christ Church member:**

I am majoring in Chemistry and have added Physics as a double major, in which I hope to pursue further study after undergrad. I have been involved in the NC State University Theatre program as well, working lights and sound for their major productions in the Fall and Spring semester, and I am also a part of the school's Symphonic Band, playing percussion. This summer I will be studying abroad at Oxford University with the Honors Program, where I will be taking courses in Shakespearean literature and modern British history. Overall, it has been a fantastic experience. It is an environment with many other curious and motivated students, and I am glad to be a part of the community here.

Thank you again for your generosity and opportunity with this scholarship.



**Ed Smith, Seminarian at Sewanee:**

I am middler seminarian at Sewanee and a Postulant for Holy Orders from the Diocese of North Carolina. I am here with my 14-year-old son. It is a busy life and it has its moments, but we are making it and learning a lot.

I am doing my field education at Christ Cathedral Church in Nashville, TN. It has been a great experience, and I have learned a lot. I have also been awarded a grant to travel to Cape Town, South Africa this summer to work with a parish there to learn more about how the Anglican church handled coming out of Apartheid in comparison to how the Episcopal Church came out of segregation in the American South.

I thank you all again for your support, and when I am in Charlotte I would love to come by and speak to you all in person.



The Christ Church  
Foundation awarded  
a total of \$13,000  
in scholarships  
last year.

**Tess Culpepper, UNCC Graduate, daughter of staff member Jane Siemens:**

I graduated cum laude from University of North Carolina Charlotte with a BFA in Illustration last December. During my final semester, I wrote and fully illustrated *Tiny Hope*, a small book about mental health and connecting to nature, as my final thesis project. This book was displayed in our senior show, "Collected Fragments," in UNCC's upper Rowe Gallery. My favorite class last semester was Illustration Projects, the class in which we focused on these projects, because I got to know and support my fellow graduating illustrators and explore where my own passions lie.

I would not have been able to do it without the support of the Christ Church Foundation. Again, thank you so much to everyone involved.



**Fay Palmer, Union Theological Seminarian, former staff member:**

My seminary journey continues and I am LOVING it! It's a lot of time and hard work, but the reward of a deeper and more inspirational relationship with God is amazing.

The financial support I received from Christ Church last year helped provide me the opportunity to stay on this journey. I was able to officially declare myself a dual-degree student, which means when I finish my education I will hold both a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Christian Education.

I fall deeper in love with God's word each week. Learning to research and translate the texts, discussing them with my fellow students and professors, and preaching the divinely inspired word is a tremendous privilege. These are values I saw during my time on staff at Christ Church, too, and I am grateful for your continued prayers of support.



Scholarships are granted annually to undergraduate and seminary students. Visit [christchurchcharlotte.org/give/#ccf](http://christchurchcharlotte.org/give/#ccf) for details.

The Disciple (USPS#679-610)  
Published quarterly by  
Christ Episcopal Church

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to  
Christ Episcopal Church  
1412 Providence Road  
Charlotte, NC 28207-2543



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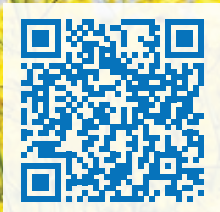
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# mark your calendar

Upcoming Events at Christ Church



July 14  
**Church at the Farm**

July 10, 17 & 24  
**Summer Soul Camp**

July 21 & August 18  
**Newcomer Coffees**

July 28, August 11 & 25  
**Sunday Fundays**

July 29  
**Light Reading/Heavy Hors d'oeuvres**

August 4  
**Dignity Drive**

August 25  
**Blessing of the Backpacks**

For more informaton, visit [www.christchurchcharlotte.org](http://www.christchurchcharlotte.org)