

vol. 2 no. 2
Summer 2016

illumine

enlightening and celebrating where God is at work in our midst



A PUBLICATION OF
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
Transfiguration



CHURCH STAFF

CLERGY

The Rev. R. Casey Shobe—Rector
 The Rev. Erin Jean Warde—Associate Rector for
 Christian Formation
 The Rev. Michael Merriman—Priest Associate
 The Rev. Liz O'Donnell—Deacon

PROGRAMS

Ellen Dingwall—Minister of Congregational Life
 and Outreach
 Cindy Hauser—Interim Director of Children's
 Ministries
 Colin Hills—Director of Youth Ministries
 Rebecca Gingles—Director of Communications

MUSIC

Joel Martinson—Director of Music and Organist
 Wilhelm Sollie—Assistant Organist
 Chris Ahrens—Director of Youth Choir
 Kimberley Ahrens—Director of Children's Choirs

ADMINISTRATION

Christopher B. Thomas—Chief Administrative
 Officer
 Cindy Haddock—Controller
 Meghan Mazur—Administrative Assistant

PROPERTY

Bracken Reece—Director of Facilities
 José Miele—Sexton

VESTRY

Laurel Brewster, Senior Warden
 Liz Kerner-Wyse, Junior Warden
 George Banitch
 Robert Button
 Hal Bybee
 Bridget de Bruyn
 John Donaldson
 Susan Fisk
 Liberty Ford
 Michelle Kirby
 Jay Madrid (ex-officio, Chancellor)
 Jonathan Maedche
 Tudi Owens (ex-officio, Clerk of the Vestry)
 Paul Sternweis

Cover image: Bread and wine at the May 1
 Mass on the Grass. Photo by Melody Shobe.

Worship Service Times

Wednesday | 6:00 p.m.

Thursday | 12:00 p.m.

Saturday | 5:30 p.m.

Sunday | 9:00 a.m.* and 11:15 a.m.*

**Childcare available for children
 6 weeks to age 5.*



in this issue

He Is Risen!	4
Episcopal School Fire	6
Summer Outreach	11
iParent	14
Why Transfiguration?	16
Evangelism Matters	19

Illumine is a quarterly publication of Church of the Transfiguration. The word itself has two meanings: to light up or brighten and to enlighten (someone) spiritually or intellectually. The goal behind this magazine is to tell the stories of this congregation, highlight new ministries, and celebrate where God is at work in our midst.





From the Rector 'Chasing Squirrels'

Way back at the Annual Meeting in late January, I concluded my address by remarking that the greatest orienting principle in my life and leadership is the Sermon the Mount (Matthew 5–7). In that profound bit of teaching, I experience a crystallized vision for what the Kingdom of God looks like “on earth as it is in heaven.” It is beautiful and compelling and ridiculously hard, and it feels holier than anything else I’ve ever heard or known. It is the life to which we are called by Jesus, and the standard against which we are measured. So for me, when I am making decisions about whether or not we could or should be doing something as a church, I usually ask myself whether the idea fits within the vision of the Sermon on the Mount: if it does, then we should be open to trying it; if it doesn’t, then it’s probably not our job.

As the Vestry and I have explored this idea together, a particular theme keeps bubbling up to the surface for us: compassion. We want to be a compassionate community, one that makes a Jesus-like impact on the world. We want to help everyone who is connected with Transfiguration feel so deeply rooted and grounded in the love of Christ that they are ready and able to pour compassion on the wounds and brokenness of our world. We want to worship and learn and grow so much in and with Jesus that compassion simply spills out of our lives.

It sure does sound simple, doesn’t it? And on our best days, both as individuals and as a whole church, it is. But many days it is easy to get distracted. Some days it feels like we’re one of those dogs in the Pixar animated movie *Up*, the ones who keep trying to chase after squirrels. Actually, my friend Jay Sidebotham is a priest and cartoonist, and during a recent visit to facilitate our Vestry retreat, he

drew a hilarious picture of me “squirrel chasing.” This tendency to dart off after every issue or question or problem, can easily take over the life of the church, so much so that we quickly forget about our bigger calling, our grander vision, to be Christ’s compassionate Body in the world.

The Vestry and I are committed to discerning how we can gain more clarity about our future course, and have a firmer footing from which to move forward. We have a marvelous mission statement as a church—“Seeking and serving Christ in all persons”—and we’ve been working on crafting a vision that builds upon it in order to provide more detail, along with a set of goals that flow out of it. We want to carefully discern where we feel called to go in the next several years, and orient ourselves toward that goal. By knowing who we want to be in five or six years, we can prayerfully discern what steps we need to take in order to get there.

The Vestry’s process of discernment and vision-casting is still very much ongoing, yet already our orientation toward the

compassionate way expressed in the Sermon on the Mount has led to some big things. Compassion is what led us to welcome with open arms the Church of the Holy Faith (see page 12). Compassion is what led us to launch and



ILLUSTRATION BY JAY SIDEBOTHAM

Father Casey chasing squirrels.

grow our Food Pantry, and propelled us to get involved with refugee relief. Compassion is what inspires our efforts to improve our pastoral care, and it is the reason we want to draw more people into our church’s life.

As I look around our church and see compassion orienting our life together in small and large ways, I am sure that we are becoming more and more of what God is asking us to be, and helping grow the Kingdom of God one loving act at a time. Pray for me, for your Vestry, and for our whole beloved church, that chasing squirrels will give way to the holy, compassionate way of the Sermon on the Mount. 🐿️

—The Rev. R. Casey Shobe



Top: Father Casey lights the Paschal Candle from the new fire at the start of the Easter Vigil. **Right:** Baptismal candidates follow the procession into the church. **Left:** Children carry the cross together during the Good Friday Stations of the Cross for children.



Far left: Footwashing at the annual Maundy Thursday service; **Left:** The flowered cross outside of Roper Hall on Easter Day; **Below:** The Canticle Choir sings during the 9:15 service.





Vigil-goers enjoy quite a spread at the annual Break the Fast feast. This tradition signifies the end of our Lenten fasts with a big party in Roper Hall immediately following the Easter Vigil. Thanks to organizers Judy Loveday-Corbett and Liz Kerner.



Families gather in the Memorial Garden after the 9:00 and 9:15 services for our first-ever butterfly launch in honor of Christ's resurrection.



He Is Risen!



Father Casey warns the crowd that the butterflies might be cold due to a chilly spring morning. The butterflies, once released, were willing to stick around on fingers and lapels for a while to warm up.

PHOTOS BY ROBERT HACKER AND JOHN MAKOWSKI



The Youth Center and Second Floor of the South Building were quickly transformed into vibrant classroom spaces for kindergarten and second grade following the fire on January 17.

Parish Episcopal School Fire

Transfiguration Provides Classrooms In Time of Need

Early on the morning of Sunday, January 17, an electrical fire started in the attic of Building E, home to Parish Episcopal School's kindergarten and second grade classrooms, as well as the Library and Main Office. Although

Dallas Firefighters were able to quickly put out the flames, 10 classrooms and the faculty workroom suffered extensive water damage. Dozens of church and school leaders immediately responded that morning to begin the task of moving out of the water and smoke-damaged building. Nevertheless, the school canceled classes for two days while administrators assessed the damage and prepared a contingency plan for students to return to class.

Recognizing the urgency and need, Fr. Casey and the Vestry immediately invited Parish to inhabit classrooms and space in the church buildings. Second grade, Religion, and Spanish classrooms moved to the second floor of the South Building (above the offices). Kindergarten classes were relocated to the Transfiguration Youth Center, the same

building Parish used when expanding grades in 2001. School storage moved into Conference Room 1 in Roper Hall, and the Niles Building welcomed Parish's afterschool Extend program. These moves dislocated several ministries, classes, and groups, most notably the children and youth. Special thanks go to Director of Youth Ministries Colin Hills, the team of youth volunteers and sponsors, and all the kids who embraced this time of dislocation as

an opportunity to serve. Their generosity and patience set the tone for the rest of the church, and modeled graciousness and Christian love to everyone.

During chapel on the first day back at school, Parish's Head of Lower School Jennifer Wilson addressed the students about the situation. Speaking about two of Parish's central tenets, courage and resiliency, she encouraged the students to embrace the challenges. "I think it's important for children to learn flexibility," she reflected, "and this is a real life example of how they can learn that and hopefully be better and stronger on the other side."

Thanks to the herculean job of our facilities crew, led by Director of Facilities Bracken Reece, and with the guidance and vision of dozens of gifted teachers and administrators, Parish was able to transform our offerings of space into their classrooms in only two days. "From teachers to IT staff to enrichment teachers and administration and staff... everyone was doing what they could to help us recreate our classrooms," said Michelle McLendon, Kindergarten Teacher. Melissa Grabske, Assistant Head of Lower School for Academics, used her sewing skills to whip up some felt draperies to serve as a background



Students filed into school on January 22 to find their desks in their transformed classrooms.

on glass walls to create whiteboards. Teachers and staff hung up artwork and other classroom décor that was spared from the water damage. Joni Rathburn, Assistant to Head of Lower School at Hillcrest, joked that they should have called HGTV and turned this experience into a remodeling show.

"Wow. Oh Wow," exclaimed parents and students as they filed into the new space. Kindergarteners—some jumping up and down, others sporting big smiles—quickly found their cubbies and hung their jackets and backpacks. Although they walked into different classrooms they found familiar items such as desks, chairs and artwork. "We know kids learn best when they're in places that are comfortable and so we wanted them to feel like they had their own learning space back," Ms. Wilson said.

While the kids got back to the business of school in the new classrooms, clean up and repair crews continued their work on the damaged building. Repairs and remediation will conclude during May, at a total cost of about \$500,000, and teachers and administrators will move back to a repaired, improved Building E after the end of the school year. The 2016–2017 school year will begin back in the traditional locations.

In the meantime, the entire experience has grown the bonds between the school and church, even as we worked to overcome a challenge. Becky Maher, the Hillcrest Librarian, reflected: "One potentially devastating event ignited such a wonderful feeling of unity, purpose and love within our community and that will be a part of our history and remembered for decades. Blessings for certain!"

"I've never seen so many people bond together to get something done," noted Ms. Wilson. "I think we've done a good job in making it feel special and not just something terrible that happened. We are very grateful to Transfiguration for their generosity and spirit of community!" 🙏



The Facilities staff and cleanup crews worked almost around the clock to clear out the affected spaces.



Above: Students happily return to school in new classrooms four days later. Left: A tarp drapes to keep the damaged section of the Snyder Building separate from the library and administrative offices, which were largely unaffected.

PARISH Summer

BUILD CODE DESIGN EXPERIMENT PROGRAM

STEM IN ACTION

USE YOUR SUMMER **WISELY**

Academic enrichment at every level

BLANK CANVAS

26 classes for the aspiring artist

CREATE THE perfect SUMMER!

56 WAYS TO STAY FIT

PARISH EPISCOPAL SCHOOL SUMMER 2016 EDITION

Parish EXTEND Summer Camps

Summer can be a challenging time for parents.

Sure, it may sound dreamy at first with images of kids splashing in the pool, epic water balloon fights and carefully curated Pinterest crafts, but then reality sets in. It gets too hot, the water balloons take forever to tie, you aren't the crafter Pinterest led you to believe, and school only let out last week! This is why summer camps (cough...PARISH Summer camps) are so great. We are experts in summer fun and have the space, the staff, the craft supplies and the cleaning crew to keep your kids (and you!) happy all summer long. With week by week programming, you have the flexibility to create a summer that allows for vacations, overnight camps and visits from grandma. Sounds like an epic summer in the making! With more than 315 summer camps running this summer, there is something for every kid and every schedule. Email us at EXTEND@parishepiscopl.org to see how we can help customize your summer fun! 🙏

Open to All

What is Stephen Ministry?

Christ Caring for People through People



By Deborah Diehl

In a world filled with noise, sometimes the presence of a skilled, patient listener is an immeasurably important blessing.

Stephen Ministers offer compassionate, individual care to hurting people oriented around the sacred art of listening. Stephen Ministers complete more than 50 hours of training to cultivate their listening skills and nurture empathy, so that they may walk alongside people enduring times of hardship and pain, such as those who are experiencing

- Grief
- Divorce
- Miscarriage
- Job loss
- Life-threatening illness
- Care-giver stress and burnout
- Parenting struggles
- Chronic illness
- Infertility
- Death of a loved one

Stephen Ministry began in St. Louis in 1975 with a mission to “equip God’s people for the work of the ministry.” The ministry is now in more than 12,000 congregations from more than 170



Christian denominations, in all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and 28 other countries. Over the years, more than 600,000 people have trained as Stephen Ministers and more than 1.5 million people have received care from a Stephen Minister in a formal Stephen Ministry caring relationship.

Ministry Highlight

The Stephen Ministry program began at Transfiguration nearly 30 years ago with four trained ministers. Today we have 11, including three commissioned Stephen Leaders, and a few more who do

background support work for the ministry. The three Leaders (Lisa Edwards, Linda Horton, and Jack Skelton) work under the direction of Deacon Liz O’Donnell to oversee the program.

Stephen Ministers meet for one hour with their care receivers on a weekly basis, walking with their care receivers step-by-step in the journey from brokenness to wholeness, from woundedness to healing, trusting in

Christ to lead the way. The relationship may last for up to three years, with the goal of providing a conduit of God’s love to a hurting soul in crisis. One recent care receiver described her experience: “She would hold my hand and let me spill out my heart. I call her my earth angel. She really helped me through a hard time in my life. She didn’t give me advice as much as she just listened to me and validated my pain. I will always be grateful to her for all of her prayers and all that she did to help me.”

Men, just as much as women, benefit from the care of Stephen Ministry. An article in a Stephen Ministry publication told the story of a young dad who struggled with the revelation that the child with which his wife was pregnant was likely not to live long after birth. During the pregnancy, the dad met with a Stephen Minister, offering him “someone I could talk to about the difficult thing everyone else was afraid to talk about.” The baby only lived a few hours after being born, and in the subsequent months of grief, the Stephen Ministry

relationship became even more important. “The truth is that our grief has to be expressed,” the man reflected later. “Like Jesus in the garden at Gethsemane, I think many men have a need, but feel afraid to seek help. I was afraid too, that my grief would have a bad effect on my relationship with God. But instead, it has been enriched.”

The Stephen Ministry program at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration is available to all members of the congregation. If you know someone in our congregation who you think might benefit from the support of a Stephen Minister, please tell them about our program, or encourage them to contact Deacon Liz O’Donnell at lodonnell@transfiguration.net, or by calling the church at 972-233-1898 x222. 🙏

Decisions: Not Just Between God and Me

Transfiguration's Endowment Fund

The Transfiguration Endowment Fund and the Legacy Society work together to support the life and ministry of our church.

The Endowment Fund exists to provide us with a growing financial reserve and encompasses several funds, managed together, that focus on several key ministry areas:

- General Fund, to serve the general needs of our church (roughly \$ \$1.1 million in assets)
- Joanna Elizabeth Pierce and Justin Ford Pierce Fund for Youth Ministries, created to support our young people (roughly \$60,000 in assets)
- Outreach Fund, created to enable greater generosity toward organizations and projects focused on the sick, poor, homeless, or oppressed (roughly \$140,000 in assets)

Endowment trustees manage the corpus to ensure its stability and growth, and to oversee the prudent distribution of money to further our mission. For example, the General Fund has contributed \$200,000 toward the retirement of our debt, funded several minor capital projects around the campus, and will soon fund an overhaul to the website. The Youth Fund has contributed thousands of dollars toward youth mission trips and pilgrimages, and the Outreach Fund recently made a \$5,000 gift toward Happy Homes

School in South Africa.

The Legacy Society is an honorific body that consists of all those people who have chosen to name Transfiguration in their estate plans. Some people name the church outright in their will, choosing to leave cash, real estate, stock, or items of particular value to the church. Others work together with their advisors to create financial instruments that involve the church as a beneficiary. The particulars can be diverse, as membership in the Legacy Society flows simply out of the stated intention to be generous toward the church beyond a person's lifetime.

Importantly, the Endowment receives contributions and gifts all the time, many of which are not associated with end-of-life plans or Legacy Society bequests. The Endowment makes a fitting recipient for memorial and thanksgiving gifts. For example, this year over \$2,000 has been given to the Endowment in loving memory of recently deceased parishioners. Numerous other gifts have come in thanksgiving for important milestone events or special blessings. Even gifts as small as \$25, when stretched over decades of wise investment, can grow to great sums that will serve and support future generations of Transfiguration members.

The Endowment trustees, in addition to serving as stewards of this important pool



of money, are eager to help everyone at Transfiguration be properly prepared for end-of-life issues. They have created a marvelous resource called *Decisions: Not Just Between God and Me*. This booklet is filled with resources to assist individuals and families in making decisions and expressing wishes related to their death. It was presented at the Fellowship Breakfast on May 15 and is available for download at www.transfiguration.net/giving/endowment-fund or by calling the church office to have one mailed to you.

To learn more about the Endowment, contact Endowment Chair Jim Kirkman at 972-814-6742. To learn how you can become a member of the Legacy Society, or to have your name added to the formal list, contact Sue Gray at 214-564-9939. 🙏

You are invited to join a pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by Fr. Casey Shobe, May 16–29, 2017

The pilgrimage will consist of the "Palestine of Jesus" course through St. George's College in Jerusalem, which is associated with St. George's (Anglican) Cathedral. St. George's hosts hundreds of pilgrims from around the world each year to visit the ancient sites of Scripture, walk in the footsteps of Jesus, nurture their spiritual imaginations, and explore the modern, complicated world of Israel and Palestine.

The 14-day "Palestine of Jesus" course introduces pilgrims to the "Fifth Gospel," that is, the land, in order to nurture greater understanding and awareness of the places where the sacred acts described in Scripture occurred. A blend of daily lectures by scholars, clergy, and local guides provides historical and spiritual background of each place. The course also includes time to engage with the local, indigenous (Arab) Christian community, still very much present and active 2,000 years later, as well as meet Jews and Muslims, Israelis and Palestinians. This is an exploration not only of the ancient stones, but also the "living stones," the people who inhabit the Holy Land today.

It's not too late to register! Contact Bill Edwards at bill@cruiseescapes.com for details about deposit and costs, and contact Fr. Casey at cshobe@transfiguration.net with general questions about the pilgrimage. 🙏





Happy Homes Pre-School

By Bridget de Bruyn

Greetings and gratitude from Happy Homes Pre-school in Justicia, South Africa! Everyone at the school sends their best wishes and grateful appreciation for all that Church of the Transfiguration has done for them.

On a recent visit to South Africa, I, together with my husband Tony and other family members, had the distinct pleasure of spending a morning at Happy Homes Pre-School, which is located in the area of Justicia. We received a great welcome and the honor of being entertained for a good two hours while the children performed all sorts of activities for us. I was asked to extend everyone's sincere gratitude for the support that our church has given over the last 14 years, and they were thrilled

when I announced that we are now in a position to send the final funds to build the Administration Building. This building will add a lot to the overall functionality of the school. I know the teachers cannot wait to have their own space in which to work and meet, and the school has certainly run out of space to store supplies, so this building will be most

welcomed. I cannot tell you how delightful and happy these children are, given the dire circumstances of their lives. They are thriving despite the most daunting challenges, thanks to a committed and caring staff and support such as ours.

Upon our return to Dallas, we received a gracious thank you letter from the CEO of the Africa Foundation. This organization cherishes our

support for Happy Homes, as it is their leading example of successful pre-schools across South Africa. I was delighted to hear that a student who started out at Happy Homes 14 years ago has just received a bursary to attend the University of Cape Town. Further, one of the teachers at the Uplands Anglican College, where our daughter Nicky heads the Outreach program, reports that his daughter attended Happy Homes before enrolling in elementary school and was so well prepared that she is sailing through her classes. These two great stories attest to the success of the school.

Bridget and Tony de Bruyn have been members of Transfiguration since shortly after their move to Dallas from South Africa in 1977. They led Transfiguration's initial effort to sponsor the launch of Happy Homes Pre-school in Justicia, South Africa in 2003. Today Happy Homes serves several hundred pre-school aged children, many of whom have been orphaned by AIDS. It is a project of the Africa Foundation, and over the last 14 years our church, along with Parish Episcopal School, has made numerous gifts of support. In December, the Vestry approved a gift of \$5,000 from the Outreach Endowment Fund to finalize the construction of a new administration building which has been in the works for three years. This new construction will supplement the classrooms, kitchen, playground, water and hygiene facilities built in full through our support since the school's founding. We are currently exploring a possible pilgrimage to South Africa in the summer of 2018 to visit this longstanding mission partner, to meet the children and educators, and to experience the presence of God in that beautiful country. 🇿🇦

Outreach Focus



Summer Outreach Opportunities

This summer, the Outreach committee is sponsoring two in-gatherings to support our mission to love our neighbors.



FOOD DRIVE—JUNE 4–12

Please bring canned food (see list) to the Tower Cloister during the first full week of June for a drive benefitting the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB). VBS kids will also be participating in this outreach effort during Surf Shack.

The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) is a top-ranked nonprofit hunger-relief organization. Each day, NTFB provides access to more than 170,000 meals for hungry children, seniors and families through a network of more than 1,000 programs and 200 Partner Agencies. In fiscal year 2015, NTFB provided access to 63.4 million meals, but much work remains to be done.

As you may now know, with the funding structure of our own Food Pantry, we cannot distribute food that we collect ourselves. Instead, we will gather food to donate to the North Texas Food Bank, which is the source for food for our Food Pantry partner, Crossroads Community Services. This enables the NTFB and Crossroads to evenly distribute the

ingredients for well-balanced meals to families enrolled in our program.

Realities of Hunger in North Texas

- In Texas, 4.7 million people are food insecure—that's 1 in every 6 people.
- More than 856,000 people in NTFB's 13-county service area are food insecure.
- One in every 4 kids in North Texas is food insecure—that's more than 300,000 children. 95 percent of households served by NTFB have an annual household income of \$30,000 or less.
- There's a strong correlation between hunger and health, with one in three client households affected by diabetes and 60 percent of client households with unpaid medical bills. Nearly 70 percent of client households choose between buying food or paying for medicine and medical care.

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE—JUNE 19, 22, & JULY 3



Support the students of Spring Valley Elementary by donating school supplies to create a learning environment in which they can thrive. From June 19 through July 3, we will be collecting items for donation in the Tower Cloister. Look for supply shopping lists in the Tower Cloister beginning in June. In addition to general supplies, this year there will also be an opportunity to "adopt" a teacher and classroom by purchasing specific items on their wish lists. Thank you for your support of our neighborhood partner Elementary School. 🍎





Transfiguration Welcomes Church of the Holy Faith

On Sunday, March 13 Transfiguration welcomed a remarkable mission congregation of the Diocese of Dallas to begin worshipping on our campus. The Church of the Holy Faith is comprised entirely of Bhutanese refugees and is led by Lay Pastor Amber Ghale. In 2012 Bishop Stanton formally established them as the first and only Nepali-speaking Bhutanese congregation in The Episcopal Church. Today they consist of about 50 people, nearly half children, and most are from a core group of families who first converted to Christianity while living in refugee camps in Nepal. Until recently they have been worshipping at Trinity Episcopal Church on Hillcrest but space constraints led them to begin looking for an alternative meeting place. You can read more about their history and journey to the U.S. online at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhutanese_refugees.

On their first Sunday with us, Lay Pastor Amber Ghale shared some of the history of his people and the story of his faith:

Bhutan is a country with an absolute monarchy. Bhutan is surrounded by India on the east and south and by China on the north. In 1700 the king of Bhutan asked the king of Nepal to send people to be workers and farmers in south Bhutan, because there were not enough northerners to work in south Bhutan. The Nepali people started to grow larger in numbers. They wanted their own language, culture and freedom, but the monarchy government was autocratic. King Wangchuck of Bhutan said all Nepali Bhutanese had to work under the Bhutanese government.

In 1988, the king ordered a census. They found that there





were 600,000 northern Bhutanese, called Durukpa, and 900,000 Lhotshampas (“southerners”). The Northern Bhutanese are Buddhists. Nepalese speakers in the south had Hindu customs. The king was not happy. There were too many southerners. In 1989, the king ordered all schools to stop teaching in Nepali language. The government banned speaking Nepali in schools and offices. He ordered that no Nepali clothing was allowed in offices, or any place, even in the market. He ordered that only northern Bhutanese dresses were allowed.

Day by day the government of Bhutan made Nepali speakers work, but they did not want to pay salaries to workers. For example, if the government needed firewood, or if they wanted to repair the roads and were short of men, they ordered the headman of a Nepali speaking village to force men to work. The men were not paid after a long day of work. So, in 1990, Nepali people raised their voices for human rights. From that day, the Bhutanese Government used the Royal Army to go into every village in the southern parts of Bhutan. When royal Bhutanese soldiers came to a village, they used torture, harassment, and mental torture. They ordered headmen to do what they wanted. They took cattle and livestock from the Nepali speakers. They beat Nepali village people. The soldiers raped some of the Nepalese girls and women. They took some of the men to jail. Some leading Nepali speakers disappeared, and others are still in

jail because they spoke out for human rights.

In 1991, the Nepali people were pushed out of Bhutan, sometimes with guns to their heads. The government said that we were not real Bhutanese. They took our land and our houses. We were driven out across the border with India, but the government of India didn’t want us to spend even one night in India. India’s soldiers forced us to go to Nepal, but the government of Nepal did not want us to live in Nepal. We were a people without a country. Finally, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) took over and we were allowed to remain in settlements in eastern Nepal.

In 1992, more 100,000 Nepali Bhutanese people were settled in Nepal. I was 11 years old. Many of our people died with the changes in climate, weather, and poor health conditions. We really had hard times in those days. The village people who lived nearby would not let us work outside the camp. They did not want us there.

Praise the Lord, in 1992 UNHCR started to take care of our basic needs. They provided food and vegetables, clothing and medicine. A few people received Christ in 1992. Many more were received in 1997. Because of prayer, all of our sorrow turned to joy and happiness. We were allowed to work in Nepal and India, but the Bhutanese government closed the door to us. With Jesus’s love and affection, doors were opened to Denmark, Australia, Netherlands and Canada.

In 1992, I saw the miracles of the Lord Jesus Christ when I saw no more dying. Thanks to the Lord, many people came to help our people. By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, my family and I arrived in the New York airport in March 2011. My wife, my daughter, and I came to Dallas to live. Blessed be the almighty, everlasting God, I was able to receive Jesus Christ in April 24, 2011. By the grace of the Lord, I am working as a leader in the church.

Last fall we had a problem with not having enough space for our people at Trinity. God gave the opportunity and opened the door to Transfiguration Church. I remembered Isaiah 41:10 “Do not fear for I am with you. Do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” I also remember the words in John 14:20, “On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I am in you.” I realized that I am in Christ.

Church of the Holy Faith meets in the Niles Building on Sunday mornings, and their primary service is Morning Prayer said in Nepali. A team of Transfiguration parishioners works closely with Amber and the people of Holy Faith, to support their faith and growing congregation as they begin this new chapter in our midst. Please remember them in your prayers, as well as all refugees living in Nepal and elsewhere around the world, who have yet to be delivered from their plight. 🙏



Top three photos: Families enjoying dance moves and a photo backdrop at the April 23 Spring Fling in the Parish Gym. Above, below, and to right: Over 75 people gathered on the lawn in perfect weather for live music at the May 1 Mass on the Grass.



iParent SUMMER SATURDAYS

iParent is a ministry of Church of the Transfiguration. The mission of the iParent ministry is to connect a community of parents of children living at home as we model seeking and serving Christ for our kids in today's information age, through worship, education, evangelism, outreach, pastoral care and fellowship. We also take time for activities and conversations designed to help us get to know each other better and enhance our own spiritual growth as parents. Social events and volunteer opportunities throughout the year strengthen our connections to the Fig and each other.

Wondering what class to join in? Need reminders for what's coming up? Join our active Facebook community at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/iparentfig/>.



Summer Ice Cream Socials

This summer, we will **four** host Ice Cream Socials (about one Sunday per month) **between morning services**. Join us on
 Sunday, May 29 (Memorial Day Weekend)
 Sunday, July 3 (Independence Day Weekend)
 Sunday, August 6 (Transfiguration Day)
 Sunday, September 4 (Labor Day Weekend)

The first opportunity to grab a cool treat is on Memorial Day weekend, Sunday, May 29 at 10:15 a.m. by the belltower. On that day, after you grab your ice cream, head back into Roper Hall to listen to Alex Wyse as he shares about his work and ministry in Uganda. This is one of many ways that we can learn about how Transfiguration parishioners are seeking and serving Christ in all people, both locally and all over the world. You will also have the opportunity to hear about Transfiguration parishioner Kate Jewett-Williams's upcoming work with the Young Adult Service Corps. 🇺🇸



Summer Adult Formation Galatians & Colossians Begins June 5

This summer in the lectionary we will hear passages from Galatians and Colossians, two books of the Bible that are rich in content, but that we may not always place at the forefront of our study of scripture. June 5 through July 10, join Rosanne Brooks for a study of Galatians. July 17 through August 21, join Mother Erin Jean Warde for a study of Colossians. This class will be offered on Sunday mornings from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor. 🇺🇸

June 12 at 5:00 p.m. in the church

Evensong and Tour Preview

Mark your calendars
for the final event of
the Transfigured Nights
2015–16 season



Why Transfiguration?

The Guion Family

By Gabby Guion

"When are you going to get those kids baptized?" my brother Bill inquired in a loving but (I perceived) kind of sanctimonious way.

My brothers and I were raised in The Episcopal Church from birth. I was baptized and confirmed and went to Sunday school. Our father dragged us to church every week, no matter what. I had a difficult relationship with my father that would take many hours to explain, but if you've read Jeannette Walls's book *The Glass Castle* you will get an inkling of what my life was like.

My husband Louis and I met as students at Texas Tech and found that we shared a lukewarm interest in church. He also came from Episcopal roots and was baptized, but his family showed no interest in the faith

during his childhood and he never attended church. What were the odds that two very different people with two very disparate lifestyles would end up having the Episcopal faith in common?

Louis and I spent the next two decades on "sabbatical" from the church. Our mutual apathy and inbred laziness limited our church going to the two holy days of obligation: Christmas and Easter.

We, of course, attended weddings and a few funerals, so we weren't completely irreligious. And there were spiritual experiences—the birth of our son for one! Still, when Ben was born, we continued on the same spiritual path: church two times a year followed by a delicious brunch. Ben didn't know any better and we liked it that way.

Things changed when my father ended up living his last year at the Texas State Veterans Home in Bonham, TX. At about the

same time, I found out I was to have a new baby—our sweet Sophie. My father passed away a month after she was born. It was then that my brother, who was inexplicably closer to my father and more disciplined in the Episcopal traditions, asked me that question, "when are you going to get your kids baptized?"

Until that point, it had not occurred to me or to Louis that baptism was that important. I became determined to get those kids baptized, though—maybe because baptizing my kids could symbolize a rebirth of my relationship with my own dad. I don't know, but we had family coming in from out of town for Thanksgiving and the timing was ideal, so we decided to make it a party.

As we soon learned, getting baptized in the Episcopal Church is not like making a reservation at your favorite restaurant. You actually are required to be an active and faithful member of the church. That is



From left to right Sophie, Ben, Louis, and Gabby Guion

to say, you can't just pop in and ask to be baptized. Louis and I had visited quite a few churches, but couldn't really remember any of them. There was an Episcopal Church just two miles from our house that seemed welcoming, but they only had services in Spanish. So, the prospect of planning our children's baptisms and a Thanksgiving dinner for twelve became complicated by the fact that I would have only three weeks to learn Spanish.

I was discouraged until my brother Bill stepped in and asked the Rector who visited my dad at the VA hospital for the last few months, and who would eventually give him his last rites, if he would help our family. He graciously agreed on the condition that we become members of a church immediately when we returned to Dallas. We committed to that promise, and Father Dalton baptized my children in November of 2004. The reception that followed was one of the most loving memories of that day. Worshipers at this tiny church of Holy Trinity welcomed my whole extended family into their church, offering us their homemade cakes and unpretentious, sincere hospitality knowing that while we weren't members of their parish, we were members of a shared faith.

Thanksgiving came and went and Christmas loomed. We still had not found a church. Now we were really feeling guilty about Father Dalton's directive.

Holidays are always a great motivator for me: cleaning the house, decorating, planning the menu, ...and finding a new parish. More

relatives were coming into town to visit and this was the week we had to find a place. We decided on the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, because my brother thought we had attended this church back in the 80's when we lived here with Dad. We hadn't, but I didn't argue—it just saved time.

We showed up at Transfiguration for the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, at 7:40 p.m., thinking, "Let's get there a little early so that we can sit up front!" Our entourage included aunts and uncle, a seven year old, an 89-year-old grandmother with a walker, and a baby. How could we have known that the place would be packed and that you needed tickets? We were frustrated, cold, and mostly embarrassed at our poor planning. One of Transfiguration's (heroic) ushers saw us and took action, moving people (who had tickets, I'm sure) to seat us. She did not scold us. She did not turn us away. She just made sure that we had a place here. And that is why we stayed.

We immediately got Ben started in choir and attending Sunday school. It was a shock to a body that was used to sleeping in on Sunday mornings. He trained to be an acolyte and helped in Sunday school and VBS (not without some bellyaching and whining). After a few years he just wanted to be here because people depended on him and he knew it, and did not want to disappoint them. He was mentored by dozens of people who continue to influence and support him today. This past winter while away at UT Austin for college he managed to find time to lead a weekly bible

study (letters of Paul, always a nice choice!) at All Saints Episcopal Church in Austin. We nearly fainted. Our daughter Sophie participates in many programs with the same frequency as her brother, and we hope she becomes a big player at Transfiguration, as well.

As for Louis and me, we happily do whatever anyone volunteers us to do. Louis has helped with Habitat for Humanity and continues in Youth Ministries. He has helped with kid's Breakfast Club and currently helps with the this year's Youth confirmation class. I started helping in Sunday school and then moved to VBS. It was a natural fit as I had to take my kids to their class and I had nowhere else to go. I have extensive experience in hospitality, so helping with events just seemed natural. Then I was introduced to the Altar Guild, a ministry that I adore beyond words! I think it is the heartbeat of the church. The ladies, and some gentlemen, know and keep the precious history of the Fig, and I am indebted to this ministry for all their guidance, love, and friendship.

I write this on the cusp of Pentecost, the birthday of the church. During this season we are asked to renew our commitment to God and to our church, and to use our gifts to share God's love for the world. We can't do it alone and we must be active. So, after being absent in body and mind from the Episcopal Church for some twenty years, we ended up here, with baptism as a catalyst, but this time with a little more intention and a lot less passiveness. 🙌

EMF Annual Fish Fry and Silent Auction



**Sunday, June 5
5:00–8:00 p.m. | Roper Hall**



The Episcopal Men's Fellowship is preparing for its annual Fish Fry and Auction on Sunday, June 5. If you have things to donate, such as time at your vacation condo, golf clubs, event tickets, or other items of value, please contact Jim Kirkman, Auction Chair, at jkirkman2434@tx.rr.com. All proceeds from the silent auction support parish ministries and outreach projects. Join us for this evening of food, friendship, and fun. The cost is \$5 per person or \$15 per family (food service ends at 7:00 p.m.). 🙌



The Rev. R. Casey Shobe
Rector



The Rev. Erin Jean Warde
Associate Rector
for Christian Formation



The Rev. Michael Merriman
Priest Associate



The Rev. Liz O'Donnell
Deacon



Ellen Dingwall
Minister of Congregational
Life and Outreach



Cindy Hauser
Interim Director of Children's
Ministries



Colin Hills
Director of Youth Ministries



Rebecca Gingles
Director of Communications



Joel Martinson
Director of Music and
Organist



Christopher B. Thomas
Chief Administrative Officer



Cindy Haddock
Controller



Meghan Mazur
Administrative Assistant



Bracken Reece
Director of Facilities

**Did you
KNOW?**

How well do you *really* know the staff at Transfiguration?

At our recent staff retreat in April, we each submitted three things that people may not know about us. We had so much fun learning about each other that we're inviting you to play along. Look for answers in the weekly e-news beginning in June! (Hint: Bracken Reece, Cindy Hauser, and Cindy Haddock were not present for this part of the retreat).

1. I taught archery for two years at a summer camp. _____
2. I was arrested for shooting a wild pig. _____
3. I was an extra in a movie when I was 18. _____
4. One of my parents was an immigrant. _____
5. I am expecting a baby in November. _____
6. I was a baby model. _____
7. My college job was a bridal consultant for Foley's Department Store. _____
8. The first album I ever bought was by the Carpenters. _____
9. I have an intense clown phobia. _____
10. I had a commission to the Air Force Academy. _____

November 18-19, 2016

EVANGELISM MATTERS

CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION, DALLAS, TEXAS

Convened by **FORWARD MOVEMENT** in collaboration with the **PRESIDING BISHOP'S OFFICE**
Hosted by the Diocese of Dallas and Church of the Transfiguration

"Evangelism Matters" Coming This Fall

By Anne Schmidt

Last June I served as an alternate deputy to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Salt Lake City. It was my first convention but others who have

attended before said that this one was the most positive and uplifting they had ever attended. There was a palpable feeling that the church has the energy to do something more in the world. The first sign of this was the election of Bishop Michael Curry as the Presiding Bishop. His work has always centered on what he calls "the Jesus Movement" and evangelism. He even calls himself our "Chief Evangelism Officer."

A second sign was that the budget line item for evangelism was increased on the floor to allow for TEC to have more of a digital presence and to fund more church plants. Thirdly, resolution # A173

(http://www.generalconvention.org/gc/2015-resolutions/A173/current_english_text)

mandated that Forward Movement (<http://www.forwardmovement.org/>), in collaboration with the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (the office of the Presiding Bishop), "shall convene an evangelism summit to gather leaders from across the Episcopal Church to identify existing evangelism resources, gaps and challenges and develop an evangelism road map to propel the church beyond its walls."

I am on the Board of Directors for Forward Movement and am honored to have been asked to be the co-convenor of this summit. I will be joined on a planning team by co-covenor Carrie Headington, who works as the

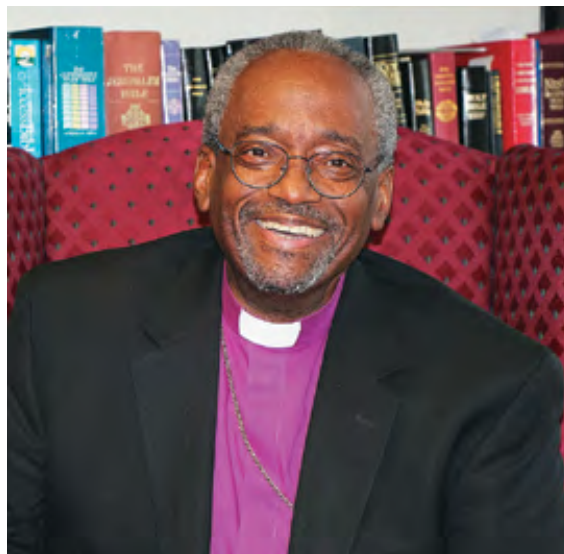
Missioner for Evangelism for the Diocese of Dallas, The Rev. Scott Gunn, Executive Director of Forward Movement, The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism and Racial Reconciliation, the Rev. Canon Frank Logue, Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Georgia, and the Rev. Alex Montes-Vela, founding priest of St. Mary Magdalene Church, Manor, TX.

The summit is called "Evangelism Matters" and I am thrilled to say it will be held at Church of the Transfiguration. It will begin on the afternoon of November 17 for a one-day meeting of 30–50 invited evangelism practitioners in the church. All day on Friday, November 18 and part of Saturday, November 19 there will be a conference that will be open for registration to anyone interested in evangelism. We have no idea how many to expect but will cap our registration at 500.

The most exciting part is that our keynoter/preacher and guest

for Friday and Saturday will be our Presiding Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry. Canon Spellers told me that he attends many meetings and conferences but he is most excited about this one—it is his "baby." He will preach at a Eucharist on the evening of November 18, and we hope to be able to open this service to anyone who would like to attend, though space needs may require using another room and video.

There are still many details to be worked out but this is a great opportunity for us to show hospitality to the wider church. As November draws closer I will be asking for help with many tasks like welcoming, guiding, and serving. I ask now for your prayers as the team plans the event and people make plans to attend. 🙏



Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

Save *the* Date

FALL MINISTRY FAIR

Sunday, August 28 • 10:15 a.m.

Come learn about the many ministries of Transfiguration
and how you can grow in faith, give of your time and talent,
and seek and serve Christ in all persons.