

THE WAY

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL MAGAZINE

**A CATHEDRAL FOR THE CITY
WITH THE HEART OF A PARISH**

**EMPOWERING
PEOPLE OF PEACE**



**Christ Church
Cathedral**

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SOUL GOODS

“Our church is more than just a building; it is a living, breathing community filled with individuals whose lives are intertwined through shared belief and mutual support. Here, we find solace, strength, and inspiration in each other and in our shared faith and common life.”

FROM THE DEAN

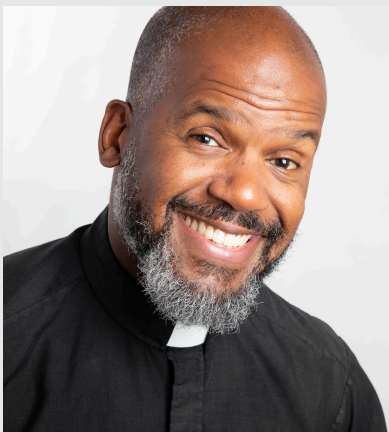
Growing up as a moody teenager, my father would always ask me, “What’s the good news,” to which I would grudgingly reply with a half-smile, “God loves me, and God is in control.” Well, that is exactly the news and the message we want to share and hope to accomplish through our inaugural issue of our church magazine, *The Way*. The purpose of this new platform is for sharing our stories, insights, and the love that binds us together in faith.

Our church is more than just a building; it is a living, breathing community filled with individuals whose lives are intertwined through shared belief and mutual support. Here, we find solace, strength, and inspiration in each other and in our shared faith and common life. This magazine aims to reflect that sense of belonging and unity, offering a space where the voices of God’s people who are living in and out their faith in the midst of their daily lives with God’s help!

Faith is a journey, and like all journeys, it requires nourishment and guidance. Each issue of our magazine will include articles on spiritual growth, biblical studies, and practical advice for living a life of faith. Whether it’s a deep dive into a scripture passage or tips on integrating prayer into your daily routine, or exploring Episcopal humor, our goal is to support your spiritual growth and development.

Servant-love is at the heart of our faith. We will highlight the incredible work being done by our clergy and members to provide for the needs of God’s people locally and beyond. This magazine will celebrate the spirit of service to others that I pray will continue to define our congregation and encourages us all to make a positive impact in the world.

This magazine is also a tool for connection. We encourage you to share your stories, and feedback with us. Your contributions will help shape the future of this publication, ensuring it remains a true reflection of our community’s identity, spirit and values. And I am thankful to our Chief Communications Officer, Samantha Stanford and her team for their leadership, support, and commitment to the launch of this magazine.



As we look ahead to the future, we are filled with hope and anticipation for all that we will accomplish together. This magazine is just one of many ways we can come together, support one another, and grow in faith, live in hope, and serve in love. Thank you for being a part of this journey!

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Owen", written in a cursive style.

DEAN OWEN THOMPSON+

REVIVE THE FIRE: BISHOP CURRY PREACHES AT GENERAL CONVENTION

BY SHIREEN KORKZAN AND LOGAN CREWS
EPISCOPAL NEWS SERVICE

When Presiding Bishop Michael Curry headlined and preached at his last revival as primate of The Episcopal Church on June 22, his sermon focused on the word he's emphasized throughout his episcopacy: Love.

"Choose love because love can save us. Love comes from the heart of God," Curry told the crowd of approximately 2,000 people who gathered at the KFC Yum! Center on the bank of the Ohio River for the revival.

The revival took place the night before the official start of the 81st General Convention, where as many as 10,000 Episcopalians from all nine of The Episcopal Church's provinces, including staff, exhibitors, church-affiliated groups and other visitors, are gathering June 23-28 at the Kentucky International Convention Center. Registered attendees include 167 bishops, two bishops-elect, 829 deputies and 239 alternate deputies. This General Convention marks a return to the full gathering that wasn't possible at the last meeting, [in 2022 in Baltimore, Maryland](#).

The revival was an opportunity for Episcopalians to network and thank Curry, who leaves office on Oct. 31, for his nine years of service as General Convention [prepares to elect and confirm his successor](#). It was his 27th revival since he became presiding bishop in November 2015. The event was [livestreamed here](#). The text of [Curry's sermon is here](#).

I'm feeling replenished in my spirit. Our presiding bishop has been on a really long walk with us and ... it's such a blessing," Northern California Bishop Megan Traquair told Episcopal News Service.



PRESIDING BISHOP MICHAEL CURRY HEADLINED AND PREACHED AT HIS LAST REVIVAL AS PRIMATE OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON JUNE 22, 2024, AT THE KFC YUM! CENTER IN DOWNTOWN LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY. PHOTO: RANDALL A. GORNOWICH

"To see him so well - that he is back to his old form - nothing could make me more happy."

Curry has presided at many large public revivals in dioceses around the church as part of the church's call to evangelism. The revivals are gatherings that combine prayer, worship and live music that give participants a chance to renew their faith and share it with others. "This revival is not about what church you go to. It's not about whether you are liberal or conservative. It's not about whether you are Republican, independent or Democrat," Curry said during his sermon. "Love is an equal opportunity employer. Love is bipartisan. Love is interreligious because love comes from God and love knows no bounds."

CHRIST CATHEDRAL TAKES ON GUN VIOLENCE



Christ Church Cathedral offers a space for those committed to preventing gun violence in our city to gather, listen, act and resource the violence disruptors, cultural brokers, and the faithful people doing the work on the ground.

In October 2022, dedicated members of Christ Church Cathedral who had a passion for addressing the epidemic of gun violence in Cincinnati came together with other community activists to host the first annual gun violence prevention summit. With the support of Dean Owen Thompson, community leaders (including the Vice Mayor), gun violence prevention activists and first responders, and community members whose lives have been directly impacted gathered to do something about the scourge of gun violence in our city. The event featured guest speaker and activist Erika Ford from Life Camp; a New York City based organization that has done amazing work reducing gun violence in Queens New York. From that event, Dean Owen sponsored group to travel to Cincinnati to New York to learn more about Life Camp and to get tools to mirror their approach in Cincinnati. From that event and time in New York, the Gun Violence Prevention Coalition has been making progress in addressing this issue.

Learn More: The Episcopal Church has a long-standing commitment to advocating for gun reform, dating back to the 1970s. The church has passed numerous resolutions urging legislative action to reduce gun violence and restrict the ownership, sale, and use of firearms. The General Convention has consistently called for measures such as universal background checks, banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, tightening laws against gun trafficking, and requiring gun safety training ([The Episcopal Church](#)) ([The Episcopal Church](#)).

One of the key advocacy efforts is through the Office of Government Relations, which represents the church's policies on gun safety and reform. The church has supported legislation to make communities safer, highlighted the impact of gun violence on vulnerable populations, and emphasized the need to address gun violence as a public health crisis ([The Episcopal Church](#)) ([Episcopal Maine](#)). Overall, the Episcopal Church remains committed to pushing for comprehensive gun reform to protect communities and reduce the prevalence of gun violence.

MOVE ON UP!

Addressing the affordable housing crisis in Cincinnati

The Power of Community

Move On Up is a not-for-profit that is supported by Christ Church Cathedral that believes in the power of affordable housing and urban renewal to transform communities.

Their mission is to bring hope and new life to areas in need of revitalization. They work hand in hand with community members to create sustainable solutions that uplift and empower.

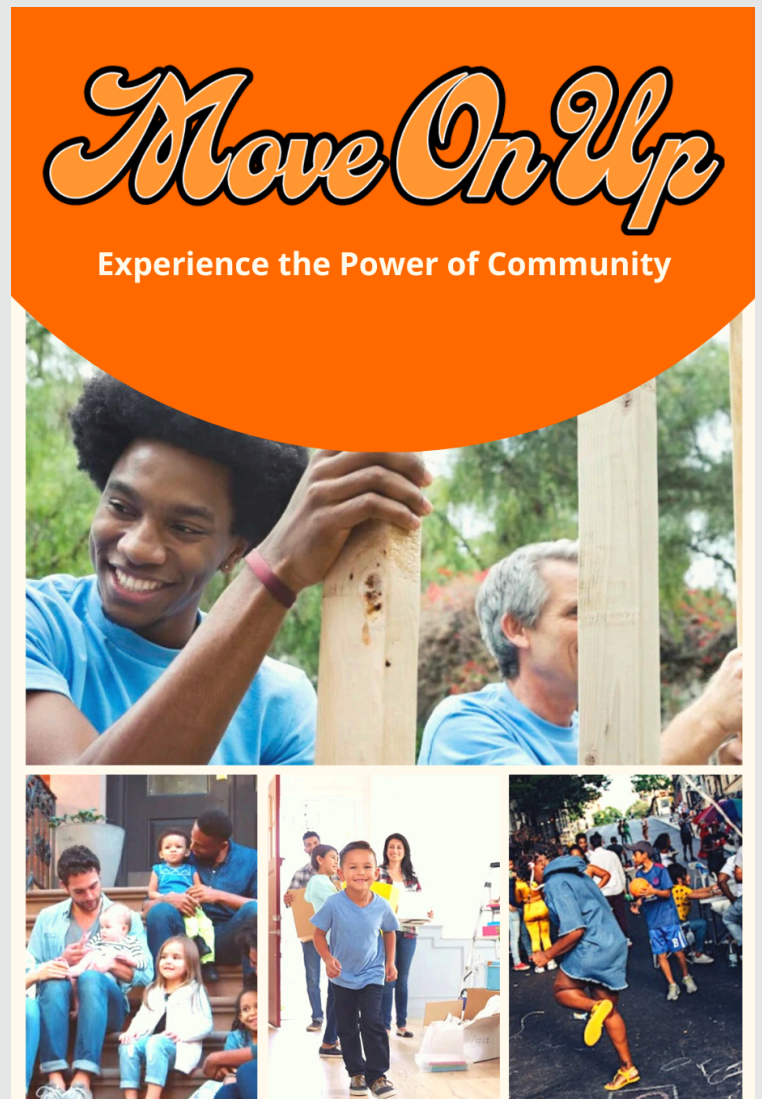
Together, we can make a difference.

Move On Up is passionate about creating brighter futures.

Through their affordable housing, they help provide a safe and stable home for families and individuals. The urban renewal project breathes new life into neighborhoods, helping to foster vibrant and dynamic communities.

Please join us on this journey of hope and renewal, moving on up to a brighter tomorrow - together.

Donations are accepted at www.moveonupcincy.org



Be part of creating thriving communities through affordable housing and urban renewal. Your generous donations will help us make a positive impact on the lives of individuals and families throughout Cincinnati and beyond.

www.moveonupcincy.org



“

OUR STORIES ARE OFTEN THE SAME ONES FROM THE LECTIONARY BEING HEARD IN THE WORSHIP SERVICE. IF YOU ENJOY SHARING STORIES, TOO, WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU AS A GUEST STORYTELLER!

BY VIRGINIA GRACEN
CHILDREN AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Before I was hired here at Christ Church Cathedral a few months ago, I had already been bringing my then-2-year-old daughter to the cathedral on Sunday mornings. I loved what I saw happening in the children's program: baking and breaking bread, sharing stories, singing songs, creating art, and playing together in a beautiful, calm environment. It was very different from the Sunday School programs I had grown up in.

Did you know: "Sunday Schools" started out as a movement to provide school-on-Sunday, particularly for those children in the 1700s who were working in factories Monday through Saturday. Christian reformers wanted to help make sure such children received instruction – not just in religion, but also in those other 3 Rs: Reading, wRiting, and aRithmetic. Some church folks weren't pleased with the movement, believing Sunday should be reserved for worship and rest, not for revolutionary activities such as educating the poor. Nevertheless, the movement grew, and thousands of children were educated in these Sunday Schools.

Over time, the need for school-on-Sunday lessened with the rise of compulsory public education and child labor laws. But many churches continued their Sunday School programs, shifting the curriculum to focus exclusively on religious instruction.

I share this bit of history because I've been thinking a lot about what we, as the church, are called to offer our children. Sunday School was designed to solve a problem we no longer have – the need to provide basic education for working children. Children today don't necessarily need more time sitting for school lessons. What do they need from us? When they grow up, perhaps leaving Cincinnati, what do we want our children to take with them from their time here in our parish community? This is the question I've been asking as I settle into my position here at the cathedral.

So far, the answers I've received from parents, staff, and others have been remarkably consistent:

We want our children to feel a sense of belonging in the church. We want them to know they are loved by God and by God's people. We want them to have meaningful stories to draw from as they face life's challenges. And we want them to have some basic Christian literacy, enough to feel comfortable within religious environments – worship services, discussions about scripture, and more.

Some of these goals – like knowing our Christian stories – can be met within the Children's Room here at the cathedral. We love sharing scripture stories as we sit together on the rug for our circle time on Sunday mornings!

Our stories are often the same ones from the lectionary being heard in the worship service. If you enjoy sharing stories, too, we'd love to have you as a guest storyteller!

But how do we approach those other needs of our children: love, belongingness, comfort with our worship traditions? These goals aren't always best met within a separate children's room. We are called to make the whole church a place for children and their families.

In fact, researchers have found that young adults who maintain their faith are typically those who grew up participating in worship and building relationships with people of all ages in the church – not those who spent most of their time in separate programs designed for children and youth.

With this in mind, we are thinking about new ways (and old ways!) to welcome children more fully into the life of the cathedral. Over the next few months, you are likely to see changes to our nave and chapel to make them places where children and families can more comfortably worship. And you may find yourself invited to the children's room to tell a story, lead a song, share a snack, or just play for a while!

In the Sunday School programs of my own childhood, I learned the song "I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together. All who follow Jesus, all around the world - Yes, we're the church together!" My prayer and commitment today is that we will make this a reality, being the church together with our children.

During the 10 am service on Sundays, we have the **Children's Room**, which is our Sunday morning children's formation from birth through age 10. If you would like to volunteer to help on Sundays, please contact vgracen@cccath.org.



#LOVEYOUR NEIGHBOR



LOVE
is
KIND.

BY SAMANTHA STANFORD
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

We are less kind, more polarized than we have ever been, especially when it comes to politics and elections. According to a Pew Research study in 2014, “Republicans and Democrats are further apart ideologically than at any point in recent history. Growing numbers of Republicans and Democrats express highly negative views of the opposing party. And to a considerable degree, polarization is reflected in the personal lives and lifestyles of those on both the right and left.” Things have only further polarized since the study completed nearly seven years ago. In addition to that, there are substantial divisions within both parties on fundamental political values, views of current issues and the severity of the problems facing the nation.

With all of this division, our ability to think the best of others, listen and be patient in conversation with those who differ from us (generationally, politically, even theologically) is seemingly disappearing. Pew Research reports that, “Republicans and Democrats have grown increasingly negative in their evaluations of presidents representing the other party.”

We’ve seen the same kind of negative behavior or posture entering our denominational conversations as well. We believe that addressing this divide or brokenness is exactly what Jesus calls us to do.

As highlighted in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You must love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you so that you will be acting as children of your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:43-45). This is our hope.

We will close the Justice and Kindness Gap by actively modeling kindness, working toward inclusive community, and working to undo polarization. Through this campaign our hope is to focus the strength of our congregation like never before in order to produce positive change in our spheres of influence, so that Cincinnati looks and behaves more like the Kingdom of God than it does today.

Kindness is contagious.

MINISTRY THAT MATTERS:

LGBTQIA+ MINISTRY AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

BY DREW ABBOTT
JUNIOR WARDEN

What it looks like to love with no exceptions.

When asked if they are inclusive and affirming to LGBTQIA+ individuals, couples, and families, too many churches refuse to give a clear answer. This section of our site should answer any questions you might have, both practical and spiritual, about Christ Church Cathedral's beliefs about LGBTQ inclusion in the church. But it will start with the most important one...

We affirm the gifts, presence, and leadership LGBTQIA+ people bring to the church and Kingdom of God. We believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ radically includes everyone into the saving work of God, not by our faithfulness or obedience, but by Christ's.

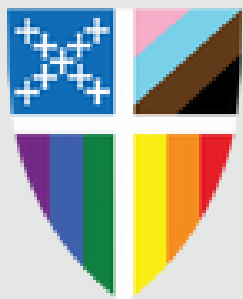
By and through his perfect life, death, and resurrection, Jesus Christ fulfilled God's plan of salvation for the whole world, perfectly fulfilling the law, and setting those whom he calls free to love God and love their neighbor. In this calling, Jesus offers to all the forgiveness of their sins, eternal salvation, justification before God, and the promise of sanctification through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And yet, it also means so much more. For Christians, the Gospel of Christ eases all distinction and hierarchy among people.

As St. Paul writes in his letter to the Galatians (3:23-27): *"Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore, the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise."*

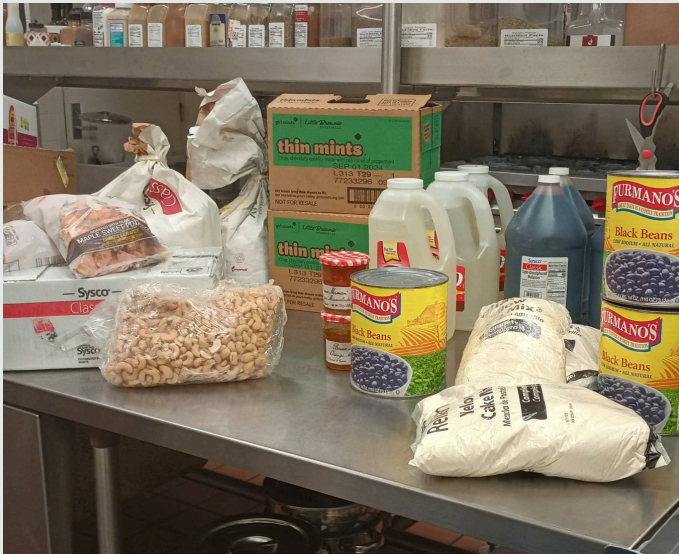
In Christ Jesus, we have all become children of God, given the righteousness of Christ, and are being transformed ever more into the likeness of Christ by the inspiration and work of the Holy Spirit. This means that EVERYONE is included in the church!

To learn more, contact: lgbtq@cccath.org



LGBTQIA+ Affinity Group
Diocese of Southern Ohio &
Christ Church Cathedral

FOOD INSECURITY: FEEDING, CARING, GIVING



Food insecurity remains a significant issue in Cincinnati, affecting a considerable portion of the population. Estimates indicate that around 270,000 people, including more than 80,000 children, face food insecurity in the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky region. This issue is exacerbated by high rates of poverty and ongoing economic challenges.

With our 5000 Club, a food ministry started in 2006 as an effort to provide a weekly evening meal to those who live in our neighborhood, including those without a home to call their own, Christ Church Cathedral now serves more than 100 meals a week, in thanks to our faithful volunteers and the generosity of the Cathedral members.

In addition to our Tuesday night dinners, we have started a Saturday bagged food giveaway on a first come, first served basis that has proven to be a huge source of comfort to the community.

Recently, 5000 Club has been the recipient of two generous donations. A donation of a pallet (84 cases of 24 bottles each) of bottled water from Alpine Valley! Kevin Donovan, one of our 5000 Club volunteers, worked with Charlie Hall, Owner of Alpine Valley, to make this happen.

We are incredibly grateful to Jamaica and HangOverEasy for their generous donation to our feeding ministry. Their partnership and support help us continue to serve and nourish those in need in our community.

These donations will allow the 5000 Club and CCC to defray costs for our Tuesday, Saturday, and Queen City Street Choir program on Sunday. It will also help the 5000 Club explore additional ways to expand our program to more people and locations in the future.

Cathedral Comics

THE BISHOP ARRIVES FOR PENTECOST...



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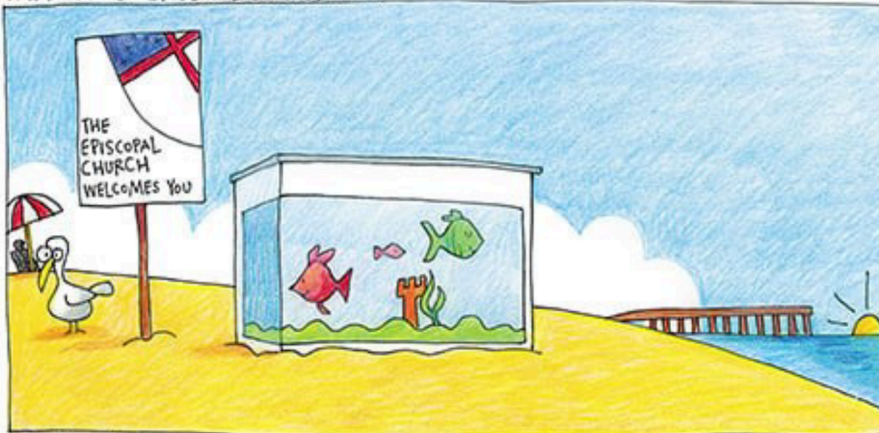


Thanks to Stacy Jackson (See Exodus 16)

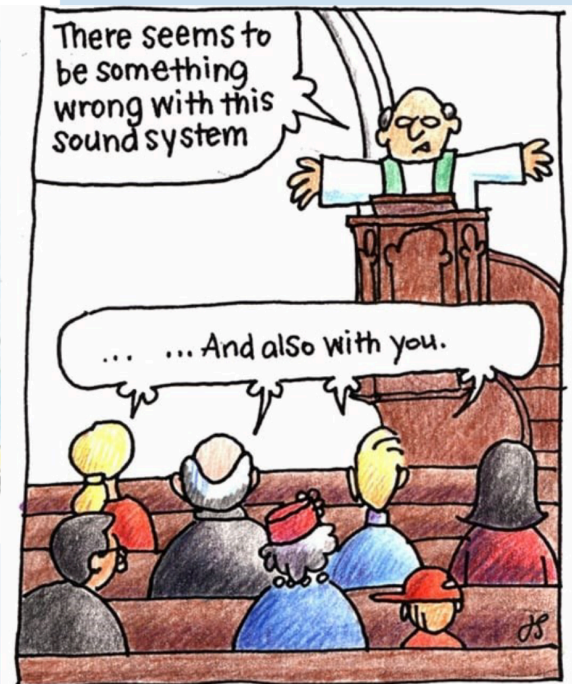
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DUDE, THAT'S NOT MANNA

A PARABLE OF EPISCOPAL EVANGELISM.



It is likened unto an aquarium set by the ocean's edge. Any fish from the ocean are invited jump into the aquarium if they happen to be passing by and feel like it.



SOUL GOODS: SHOP WITH PURPOSE



LAST YEAR WE GAVE AWAY OVER \$17,000 TO SUPPORT LOCAL CHARITIES.

Soul Goods features vendors committed to doing good, and by purchasing their creations in our store, you are doing good as well.

We work hard to buy Fair Trade (although not 100% fair trade) and support some local artists and vendors who support good causes.

Some examples include but are not limited to - Thistle Farms, Shima, Swazi Heroes, Global Crafts, Refresh Collective, and Mayamam Weavers to name a few.

Soul Goods exists to bring love and equity to the world. Soul Goods empowers people to be a part of making our world a more equitable place through the purchase of quality goods.

100% of Soul Goods profits will go to the good work of bringing equity to our world.



LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL



...THERE IS A SWEET, SWEET SOUL IN THIS PLACE



**Christ Church
Cathedral**