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## Saying Goodbye and Hello

The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli

It is a lot of pressure writing this last Rector's column. So much so that I procrastinated and now this is the last piece submitted, far past deadline. I'm not quite sure what to say. It is too early to say goodbye. My gratitude for this church that has formed me as a priest and a person is still too infused by the sadness of leaving that I can't yet put it into words.

In preparing for leaving, a quote from psychologist, John Hughes, stood out to me "... saying 'Hello' and saying 'Good-bye' are the two major learning tasks all humans need to accomplish." Hellos and Goodbyes are inevitable. The many minor ones we experience along the way can prepare us for the major ones of our life. If we do the minor ones well, we'll be able to do the major ones well too.

One of the things that surprised me when I came to Washington is that even in casual conversation on the playground someone would ask, "how long are you in Washington?" There was a pre-screening process – how much will I invest in this relationship?

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## What's Next for Christ Church

Anne Curry, Senior Warden

Transition and change are a part of life. Whether you are new or a longtime member, now is an exciting time to be part of Christ Church Capitol Hill. In the midst of this it is also time to reflect, reconnect and discover again who we are. It will happen. One step at a time. In the meantime, the vestry continues to meet and take steps dedicated to a transparent, positive and faithful transition process. On March 10, the wardens and vestry will meet with Paula Clark, Canon to the Ordinary from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington to begin that process. After that meeting, we hope to establish a time line. We will keep you updated regularly as we select an interim minister and then appoint the search committee who will evaluate applicants for the position of our next rector.

**Parish Goodbye Events:**  
Family Friendly Open House  
Saturday, 3/30, 2pm-5pm  
Church Front Lawn  
(or Parish Hall if inclement weather)

Sunday Morning Send-off 3/31  
9am and 11am Services and  
Coffee Hours

After we say our goodbyes, Paula Clark will return on **April 7** to preach at both the 9 am and 11 am services and will be presenting during the adult forum time in the parish hall about the transition and search process. As the transition process moves forward, there will be many opportunities for members of the parish to contribute to various ministries. We owe it to ourselves to keep these ministries thriving, attendance high and pledging strong. The Vestry invites you to be an active participant in the process.

The Rev. Canon Paula Clark will preach at 9am and 11am and present about the transition process at 10am in the Parish Hall on Sunday April 7th.

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## New Outreach Leadership

Christ Church has exciting new outreach leadership for 2019. Jean Denton will chair the CC+WP outreach committee. As a long time Hill resident with years of involvement in various Christ Church and community activities, including the CC+WP Homeless Lunches program and volunteering at the DC Central Kitchen, serving on the board of the Hill Preschool, chairing events for CHAW, and tutoring students, Jean brings a wealth of experience to the Outreach Committee.



Ed Warren has just been elected as President of the Board of Samaritan Ministries, bringing to Christ Church the opportunity for greater involvement as a partner parish supporting SMGW. Ed has served on the Boards of SMGW and of StriveDC, an employment program for low-income residents. SMGW and Strive merged in 2016, forming a stronger, more multi-faceted organization to assist individuals who are homeless or living in poverty.

In 2018 the parish provided 1200 bag lunches to the CCNV homeless shelter in NW DC; washed 728 loads of laundry for low-income residents in Ward 8; and provided at least 40 casseroles to Our Daily Bread, a feeding program at the Capitol Hill United Methodist Church. We also assisted with housing repairs in rural Appalachia Kentucky; provided toys for Community Action Group families; and partnered with Capitol Hill Group Ministries to provide school supplies, thanksgiving baskets, and a summer supper as part of Grill and Chill. Additional financial and other resources were provided to Samaritan Ministries, Buenos Vecinos (in Guatemala and Honduras), the Arthur Capper Senior Fund, and Good Neighbors Capitol Hill.

The Outreach Committee is open to all who have an interest in bringing God's love to individuals within the Capitol Hill community, the DC region, throughout the United States and across the world. Over the next year we will be examining what we currently do, how we can be more effective, and whether there are new efforts that should be undertaken by the parish. Please join us and bring your ideas and thoughts about how we can be God's hands and feet here on Capitol Hill. Watch the parish announcements for meeting dates and time.

Wallis McClain won the quilt at St. Nick's. The quilt raffle raised \$4,795 for Buenos Vecinos and refugee resettlement.



### Join the quilters for fun and good works.

Beginner and advanced sewers are invited to join the quilters in making the 2019 raffle quilt and quilts for Project Linus. The quilters meet from 7:30 to 9:30 pm most Mondays in the upper rooms of the Parish Hall. For 35 years we have been making quilts to raise money for good causes and to provide quilts for other occasions. Open to women, and men, young and old, CC+WP members and folks from the community, it is a time for good conversation and creative endeavors. Come every week, once a month, or whenever the spirit moves--but do ask to be placed on the quilters e-mail list so you get notification of schedule changes and special events. Talk with Linda Mellgren (p3mp4@verizon.net) or Andrea Harles (andrea@harles.com) if you want more information and to be added to the quilters e-mail list.

### Are you an expert on Asia or Africa?

Are you an expert on a country/countries in Asia or Africa? Have you traveled or lived in Asia and Africa? Do you have interesting facts and stories you can tell to inquisitive young boys about your experiences? Bishop Walker School is looking for folks to spend class time with their students to explore what it is like to live or work in different parts of the world. This semester the focus is on Asia and Africa. If you would be willing to participate in this activity, contact Charles Bolden (a current BWS lunch time buddy) or Linda Mellgren and they will connect you with the school.



## SAMARITAN MINISTRY'S 2019 *Next Step* Breakfast A high-energy, inspired gathering

Ed Warren and the CC+WP Outreach Committee invite you to attend

The Next Step Breakfast on March 14 at the National Press Club (529 14th Street NW Washington DC) at 7:30 AM. Come and hear in person stories of life changing transformations. This one hour complementary breakfast meeting highlights what Samaritan Ministries does and how you can participate. To attend, talk with Ed Warren or Vicki Smith or register at <http://bit.ly/SMGWNSB2019>.

### Time Change Sunday—March 10th

Move your clocks forward an hour and bring any loose change you have on hand for our Lenten outreach project—buying books for Bishop Walker School

## Lenten Book Drive at Bishop Walker School

In 2017 CC+WP provided Christmas books for the BWS students and their siblings and collected used children's books for the school library. This year, as a Lenten giving discipline, the Outreach Committee is sponsoring a new-book drive to buildup the school's library. You can help by buying a book, or two or three or one each week during Lent and bringing or having the books sent directly to the church. There will be large orange bags at the Welcome Table for you to place the books for BWS. Book lists are available on the school's website (Amazon Wish List, in the info rack by the parish hall bulletin boards, and at East City Books).



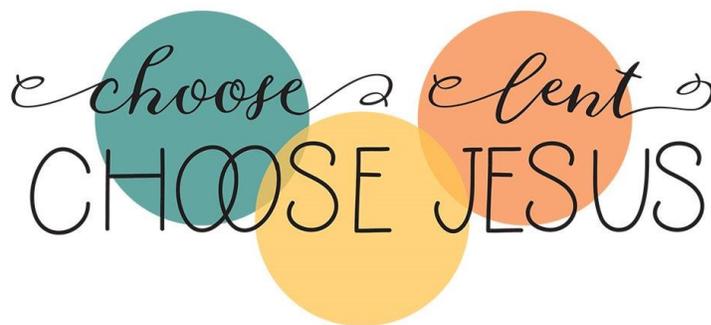
The Bishop Walker School for Boys (from prekindergarten to 6<sup>th</sup> grade) is a tuition-free Episcopal school for children from traditionally underserved communities. BWS has recently moved to become part of the Town Hall Education Arts Recreation Campus (THEARC) in Anacostia. This partnership enables the students to enjoy the wide array of resources available at THEARC including a gymnasium, an art theater, the Levine School of Music, the Washington Ballet, and Children's National Medical Center. But to help the school realize it's goal of creating an environment where each boy is challenged to reach his full academic potential and receives the support necessary to develop his unique gifts, the school needs books—LOTS AND LOTS AND LOTS OF BOOKS.

To find the book list and to learn more about the school and its mission or to see the entire wish list go to <http://www.bishopwalkerschool.org> or [http://www.bishopwalkerschool.org/giving/support\\_our\\_wish\\_list](http://www.bishopwalkerschool.org/giving/support_our_wish_list)

Questions about the book drive, speak with Linda Mellgren or Jean Denton.

## Finding a Lenten Practice

In the season of Epiphany, our sermon series explored 8 spiritual practices as part of our Way of Love series. Forward Movement, an education and publishing group in the Episcopal Church, offers recommendations for going deeper in Lent in the practices of Go, Pray, or Worship. You can even take a quiz to find out what practice path you should choose!



The paths can be found (as can the quiz) at [www.forwardmovement.org](http://www.forwardmovement.org) and click on the Lent tab or through a link in our weekly email. Resources include book recommendations, a weekly email, and online classes. The church belongs to the online class portal so if you are interested in the classes, please email Cara or Serena and they will get you access for free.

## Lenten Film Series



Now in its seventh year, the Friday night Lenten Film Series begins March 8, 2019. We start at 6:30 p.m. with a light supper in the Parish Hall followed by a movie and discussion. These events, including the supper, are free. Mark your calendars for Friday, March 8th, March 22nd and 29th, April 5<sup>th</sup>, and concluding on April 12th. (No movie the night before our St. Patrick's Day event and no movie on Good Friday).

This year's theme focuses on the miracle stories in the New Testament. The first movie is inspired by the exorcism miracles, followed by movies inspired by the healing miracles, harnessing nature miracles, and the resurrection. The last night will examine a different way to look at miracles. Each movie will be paired with a short miracle story from the New Testament, and you may (or may not) find a connection between the film and the text.

The movie begins at 7pm, and we typically finish around 9pm.

## Christ Church Book Group

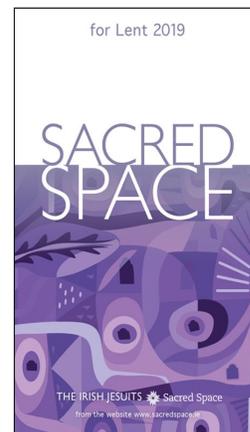
March 1st: *The Story of Arthur Truluv* by Elizabeth Berg

April: Lenten Film Series instead of book group

May 3: *For Sabbath's Sake* by J. Dana Trent

Also of interest: *The Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now* by Walter Bruggemann and *Sabbath in the Suburbs* by Mary Ann McKibben Dana.

The Christ Church Book Group meets on the first Friday of the month at 6:30pm for a light dinner, followed by a discussion of the book at 7. They reads a broad range of books with spiritual and/or religious themes, including history, current events, fiction, biographies, nonfiction and biblical topics. All are welcome.



Lenten devotionals at church—  
also available for kindle.

***From Last Supper to the Cross***  
***Adult Forum, Sundays 10am***  
***March 10th-24th***

*Join us in Lent for a Bible study on the stories from the Last Supper to the crucifixion. A lot happens between Palm Sunday and Easter—come study.*

***The Questions Jesus Asked***  
***Adult Forum, Sundays 10am***  
***May 5th-May 19th***

*Join us on these three Sundays to study the questions Jesus asked after he rose from the dead.*



**Christ Church Quilt:**

After more than 3 decades of making quilts to raffle, the Quilters last year made a quilt to hang at Christ Church. The name of the quilt is "Surprised by Joy". It is a pictorial representation of a labyrinth, or sacred path. In her book *Walking a Sacred Path* Lauren Artress writes "the labyrinth sparks the human imagination and

introduces it to a kaleidoscopic patterning that builds a sense of relationship one person to another, to many people, to the creation of the whole." Making a quilt is a lot like walking a labyrinth.

## Annual Meeting Update

On January 27th we had our annual parish meeting. The 2018 annual report is available online and in the literature rack in the parish hallway. A few highlights from the annual meeting:

The Capital Campaign is paid off!

Updates to the parish bylaws passed

New Invite Welcome Connect goals identified (see annual report)

New Vestry Members: Nathan Barker, Mike McEleney, Wallis McClain, and Lynne Schlimm

At our February Vestry meeting, the following elections occurred:

Vestry Officers

Sr. Warden: Anne Curry Jr. Warden: Todd Litchfield Treasurer: Jason Miller Clerk: Beth Mullin

Diocesan Delegates

Keith Lopes and Sherry Saunders

## Update on seminarian Elisabeth Malphurs

Our 2017-2018 seminarian, Elisabeth Malphurs will be graduating in May and returning to her home diocese to serve at St. Alban's in Bovina, Mississippi.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church is located in a beautiful country setting just outside Vicksburg, MS. The church was organized in 1857 (so not old by Christ Church standards!) and although it was destroyed in the aftermath of the Civil War, it was rebuilt soon after. The church is a wonderful mix of the very old, such as the 19th century cemetery, and the new, including an expansion of the classroom space happening this spring and summer. The people of St. Alban's have history of nurturing newly graduated seminarians in their first calls in ordained ministry.



## A Voice from Shanghai

Chris and Katherine Brewer

Last summer, Katherine and I moved to Shanghai with kids, cats, and whatever we could fit in our suitcases with the intention of staying at least two years. It was hard to leave our DC community, but once we weathered the hassles of moving, it was easy to settle in. Gabriella and Adam are enjoying school and making new friends, and we have kept busy outside of work exploring this massive city and working on our Mandarin.

Compared to the rest of China, Shanghai is very cosmopolitan and international. Many of our Chinese colleagues have lived or studied abroad and speak English well. There are around a quarter million foreigners living in Shanghai - only a drop in a city of 20 million - but compared to some parts of the country (where sighting a stray foreigner can stop traffic) it has been easy to get around and find a good IPA and a burger when necessary.

We had done some research on churches in Shanghai prior to moving, but it is hard to find good information on which churches are operational, and which have services open to foreigners. Historic churches (some of which have Anglican origin or were founded by American missionaries) are a prominent feature of the former foreign concession areas. Many were converted to offices or cultural centers, but some are still home to Christian congregations. In newer parts of the city, it was surprising to see large churches that would not look out of place in a U.S. suburb. Despite being a “foreign” faith in a country that is nominally atheist, there are Christians here. It is hard to pin down the exact number of Christians in China, but it is certainly growing. By some estimates, China could have more churchgoers than America by 2030.

As for us, we are only welcome to attend a small number of churches open to foreign passport holders, which has made it challenging to find a church home. Christian churches that may allow foreigners can be classified only as either Roman Catholic or “Protestant”, therefore, Protestant churches in Shanghai with English-language services must find a way to accommodate a wide spectrum of traditions. We found they have a worship style that would be most familiar to members of a Bible Church - a set of contemporary Christian music followed by a Sermon. It was interesting to see a congregation of people from around the world come together to worship, but for us, the liturgy and Eucharist are important parts of worship. We are planning to visit a church group with a more traditional service, but they meet on the other side of the city.

While Christians are not subject to anywhere near the level of persecution they experienced during the Cultural Revolution, being a Christian here is still not easy. This is particularly true for Christians outside the government-sanctioned Catholic and Protestant churches. Members of “home churches,” which despite the name often have large buildings and hundreds of members, have been subject to arrest and closure of church buildings. There was a rash of these crackdowns around the Christmas season, and churches around the country have an uncertain future. Please keep the Christians of China in your prayers.

This past Christmas, we missed being home, but Shanghai felt very “Christmassy” - especially in the malls, of which there are hundreds (Charlie Brown would have disapproved). We also experienced a homegrown Christmas tradition that has recently grown in popularity: Giving apples as gifts on Christmas Eve (since the word for apple is very similar to the word for Christmas Eve). Now, Chinese New Year has come around. There are many beliefs and customs associated with Spring Festival that we are learning about for the first time. But seeing friends and colleagues celebrate this holiday, it seems to us that the good feelings we associate with Christmas - warmth, generosity, reuniting with family and the desire for a fresh start in the new year - are out in spades this time of year. With that in mind, we would like to wish you all a Happy New Year! We have been blessed with a second family and church home at Christ Church, and we hope you'll stay in touch.

With Love,

The Brewers - Chris, Katherine, Adam and Gabriella



# Holy Week and Easter Services

## Palm Sunday—April 14th

9:00 am and 11:00 am | Holy Eucharist

10:40 | Palm Procession from Eastern Market (Port City Java)

Children are especially welcome!

## Tenebrae Service

Wednesday, April 17th, 7pm

A services of shadows and musical meditation

## Maundy Thursday Service

Thursday, April 18th, 7pm

6pm simple dinner with liturgists and choir

(all are welcome)



## Good Friday Service

Friday, April 19th at Noon and 7pm

## Easter Sunday Services

Sunday, April 21st

6:30 am| Sunrise Service at Congressional Cemetery

9:00 am| Holy Eucharist followed by Easter Egg Hunt and Festive Coffee Hour

11:00 am| Holy Eucharist followed by Easter Egg Hunt and Festive Coffee Hour



## Holy Humor Sunday

April 28th at 9am and 11am

## Easter Flowers and Music

Every year congregants sign up to honor loved ones (living and dead) by donating funds to cover the cost of our special flowers and music for the holiday. A sign-up sheet will be on the board, and we will include the names of those honored in our Easter bulletins.

*Suggested donation is \$25.*



## Who is that person in the pew?

Mike Grace

### Meet New Members Alicia Gomez and Andy Ensor

#### An Interview with Alicia Gomez and Andy Ensor in their own words

**Alicia-** I grew up in Dayton, Ohio. I was the youngest of four girls. We all went to Catholic school. My parents made a lot a sacrifices to get us a better education. I went to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, majoring in international studies, Latin American studies, and Spanish. I also did ROTC. After graduation I moved to Texas for a year for my intelligence school training in the Air Force. It was in San Angelo, Texas. Upon completion of my training, I was transferred to Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, NM. I did was teaching there and I also worked with Air Force Research Labs doing intelligence advisement for technology development. I did that for four years.

**Andy** – I am the youngest of five children. My dad was in the Air Force. We moved a lot, so I had a different kind of experience. It was tough as a kid moving all of the time, but I learned to make friends quickly. One good thing that came from all of the moves, was that I got to live in Germany. I went to high school at St. Marks School, an Episcopalian prep school outside of Boston. I got a scholarship to the boarding school for hockey. My aim was to get a hockey scholarship for college. I went to Colorado State. After hockey injures in my freshman and sophomore years, I realized things weren't working out as planned. I was able to get an Air Force ROTC scholarship at the University of Kentucky. An instructor in ROTC recommended I go into pilot training after graduation. I went to Columbus Air Base in Mississippi for fixed wing training. Then I went on to helicopters at Ft. Rucker, AL. After learning to fly helicopters, I went to Albuquerque for advanced helicopter training. I met Alicia in Albuquerque through a mutual friend that was traveling through Albuquerque. After we met, Alicia had to go back to San Angelo. We dated by long distance for about a year and then we got engaged. She was in Albuquerque and I was up in Wyoming at that time.

**Alicia-** We were only engaged for a month and a half. Then I was up to be reassigned. Everyone told us we should get married right away because of the Air Force policy to move married couples together to units no more than 50 miles apart. We did a court house wedding with plans to have a real wedding later. I am at Ft. Meade and Andy is at Andrews AFB. We both got assignments that were good for our careers. We have been here almost a year.

**Alicia-** We had been having the conversation ever since we were dating about how to reconcile our different paths, mine Catholic and his Episcopalian. We tried one Episcopal Church, but it was too formal. We looked at a couple of other churches. Then I saw Christ Church one day and we decided to give it a try. On our first visit, Cara made her announcement about "Welcome everyone. This is the way we do things here. If you are new..." We felt so welcomed. She came up to us after the service and said, "I saw you filling out your little blue card." Walking home we said this is the perfect place for us.



## Property Updates

Todd Litchfield

It is exciting to report that the roof repairs on the rectory, the new roof over the kitchen and nursery area, and some exterior repairs around the Mother Window have kept the water out! For those of you who have followed the ups and downs of keeping water out of the building, you know what great news this is.

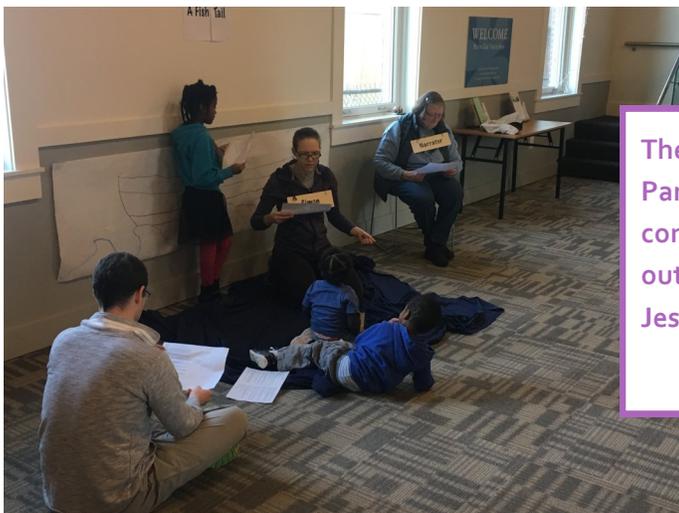
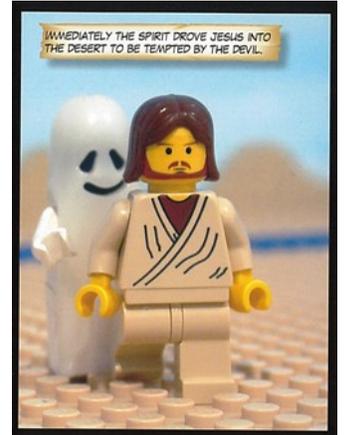
Unfortunately, the tree in the center of the courtyard was designated a hazard by a tree specialist, and the tree was removed. Other than that, other work in the property area has been focused on negotiating new contracts for our trash and HVAC service.

## Lent is more than a second chance at your new year's resolutions

Even young children begin to think that Lent is about “giving something up.” They hear adults talk about cutting out chocolate, wine, and the like. An older child once told me, “It’s like my mom and dad get to try again on their new year’s resolutions.”

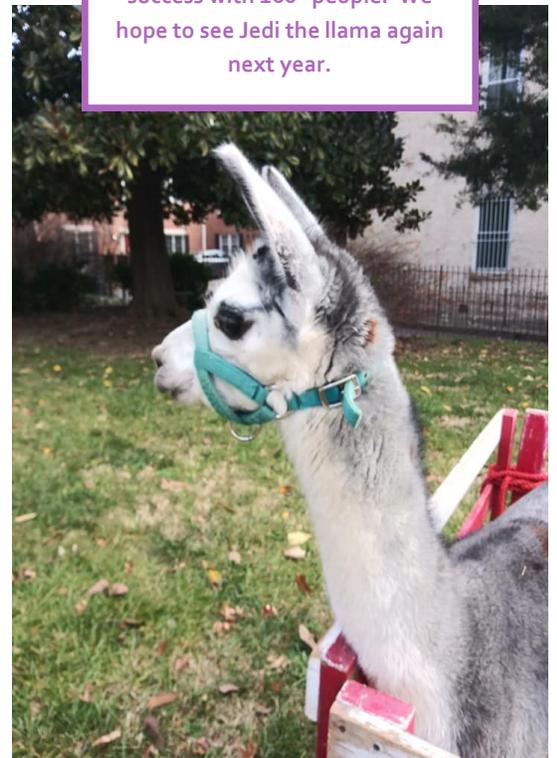
Here are some ways you can help your children (and yourselves) understand Lenten disciplines. “Giving something up” is only one way to observe Lent. It is a kind of fast that connects us to Jesus’s suffering and reminds us that he overcame his temptations in the desert. Another way to observe Lent is to take on a new discipline, like daily prayer for specific people or saying grace at the dinner table. Either way, talk to your child about what you are doing. If you take on a new family activity, get their help in saying grace or praying for specific people.

Here’s the key, though, for you and your children. We need to remember to put God at the center of our Lenten disciplines. In an ideal world, every time you get a craving for forbidden chocolate, you ask God to help you overcome your temptation. Every time you think you are going to blow off your prayers, you ask God to help you stay focused on God’s people. In this way, our Lenten disciplines can remind us that we are fallible humans who need God in our lives. They can demonstrate that we are preparing in a thoughtful way for Holy Week. Let your children hear you say, “God, help me find time to pray” or “God, help me resist temptation.” It will be educational for them and transformative for your relationship with God.



The February Skit Parade gathered congregants to act out stories from Jesus' life.

Our new petting zoo and 11am Christmas Eve Service was a great success with 160 people. We hope to see Jedi the llama again next year.



## Spring Children's Choir

We welcome children who are in kindergarten and above to join our Children's Choir, under the leadership of Susan Holmes and Richard Thibadeau. Children will offer their song to the parish during worship on Sunday, May 19, at 11am. Rehearsals are Monday evenings, 6:30-7:00pm on April 29, May 6 and May 13. Sign-up your child with Rev. Serena ([formation@washingtonparish.org](mailto:formation@washingtonparish.org)).

## Rector's Column continued

After living here for four years and turning over two cycles of friends, I realized the usefulness of the pre-screening. It is hard to be left. At the same time one of my favorite things about Washington is that most people are open to new friendships because, unlike in less transient places, they have room in their lives for them – emotionally and logistically since a friend and extended family group are not locked in place.

The regularity of hellos and goodbyes could form people who are closed off to getting attached fearing the inevitable loss. This has not been characteristic of Christ Church. As hard as it is at times, the coming and going has created a spirituality of openness to the present – valuing the people who are here at this time and place. It doesn't mean we don't miss those who have died or moved. Somehow though God keeps showing up in the people who walk through the doors of the church, and we are never without people who are faithful seekers and servants of the Lord. Nor do we lack people who are interesting, funny, intelligent, and full of gifts to share. Seeing that may or may not ease the grief of the loss, but it definitely improves one's openness to the people of the present.

This goodbye is a bit different. It isn't just me and my family you are saying goodbye too. It is a voice and style and presence that has shaped a community important to your life. Probably half of you have never known Christ Church without my regular presence preaching and celebrating. There will be lots of talk about change and transition and anxiety about what comes next and the best way to go about it. The diocese will offer assistance, the dozens of people in the congregation who have been through this before will offer valuable insight, and you will call your next rector to Christ Church. I promise that will happen. What I encourage and pray for you is that as hard as the goodbye is (and all the change and transition that comes with it), keep yourself open to the hello that awaits. In a not too distant future, walking through the doors of Christ Church will be your next rector with gifts, quirks, and things to learn just as I did almost nine years ago. Your openness to the ministry God has for Christ Church with that priest will be vital to the spiritual growth of you personally and this church communally.

**Parish Goodbye Events:**  
Family Friendly Open House—3/30 2pm-5pm  
Sunday Morning Send-off—3/31

**Additional Ministry-Related Goodbyes**  
20s/30s Group— 3/18 (offsite)  
Liturgists—3/20 (offsite)  
Vestry Members 2010-2019— 3/23 (offsite)  
Wednesday Morning Group—3/27 7:30am

**A Photo Array of the last 9 years:** Here are some of the pictures from the church photo collection that I'm making copies of to take with me. It is a good visual spread of some of my favorite things about life and ministry with you and the importance it has been in my family's life. Thanks for the memories, Cara+





How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! Ps.133:1

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## St. Patrick's Dinner & Lotto Saturday, March 16th 6pm



Join parish families, friends, and neighbors for our annual St. Patrick's Day event. We will serve traditional Irish fare – corned beef & cabbage, potatoes, and bread – as well as the special beer brewed by our own Christ Church Brew Crew.

We will have a variety of auction items to bid on as well as the 50/50 lottery. Adults are \$30, children 12 and under are \$10. All proceeds after expenses will support the parish outreach projects.

Child care will be available for children of all ages. The nursery will be open for the children ages three and under. Pizza, crafts and movie for children PK and above will be held in the Upper Rooms.

Stay tuned for more information about the event as well as auction items.

Please join us and enjoy this Christ Church tradition!