

## With Gratitude

## The Rev. Serena Sides

Dear Parishioners,

It is a bittersweet time. I have only a few more weeks among you before my last Sunday on July 21. As I have reflected on these past two years as your Assistant Rector and the eighteen months I spent as your seminarian, I am grateful for our time together.

Above all I am grateful that you are such a healthy parish because you made it possible for me to love being a priest. You are healthy in spirit, financial resources, and how you interact with each other and with your clergy and staff. You were secure enough in yourselves that you were willing to give me a try as your preacher, celebrant, and leader of your children's ministries. You welcomed me into your joys and heartaches, at the births of your babies and the deaths of your loved one, and the pastoral needs of your daily lives. I was able to branch out and invite you into small groups and many of you took that risk. The vestry said yes when I asked them to take on the welcome table ministry. I had the resources for new Sunday School curriculum, new books on faith and the Bible for our small groups, and to make our space more welcoming. When you offered me feedback, I knew you did it with respect and affection, and often with humor. I know you will welcome the next clergy in the same way that you welcomed me.



### Farewell Events:

Grill & Chill for the Sides Family  
Wednesday, July 17, 6:30pm  
Church Front Lawn

Sunday Morning Send-off, July 21  
9am and 11am Coffee Hours

You encouraged me and embraced me when I took risks in all areas of my priesthood. I have grown from a seminarian into a priest thanks to you.

With warmest wishes and deep gratitude,  
Serena, Assistant Rector

## Welcome The Rev. Dr. Rick Miles, Interim Rector



The Christ Church Vestry is pleased to announce that The Rev. Dr. Richard (Rick) Miles has answered the call to serve as our Interim Rector. He and his wife, D'Aun (pronounced Dee-Awn, like Dion) plan to be in Washington on July 1 and will be living in the rectory. For the past 8 years, Rev. Rick served as Rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Reidsville, NC. Originally from California, he received his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary. There will be additional information soon but we wanted to share this exciting news as we move to the next chapter in our transition.

# An Appreciation of The Rev. Serena Wille Sides

As we prepare to send Serena to Nashville with our good wishes, I have been reflecting on what her years of ministry in this parish have meant to our community and to me personally. Following Serena's arrival in November 2015, I served on her lay committee, chaired by Shawn Freeman, and thus had the opportunity to work closely with her from the start.

As a seminarian, Serena used her skills from 12 years of law practice to give her first sermons without notes, which impressed us all! Her initial sermons suggested she had not yet found her own voice, so her lay committee provided constructive feedback and quickly saw improvement in both the content and delivery of her sermons.

She initiated a "Faith + Work" project for Epiphany in early 2016, interviewing several parishioners about the connection between their work and their faith. She conducted public versions of these interviews over a series of Sundays to help us all gain a better understanding of the role our faith plays in our work lives.

Serena began filling a pastoral care role, too. I personally benefitted from her thoughts about prayer. I told her my attempts at prayer were disjointed and unstructured, and I didn't know whether there was any point in trying to pray. Serena helped me see that thoughts of concern for people who were dealing with illness or a death in the family, for example, were really fragments of prayer. All I needed to do was make these thoughts a little more intentional and they would become prayers. I followed her suggestion and began praying more often. Her insight, which came at a time when I had begun participating in a small prayer circle, expanded my understanding and practice of prayer.

Serena became our Assistant Rector in June 2017, shortly after graduating from Virginia Theological Seminary and being ordained at the National Cathedral. For the past two years Serena has had primary responsibility for the children and family ministry of Christ Church – an increasingly important ministry as the number of children in our parish has continued to grow.

As a full-fledged priest, Serena had more opportunities to celebrate the Eucharist and lead adult Christian formation activities, such as the small group initiative. Her sermons became better and better. I particularly responded to her recent sermon about praying for healing rather than a cure, allowing God to work in God's own way. I also found her Good Friday homily very thoughtful; reflecting on her visit to the 9/11 memorial in New York, she said, "In each person who suffers and dies, Jesus suffers and dies." She concluded that we should not "look away from the cross" because the cross conveys not only Jesus' suffering but also God's love.

These thoughts may lead you to recall ways in which Serena touched your life through her ministry here with us. Let her know about these meaningful moments in the next few weeks, and she will carry a little bit of Christ Church with her to her new endeavors in Nashville.

by Joe Smith



## Confirmation at National Cathedral



On May 11 at Washington National Cathedral, Rev. Serena presented six of our youth for confirmation. It was a glorious service, led by Bishop Mariann, and the youth were baptized by Bishop Creighton and Gary Abrecht served as verger. The confirmands were: Marcus Beggs; Katharine Cosgrove; Jonas Howard; John Jameson; Adam Román; and, Colin Román

***To Mars and Beyond  
Sunday Bible Fun (like  
Vacation Bible School)  
was a BIG success. Thank  
you to the many volunteers  
and families.***



### ***Children's Chapel Update***

***Given all our transitions, we will not be offering Children's Chapel at the 11am service this summer. We offer worship bags with crayons, books, and other activities for children at both entrances to the sanctuary. Children's Chapel will continue to be offered at our 9am service. If you are interested in volunteering to lead children's Chapel at 11am, please contact Rev. Serena at [formation@washingtonparish.org](mailto:formation@washingtonparish.org). Thank you!***

***Sunday School  
concluded May 19th and  
begins again September  
8th with Kick-Off  
Sunday.***

## Our Transition—Rector Search *Search Committee Update*



Our Rector Search Committee was commissioned on May 19 at both the 9am and 11am services. The committee is led by two Co-Chairs, Jean Denton and Paul Laymon, and includes Ruth Kroeger, Andrew Lyons, John Payne, Karen Wilson Román, Kirsten Sloan, and Cathy Hurst Weber. The Parishioners will be able to share with the committee their opinions on the present state of the church, the future of the church, and the skills and talents we seek in our next rector.

The committee will first host a series of focus group meetings. The focus group meetings are scheduled in the parish hall for June 16 (10 am only), June 23 (10 am and 1215 pm), and July 14 (10 am and 1215 pm). The meetings will last 45 minutes and we urge each parishioner to attend

at least one of the meetings. A parishioner may attend more than one meeting. The meetings will focus on 12 key questions, and the responses to these questions will help guide the Committee in its search.

Second, a questionnaire, with the same questions discussed at the focus group meetings, will be posted to the church's website. The online questionnaire is primarily for those who cannot attend a focus group meeting, but even those who attend a focus group meeting are encouraged to complete and submit the questionnaire. Our hope is that by attending a focus group meeting, parishioners will be inspired to think more deeply about the future of the church and will have more to say in the questionnaire.

Also, the questionnaire will be available in paper format for those who do not want to respond on line. We will provide details on this later.

The Committee will distill the information gathered and publish it to the congregation. The information gathered in this process will help guide the Committee in several critical ways: in drafting the vacancy announcement to be published by the Diocese, in crafting questions to ask the applicants during search visits, and in responding to questions raised by these applicants.

Finally, the Committee can contact candidates who are recommended to the Committee by parishioners, former parishioners, and others linked to our church. If you have encountered a priest, living in the United States, who you believe would be a good rector for Christ Church, please contact a member of the Search Committee. An applicant does not have to be a United States citizen to be considered.

The meetings will last 45 minutes and we urge each parishioner to attend one of the meetings, even if you complete the questionnaire.

### **Samaritan Ministries**

#### **Oktoberfest—Save the Date**

Christ Church is hosting a fundraising and fellowship event for Samaritan Ministries on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Come enjoy brisket, beer and music--all to support a very good cause. More details will be forthcoming over the summer.



## Successful Book Drive for BWS and Next Steps



Thank you all for our very successful Lenten book drive for the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys. We donated over 200 new books for the school library and classrooms. The books have been processed and are on display to excite the students about the coming school year. A big thank you to Linda Mellgren and other volunteers. .

We hope you'll join us for a tour of the BSW campus open to Christ Church parishioners and friends this summer. Watch for information about dates and time!

Starting in the fall our Outreach Committee will explore Christ Church becoming more involved in the school's Lunch Buddies program. A Lunch Buddy is a male volunteer, who meets with a designated class at least once a month during their lunch-time. The purpose of Lunch Buddies is to have BWS students interact with men who have a history/background of being successful within their specific field of work. Lunch Buddies expose the boys to various careers and also introduce them to hobbies or talents that the boys might find of interest. Charlie Bolden is currently a Lunch Buddy at BWS.

## Food Pantry Needs Your Help

Did you know that Christ Church partners with Progress for Christ Baptist Church (501 E St SE) to provide nonperishable food for our neighbors in need? They are in urgent need of certain items and we hope you can help!

Types of needed items are:

- Canned meat or fish, such as tuna, chicken, salmon or corned beef
- Canned soup, stew and chili. ...
- Canned fruits and vegetables. ...
- Peanut Butter. ...
- Pasta, beans, and rice, dried or canned like spaghetti, mac and cheese boxes. ...
- Powdered milk
- Cereal (not the heavy sugar kind).
- Crackers
- Cooking oils, like olive or canola



One easy way to contribute is to choose an item, like a jar of peanut butter or individual applesauce containers, and make it a routine item on your grocery or Costco list. For canned products pop-top cans are a real plus. There is a wooden chest in the narthex for your contributions. Our sexton, Kevin Lindsey, delivers the food to Progress for Christ, when the chest gets full.

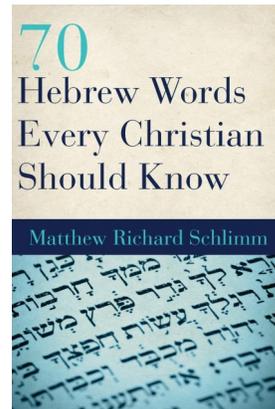
# 10 Minute Summer Series

Our post-service education series is back. This year’s topic:

## HEBREW WORDS EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD KNOW

We will explore our Hebrew Bible heritage and the Jewish world of Jesus Christ through the lens of Hebrew words such as Adam, Eve, human, amen, Hallelujah, atonement, heart, soul, God, love, Shalom, and so many more. You’ll find out which words are “word plays,” which ones have multiple meanings, and the ones for which we don’t have good translations.

So grab a cup of coffee and come back to the sanctuary after the 9am or 11am service for an 8ish minute lecture, two minutes of questions, and then depart for the summer sun. Series begins June 16th.



## Property Improvements

With the departure of Cara and her family at the end of March, the primary focus was been oversight of the renovation of the rectory in preparation for the Interim Rector and permanent Rector. Significant work on the rectory included: refinishing the floors on the main floor; painting the entire interior of the house, front porch, stoops and basement; replacement of several windows and doors that were in disrepair; cleaning of the some of the furniture that was left by the Spaccarelli/Lawyer family that will be used by the Interim Rector; and the replacement of several light fixtures and ceiling fans. The rectory looks great and will be well-prepared to receive Rev. Rick and D’Aun when they arrive at the end of June.

## The Quarter in Numbers

Easter Attendance—651

New Members — 8 households with 13 adults and 5 kids

Laundry Love Loads: 262

Bishop Walker School for Boys Lenten Book Drive—over 200 new books purchased and donated to the BWS Library

St. Patrick’s Dinner and Auction - Net \$6,389.55 (increase of 49% from 2017)



# 3 Month Calendar

## June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## June

Laundry Love/Bag Lunches	2
Vestry Meeting	2
Liturgists Meeting	5
New Member Welcome	9
Pentecost Luncheon	9
Sunday Bible Fun (VBS)	9
Search Committee Focus Groups	16
Organ Recital	16
Search Committee Meetings (Thursdays)	6-27
Search Committee Focus Groups	23
Vestry Meeting	30
Brew Crew	30

## July

July 4th Grill Out	4
Bag Lunches/Laundry Love	7
Grill and Chill (Wed. nights)	10-31
Search Committee Meetings (Thursdays)	11-25
Search Committee Focus Groups	14
The Sides Family Festive Grill & Chill	17
Rev. Serena's Farewell Sunday	21

## August

Search Committee Meetings (Thursdays)	1-29
Crab Feast	3
Bag Lunches/Laundry Love	4
Liturgists Meeting	7



Save the Date:  
 Saturday, August 3  
 5:30pm  
 Rain or Shine



Christ Church  
620 G. St. SE  
Washington, D.C. 20003  
Phone 202-547-9300



# Grill and Chill

## Wednesday Nights 6:30pm

(canceled for rain/storms)

**July 10th - 31st**

Bring a side dish or dessert

**Water activities for kids**

