

vol. 1 no. 2
Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2015–2016

illumine

enlightening and celebrating where God is at work in our midst

Labyrinth

Make time for quiet prayer in the midst of a noisy season at the Advent Retreat on December 12 and Taizé service on the Labyrinth on December 13.

CHURCH STAFF

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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

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 and Outreach
 Suzanne Finan—Director of Children and
 Family Ministries
 Colin Hills—Director of Youth Ministries
 Rebecca Gingles—Director of Communications
 (Editor of *Illumine*)

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

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 Jay Madrid (ex-officio, Chancellor)
 Jonathan Maedche
 Tudi Owens (ex-officio, Clerk of the Vestry)
 Paul Sternweis

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.



feature

The Gathering Space of Church of the Transfiguration holds one of the most beautiful art elements in the building, a prayer labyrinth made of marble terrazzo.

COVER PHOTO
 BY CAROLINE SCHMIDT



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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 our congregation, highlight new ministries, and celebrate where God is at work in our midst. As you read, you are invited to look and listen for the ways in which Christ is present in these pages, shining light into new places in our gathered lives.



From the Rector

Live simply. Give generously.

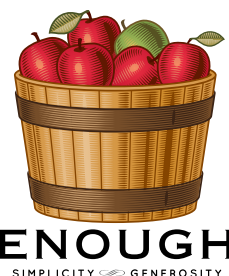
More than any stewardship season I've ever been associated with, this year's "Enough" campaign has stuck with me well beyond the Ingathering celebration in mid-October (and it's not just that I think of it whenever I take a bite out of an apple!). I find that the themes we explored together during five intentional weeks have continued to resonate in my heart and mind. There is a timelessness to the pursuit of living more simply and giving more generously, one that stretches well beyond the season in which we invited people to make pledges of support to the church.

In fact, I've recently been thinking about conversations I shared in my Sunday School class during the "Enough" campaign, which focused on how to raise generous kids. We explored what it looks like to raise kids who understand and model gratitude and simplicity, and what that requires of us as parents. We definitely didn't come up with any miracle solutions, but the conversation was rich and inspiring. I walked away from each session with a renewed dedication to the work of raising my girls to know what "enough" looks like, to be grateful for what they have, and to give generously to others.

As we look toward "the most wonderful time of the year," it's not just our children who need to remember these lessons. We should all pray for a deeper awareness that we already have *enough*, and for the holiness of simplicity and generosity to permeate our lives. Frankly, the "generosity" part will be the easiest, as marketers and retailers are already working overtime to cultivate it in all of us. But simplicity is much more elusive, especially at this time of year, and a feeling of sufficiency usually doesn't show up until the new year, when it's time to formulate resolutions.

Following Jesus is hard, counter-cultural work. It is not easy to embrace simplicity when the world wants us to be busier than ever. It is hard to believe you have enough when every screen, speaker, and billboard tells you to want more. But

Lord God, help me to be grateful for what I have, to remember that I don't need most of what I want, and to experience the true joy that is found in a life of simplicity and generosity.



Give me the mind and heart and will of Jesus, that I may live as you created me to live. Amen.

following Jesus, and his simpler, more generous way, is how we actually find the meaning and fulfillment we crave during the holidays and all the rest of the year.

There are many events described in this issue to inspire you during the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: beautiful worship, outreach opportunities, quiet days. But I hope you will remember to take time to slow down and pray. Consider praying the simplicity prayer of the "Enough" campaign, which is about far more than stewardship. However and whenever, in contrast to everything swirling around you, take time to look to the God who entered the world in the humblest of circumstances, that he would inspire your efforts to live simply and generously, and you would have the mind and heart and will of Jesus.

—The Rev. R. Casey Shobe
Rector





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Picnic tables decked the lawn of the church at the In-Gathering Celebration; barrels of apples remind us of God's generous provision; children enjoy the pony rides and petting zoo; Father Casey preaches at the joint service on October 11 for In-Gathering Sunday.



PHOTOS BY CARTER ROSE OF F8 STUDIOS





CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Placing pledge certificates and apples at the altar; enjoying the bounce house and sno cones; coming together at the Eucharist; local bluegrass band, Boxcar Bandits, grooving at the picnic.



PHOTOS BY CARTER ROSE OF F8 STUDIOS





2015 Church-Wide Advent Festival All Creatures Great and Small

*“For a child has been born
for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his
shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.”*

—Isaiah 9:6

Join us in the Gathering Space at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, November 22, to prepare for the Season of Advent with a multitude of activities for young and old. Some of them include:

- Wooden Advent Tree Calendars
- Advent Wreath Making with the Flower Guild
- Bird and Beast Ornament Making
- Family Prayer Ideas
- Photo Station

The Fig Theatre Company presents

The Importance of Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde

Directed by John Hanby

Remaining Performances:

Friday, November 20—7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 21—7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 22—2:00 p.m. matinee

tickets \$12 (\$5 for students)

For reservations and ticket information,
please call or text Tim O'Bryen at 214-697-4625.

Childcare provided.

How We Say “Thanks”

Outreach and Gift-Giving Opportunities This Holiday Season



Transfiguration's Food Pantry Gift Drive

As a part of our mission to seek and serve Christ in all persons, parishioners are sponsoring children from our food pantry families this Christmas. In a way very similar to the Angel Tree ministry, parishioners picked up cards that listed one need and one want for each kid. These gifts are one more way we're offering love and support to families from our own area who struggle to be food secure and can't always make their financial ends meet.

If you picked up your food pantry kid's wish list on Sunday, November 1, please drop off your gifts at the table in the Tower Cloister by Sunday, December 13. If you are interested in becoming involved in the Food Pantry ministry, please contact Ellen Dingwall, Minister of Congregational Life and Outreach, at edingwall@transfiguration.net or by calling the church office.

iParent Pie-Making

Every November iParent families (families with elementary-aged kids) gather to make a variety of homemade pies in loving outreach to the Austin Street Center. This tradition was started by parents of Transfiguration who expressed a desire to involve children in more meaningful hands-on service opportunities. The pie-making is done solely by the children with minimal help and guidance from the adults. Once the pies are prepared and baked they are brought down to Austin Street and received with thankful hearts. A report back from the Austin Street community was that the sweet potato pie was a favorite last year!

iParent families, mark your calendars for Saturday November 21 from 9:00–11:00 a.m. in the Roper Hall Kitchen. The cost is \$10 per family and you can RSVP to Wendy Cone at wendycone@gmail.com. Please bring an apron, a set of measuring spoons, cups, and a bowl.



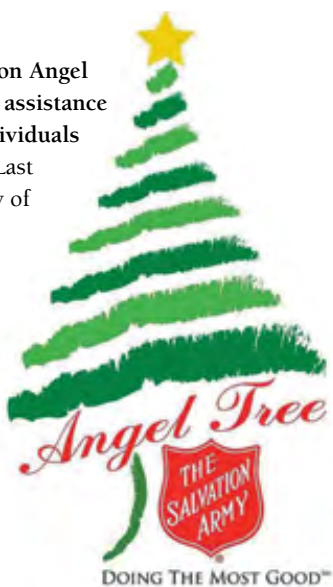
The Angel Tree

The Salvation Army/Transfiguration Angel Tree Program provides Christmas assistance to disadvantaged families and individuals throughout the DFW Metroplex. Last year, over 53,812 hearts felt the joy of Christmas thanks to the generous giving of Angel Tree sponsors. Through this program, children, special care individuals, senior citizens, veterans, and disabled adults receive toys, clothes, and other personalized holiday gifts that make their holidays a little brighter.

Over the past five years, the number of angel adoptions at Transfiguration has grown along with Fig Angel's enthusiasm and generosity. Last year, over 160 households adopted the 225 Angels with which we were entrusted. This year, we are supporting 250 Angels (175 children and 75 seniors).

Adoptions will run throughout November in the Gathering Space with gifts due back under the tree by Sunday, November 29.

Young Fig families have been particularly vocal about how pleased they are to make their Angel Tree shopping part of their family Christmas tradition, and the Youth Ministries are sponsoring two angels this year. Likewise, our senior parishioners have eagerly contributed since many do not venture to the malls very often and welcome the opportunity to "be an angel for an angel" right after church!



Episcopal Relief & Development

ERD is the Episcopal Church's compassionate response to the words of Jesus (Matthew 25:37–40) to feed the hungry, care for the sick, and welcome the stranger. This international agency partners with churches, community-based programs, and local organizations to customize responses to annually meet the unique challenges of over three million people in communities located in 40 countries worldwide.

Consider simplifying your gift-giving this Christmas by giving a Gift for Life to fight poverty, hunger, and disease worldwide, such as:



**Episcopal
Relief & Development**
Healing a hurting world

- Goats, cows, flocks of chickens
- Wells and water systems, clean water, schooling
- Micro-credit loans for women
- Vocational training
- Planet saving rainwater harvesting, community gardening and reforestation

Choose your gifts at episcopalrelief.org/what-you-can-do/gifts-for-life/all-gifts, call 1-855-312-4325, or stop and shop at the Episcopal

Relief & Development display that will be located in the Gathering Space during Advent. Your generous Gifts for Life will equip people around the world to find lasting solutions by helping to leverage local assets, expand earning potential, and increase self-sufficiency.

Alternative Gift Market

Join us in the Gathering Space and Tower Cloister December 5 and 6 as we showcase nine charities and vendors making an impact in the world. You can shop for a loved one trusting that the dollars you spend will be put to work healing and transforming lives. This year's market includes:

- **Threads of Hope**—Hand embroidered crafts from women and families who live in the shanty towns above Lima, Peru.
- **Batwa Baskets**—The straw crafts are made by the pygmies who were forced out of their centuries-old mountain habitat in Rwanda and now have to adapt to an agricultural society.
- **Paper For Water**—Two young girls started a charity selling paper ornaments to fund the building of water wells in third world counties.
- **Carol Brickell**—Author of *Cinco the Clinic Cat*, which supports our Honduras ministry. Her new book was recently published—it's about a parrot!
- **Honduras Threads**—Embroideries made by women in Honduras, and warehoused in our own Niles Building.
- **ERD—Episcopal Relief and Development** will offer fantastic gifts that benefit people in third world countries. See left for more details.
- **The Fig Theatre Company**—Ticket packages will be available for the 2016 Spring production.
- **Pretty Purposeful**—Two Southlake teenage girls formed a charity selling products to fund obstetric fistula repair surgeries for African women.
- **Transfigured Nights**—CDs by our very own choirs to support this wonderful ministry of our church.



Baby Blankets for Children's Medical Center Dallas

Our annual celebration of the birth of Jesus is a holy occasion to reach out in love and compassion to all the families welcoming their own babies into the world. Donate a new baby blanket at a basket in the Tower Cloister anytime during December. The blankets will be blessed at the 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve services, and delivered to Children's Medical Center in early January. Learn more by getting in touch with Suzanne Finan, Director of Children and Family Ministries. 🙏

Come, Let Us Adore Him

By The Rev. Michael Merriman

The season of Advent should not to be confused with Lent.

This short period is not primarily a time of penitence, but rather a time to joyfully

prepare for Christ's return and reign. The Lord's return does have a relationship to penitence, but primarily as it leads to repentance,

which is an action rather than a feeling—the action of turning around, and being turned around by, the work of God in us. By reflecting upon our lives in the light of God's Word, we recognize the direction our present values and habits are leading

us, and we realize how those values and ways of living must be changed. But in contrast with the societal obsession with self-reliance, in Advent we are reminded that we are dependent on God to perform this change, for it is God who enables us “to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light” (Collect for the First Sunday of Advent).

In Advent the liturgy deals with contrasts: light and dark, joy and sorrow, beginning and end, and, especially, chronological time and God's time. We discover in Advent that God's time is of the kind described, not by clocks and calendars, but in terms like “the time is ripe,” or “in the fullness of time.” During Advent

worship we experience the transcendence of God's time. As we remember God's saving acts from the past in prayer and thanksgiving, we find those past acts becoming real and present once more. And as we look ahead to the Christ's eventual return at the end of time (Advent, from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming”), we discover that in our present time we are given a foretaste of the kingdom that is yet to come. This blending of past, present, and future is captured most poignantly in the declaration, “We remember his death. We proclaim his resurrection. We await his coming in glory.” (*The Book of Common Prayer*, page 367.)

The First Sunday of Advent is concerned with the Lord's return as judge of not only us but the whole created order. We will all stand in total submission and be seen for who we truly are. Yet as sobering as this

confession may be, the character of his coming is revealed in the occasions he has come in the past. He comes suddenly and surprisingly, yet his presence is always one of mercy and compassion.

“We discover in Advent that God's time is of the kind described, not by clocks and calendars, but in terms like ‘the time is ripe,’ or ‘in the fullness of time.’”

He comes as judge, but also as reconciler and mediator. Such complementary actions should be familiar to us, as we stand each week beneath the penetrating gaze of his judgment, but also beneath the transformational power of his mercy. Through baptism and sharing in the Eucharist, we are laid bare for who we truly are, forgiven by our union with Christ, and transformed to become his body in the world. Judgment is the first step toward healing and wholeness and our ultimate restoration as the people God intends us to be.

The Second and Third Sundays of Advent are focused on John the Baptist, the final prophet of Israel and the forerunner of Christ. John is the striking figure who fulfills the last prophecies of the Old Testament. He is the living sign that the Messiah has at last come and that God's kingdom is imminent. John cries out in the wilderness, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord.” That preparation is what the Greek-speaking writers of the Gospels called *metanoia*, which means “turn around,” and which we translate as “repentance.” John's words and teaching are sharp and abrupt, but they jostle us from complacency to realize how imminent is Christ's arrival. We are to live that we may, as we pray in Advent, “without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing” (Proper Preface for

Liturgy in Advent



Advent).

The Fourth Sunday of Advent is concerned with Jesus' immediate family, and particularly with his mother Mary's role in redemption. Thankfully the longstanding fear among some Protestants and Anglicans of expressing reverence for Mary has begun to disappear in recent decades as Christians have reengaged the piety and doctrine of the early Church. We recognize that God did not redeem us in a vacuum, apart from human participation, but brought about the Incarnation of his Son through the cooperation of a human woman with his lifegiving Spirit. We celebrate and honor Mary not only as the *Theotokos*, the "Godbearer," but also as the supreme example of how we may fully cooperate with the divine grace.

God's time redemptively breaks into our time whenever we, in prayer, liturgy, and ministry, cooperate with the divine will. During Advent our worship points us toward this merging of our wills with God's will, such that the future and the past are blended and all things are brought to the ultimate perfection and completion by the one who entered into the world once long ago and will come again. During Advent our worship reveals us to be the way Christ enters into the world even now, forming us to be his Body, and we gather in hopeful expectation that he will come in fullness again to judge all things, love all things, and redeem all things.

Our King and Savior now draws near: *Come, let us adore him.* ✠



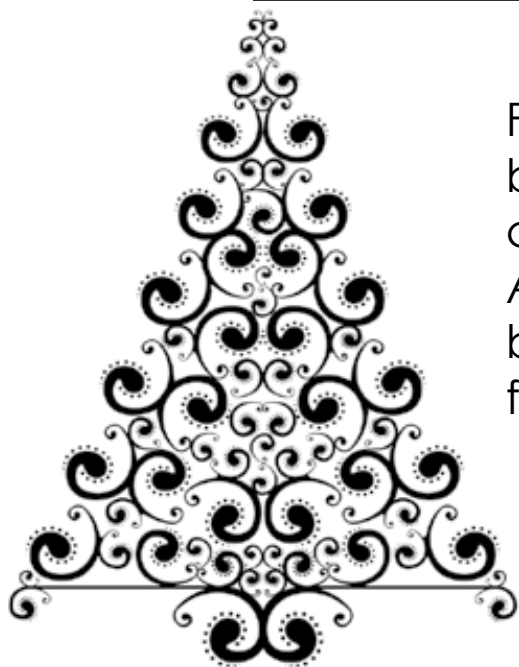
PHOTO BY CHRISTIE HAMPTON

'Tis the season to



WAIT
READ
PRAY
GIVE

Find Advent devotions, books, calendars, and candles in the Kay Andrews Bookstore. Stop by for meaningful gifts for friends and family.



Open weekends before and after all services
& Tuesday–Friday; 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.


Kay Andrews
BOOKSTORE
— St. Hilda's Guild —

AN INVITATION TO THE LABYRINTH

Walking PRAYER

Compiled by Rebecca Gingles

with contributions from Mary Anne Reed and Nancy Jagmin

As children, most of us learned to pray in a particular way. We learned to fold our hands and bow our heads. We learned certain sets of words: bedtime prayers or graces over meals. And we learned to kneel, in church pews or beside our beds. Often, when we think of prayer, these are the postures or images that come to mind, deeply ingrained as “the way to pray.” But, of course, there are many different ways to pray. You can pray scripted words, learned by heart, or you can pray the words that come to you on the spot. You can pray with music or art or dance. You can pray kneeling, or you can pray standing, or you can pray while moving. In fact, movement is a deeply ancient form of prayer. Jews pray while “davening,” rocking back and forth. And for centuries Christians have prayed by walking, sometimes on pilgrimages or hikes, and sometimes through the use of a prayer labyrinth.

The Gathering Space of Church of the Transfiguration holds one of the most beautiful art elements in the building, a prayer labyrinth made of marble terrazzo. Do you know the story of why Transfiguration has this ancient prayer tool? When was the last time you walked the labyrinth as a spiritual exercise?

What is a Labyrinth?

The labyrinth pattern, in different forms, has been found across the globe and in many different cultures since as early as 2500 BCE, as a pattern in Roman tile design, and in the Egyptian histories by Herodotus, for example. The presence of the labyrinth pattern (circle, spiral, center)

across time, geography, and cultures is considered a testament to its enduring meaningfulness in human history.

In our context, a prayer labyrinth can be a useful tool for our spiritual journey throughout life. It can facilitate our practice of prayer, promote time for self-reflection, and provide a physical space for peace in the midst of a chaotic life and world. The labyrinth is a model or metaphor for life: the Christian life is a pilgrimage or journey with God. Our footsteps following twists and turns on a path represent the twists and turns of life, as we walk toward or away from God through different seasons of our faith journey. As our footfalls follow this path, we experience the sensation of moving toward God at the center.

The modern embrace of the labyrinth began in the early 1990s, when leaders of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco visited Chartres Cathedral in France and noticed a labyrinth, dated from 1220, inlaid beneath

their feet. Eventually Grace Cathedral chose to include that same labyrinth pattern in the construction of their building and campus, which quickly became a popular spiritual symbol and exercise for visitors and pilgrims. In subsequent years, canvas replicas of the labyrinth spread widely as temporary devotional tools, and in some places church leaders chose to permanently install a labyrinth in or around their own buildings. Such was the case here at Transfiguration.

The Labyrinth at Transfiguration

In the early 1990s, then Rector, the Rev. Terry Roper, and several members interested in the labyrinth movement decided to include a labyrinth in plans for an expansion of the church building. Ed Kelton, husband of the Rev. Barbara Kelton, then Associate Rector, came up with the first design using square tiles. The group then ordered a “seed kit” for



A member walking the labyrinth when it was first completed in 1997.

design from Grace Cathedral, and the first labyrinth walk at Transfiguration was held on March 24, 1996, on a 30-foot diameter painted paper model laid out on the floor of the Parish Hall (now the Youth Center). Building on that initial experience, former parishioner Dr. Mary Anne Reed conducted a series of classes on labyrinth history and use. Just two years later, in April of 1996, the gift of a labyrinth was announced, given by Randy and Edna Marston in loving memory of their daughter, Virginia Alice. It was completed toward the end of the building expansion which included the bell tower, Columbarium, Great Hall (now Roper Hall), childcare wing, and most important for this article, the Gathering Space:

“The Gathering Space was to be just that—a space in which the parish could meet before and after services, out of the elements, and without having to trek down the hill. A key ingredient of the space, however, made it more than a social area. The inclusion of a labyrinth was a vital part of the plan. The labyrinth is the outward and visible form for an inward and spiritual exercise which may be experienced by people of all ages. Our labyrinth provides a superb meditation aid for our people and those who come from far and wide to make this spiritual journey.”

—From *“A Fifty Year History of Church of the Transfiguration”*
by Mike Dodge

On February 8, 1997, the choir sang *Locus iste a Deo factus est* as the labyrinth and the rest of the new building was dedicated by Bishop Stanton. Later that month, the Rev. Dr. Lauren Artress, who first brought the labyrinth to Grace Cathedral, led the first labyrinth retreat at Transfiguration, “Walking Our Faith.” The following year the Labyrinth Project was created and a group of Labyrinth docents were trained. An article entitled “Walking the Walk” appeared in *The Dallas Morning News*, which quoted Fr. Roper: “We want the labyrinth to be available to everyone in the city. We think it’s a major gift to the spiritual life of our community.”

The Labyrinth Project published its own newsletter entitled “One Path” for seven years. In addition to funding the permanent labyrinth, the Marstons also gifted the

church with two canvas labyrinths by Robert Ferre in St. Louis. These mobile versions were used for events around the city as the popularity of the labyrinth grew. In the late 1990s monthly “Taizé by the Labyrinth” services were offered as well as New Year’s Eve services, annual retreats, and multi-faith services.

Dr. Mary Anne Reed, who was instrumental in bringing the labyrinth into being, reflected on that period:

“Throughout the years, we created and presented hundreds of events—retreats, workshops, rituals, Taizé services,

presentations, teachings, facilitated walks—both at the church and away—at other churches, hotels, conference centers, retirement centers, or schools. The retreats were created for and attended by youth and adults from Episcopal churches, Christian churches of other denominations, and groups not affiliated with a congregation. We went where we were invited and always returned refreshed by the experience.”

The Transfiguration labyrinth and the spiritual practice of walking prayer and meditation on the



The dedicatory plaque on the labyrinth, given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Virginia Alice Marston, by her parents, Randy and Edna Marston.



The labyrinth illuminated by candlelight on the left and by sunlight through the stained glass on the right. PHOTOS BY CAROLINE SCHMIDT

labyrinth continued to appear in many publications over the next few years, and labyrinths began to spring up all over the DFW metroplex.

Why Walk a Labyrinth?

It may just be a pattern on the floor, but while the labyrinth is being walked in prayer and meditation, it is a sacred space. Of course, you can pray or meditate anywhere, yet when you make the effort

special time of prayer in a special place can give your experience added significance. Your presence on the labyrinth reminds you that you are in a separate place, there to be open to what you may receive.

The act of walking often dissipates restlessness. A walking meditation can help us make the transition from our busy lives to a more receptive, contemplative state.

The labyrinth has only one path so there are no dead ends. The path winds throughout and becomes a mirror for where we are in our lives. It touches our sorrows and releases our joys.

Advent Retreat— An Opportunity to Walk

This Advent season, you have an opportunity to experience the prayer labyrinth at Transfiguration through a retreat entitled “Gratitude for our Giftedness” on Saturday, December 12.

The goal of the retreat is to help attendees deepen their awareness of God’s goodness by reflecting on their giftedness, the ultimate gift being the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. The retreat will feature time to

experience some of the art works around the church (many of them gifts to the parish) that echo or directly point to an Advent theme. A particular focus will be the gift of the Transfiguration labyrinth. Fr. Terry Roper and Dr. Mary Anne Reed, who together led the effort to bring the labyrinth to Transfiguration, will share about their experience during a Saturday morning panel, and Nancy Jagmin will facilitate. Register by emailing Nancy Jagmin at nancy@jagminconsulting.com or by signing up in the Tower Cloister this month.

On Sunday, December 13, all are invited to return to the labyrinth for a candlelit evening of contemplative prayer and Taizé music at 6:00 p.m. 🕯️

SOURCES

gracecathedral.org/visit/labyrinth

“A Fifty Year History of Church of the Transfiguration” by Mike Dodge

Lana Miller, campus pastor at Eastern Mennonite University

Labyrinth Project Information and Timeline by Mary Anne Reed

Advent Retreat: Gratitude for our Giftedness

Saturday, December 12,
8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

to seek out and walk a labyrinth, you have made space in your life to do something out of the ordinary. Your intention to make it a



September 21—Solemn Evensong
for Holy Cross Day
PHOTOS BY JOHN MAKOWSKI AND ROBERT HACKER



September
24—Dr. Gary
Anderson,
Special Lecturer
and Professor at
Notre Dame
PHOTOS BY
ROBERT HACKER



TRANSFIGURATION FALL HIGHLIGHTS



September 27—Installation of Daughters of the King Chapter
and guest preacher (then Bishop-elect, now Bishop) Canon
George Sumner. PHOTOS BY CAROLINE SCHMIDT



November 1—All Saints' crafts for Sunday School.
PHOTOS BY JUDSON WATKINS



October 17—
Transfigured
Nights presents
From Broadway
to Bristol

PHOTOS BY
ROBERT HACKER AND
JOHN MAKOWSKI



Calendar—A Look Ahead

The Fig Theatre Company presents *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Final Weekend November 20–22

There is one more weekend to catch the fall production of *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde. Reserve your tickets for November 20 or 21 at 7:30 p.m. or the closing matinee on Sunday, November 22 at 2:00 p.m. by calling or texting Timothy O'Bryen at 214-697-4625. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students.

iParent Pie-Making

Saturday, November 21 | 9:00 a.m.

iParent families will gather in the Roper Hall Kitchen from 9:00–11:00 a.m. to bake home-made pies as a Thanksgiving outreach to the Austin Street Center. The pie-making is done solely by children with minimal help and guidance from adults. The cost per family is \$10. Please bring an apron, a set of measuring spoons, cups, and a bowl. RSVP to Wendy Cone at wendycone@gmail.com.

EMF Golf Outing

Saturday, November 21

The annual EMF Golf Outing is scheduled for Saturday, November 21. Sign up at the EMF stand or notify Jack Skelton at 903-245-1706 or 972-437-0606. The entry fee is \$60/person which includes greens fee, cart, practice balls, lunch, prizes, and fellowship.

Liturgical Ministers Training

Saturday, November 21

Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, Emcees, Lectors, and all altar servers are required to attend this annual refresher on our worship customs and practices. Emcee training begins at 9:00 a.m., and the broader training occurs from 10:00 a.m.–noon.

Advent Festival

Sunday, November 22 | 10:15 a.m.

Come to the Gathering Space during the 10:15 formation hour to prepare for the Advent season with a multitude of activities for both young and old. Some of the activities include:

- Wooden Advent Tree Calendars
- Flower Guild Advent Wreath Making
- Bird and Beast Ornament making
- Family Prayer Ideas
- Photo Station

For more information contact Suzanne Finan, Director of Children and Family Ministries, at sfinan@transfiguration.net.

Austin Street Thanksgiving Eve

Wednesday, November 25

On the evening before Thanksgiving, Transfiguration will provide a special holiday meal at Austin Street Center. We serve approximately 350 men and women living in the shelter. St Hilda's and EMF have generously provided funding for the meal, so donations are not necessary this year. If you would like to be a part of this Transfiguration tradition and volunteer to serve the meal, please contact Ron Kerker at 214-797-0385 or email rkerker1@yahoo.com.

Church Offices Closed

November 25–27

The church offices will be closed for Thanksgiving from November 25–27. As always, if you have a pastoral emergency, call the church at 972-233-1898, and the priest on call will contact you.

Thanksgiving Day Eucharist

Thursday, November 26 | 10:00 a.m.

Please join us for a Thanksgiving Day Eucharist in the Church as we offer thanks for our many blessings.

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 29

Read more about the liturgical season of Advent on page 8 and 9.

Advent Outreach Day

Saturday, December 5

The annual Advent Outreach Day, sponsored by our Youth Ministries, is a time for people of all ages to participate in a slew of different service projects around the DFW metroplex. Sign-ups for full and half-day projects are available in the Tower Cloister or online at www.transfiguration.com/ministries/youth-ministries. Childcare will be available for those who need it, and a light breakfast will be provided.

Alternative Gift Market

Saturday, December 5 and

Sunday, December 6

Join us in the Gathering Space and Tower Cloister December 5 and 6 as we showcase nine charities and vendors making an impact in the world. You can shop for a loved one trusting that the dollars you spend will be put to work healing and transforming lives. This year's market is detailed on page 9.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 6 | 5:00 p.m.

The Transfiguration Choir and congregation will celebrate the richness of the Advent season through Scripture and song at 5:00 p.m. More details on page 18.

Advent Retreat

Saturday, December 12

Respond to Advent's call to prayerful expectation by reserving some quiet time on Saturday, December 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The retreat will feature time to experience some of the art works around the church that echo or directly point to an Advent theme, focusing on the Transfiguration labyrinth.

Taizé on the Labyrinth

Sunday, December 13 | 6:00 p.m.

Experience the beauty of Transfiguration's labyrinth by candlelight (pictured on the cover). Join us for a contemplative evening of prayer and song at 6:00 p.m. as we await the birth of our Savior. Childcare provided.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 25, 7:00 p.m. at King of Glory Lutheran Church

Area congregations will share in a service of prayer and thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 25, at 7:00 p.m. at King of Glory Lutheran Church, 6411 Lyndon B Johnson Fwy, Dallas, TX 75240. There will be no Wednesday evening Eucharist at Transfiguration that night. Please join us for a 10:00 a.m. Eucharist at the church on Thanksgiving Day.

Art Music Monday**Monday, December 14 | 7:00 p.m.**

This concert will feature music by David Popper and Ludwig von Beethoven, as well as Smetana's Piano *Trio in G minor*.

Fall Formation Classes Conclude**Sunday, December 20**

Class offerings for adults, children, and youth during the 10:15 formation hour end this week and will resume on Sunday, January 10. Check out the class offerings for adults during Epiphany on page 23.

Christmas Lessons and Carols**Sunday, December 27 | 10:00 a.m.**

Join us for one sung service at 10:00 a.m. as we continue our celebration of the Christmas Season with readings from Holy Scripture and carols sung by the congregation and choir.

Feast of the Holy Innocents**Tuesday, December 29 | 12:00 p.m.**

We will remember the story of the children who died as part of the story of Christ's nativity, as well as all children who have died tragically throughout time, with a noon Eucharist in observance of the Feast of the Holy Innocents.

Church Offices Closed**December 31–January 1**

The church offices will be closed beginning at noon on Thursday, December 31 through Friday, January 1. The church will be open for the 12:00 p.m. Eucharist on New Year's Day.

Holy Name Day**Friday, January 1, 2016 | 12:00 p.m.**

Join us for a Holy Name Day Eucharist at 12:00 p.m. in the church.

Christmas Pageant**Sunday, January 3, 2016**

Children are invited to depict in tableau the story of Christ's Nativity. There are no

rehearsals, but children should arrive by 8:15 a.m. to find a costume and a role to play.

Feast of Epiphany and Burning of the Greens**Wednesday, January 6, 2016 | 7:00 p.m.**

This service will be a solemn, high Eucharist with incense celebrating the Light that came into the world, which the darkness could not overcome. The choir will sing and the evening concludes outside with the Burning of the Greens.

Icon Writing Workshop**Thursday, January 7–12, 2016**

The Rev. David Holland will lead a five-day Icon Writing Workshop in early January. The process of writing an icon is not difficult and curiously, artistic abilities are not required. The workshop will not only provide students with instructions on how to write an icon, but also with a basic understanding of how icons can support us in our spiritual journey. The class entails evening meetings during the week and daytime meetings on the weekends. Learn more about icon writing on page 19.

First Sunday After Epiphany, the Baptism of Our Lord**Sunday, January 10, 2016**

The Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated at 11:15 a.m. Children and Youth will begin the spring semester of classes. Beginning this week, two classes for adults will be offered during Epiphany. See page 23 for class descriptions.

Annual Parish Meeting**Sunday, January 31, 2016 | 10:00 a.m.**

A celebratory look back at all we accomplished in service of God in 2015, paired with a preview of what we may be about in 2016. Includes the Rector's Annual Address, installation of new Vestry members,

presentation of the budget, and presentation of Tau Cross and Crown awards.

Ambassadors of Reconciliation: The Rev. Becca Stevens and Thistle Farms-Magdalene**Wed., February 3–Thurs., February 4, 2016**

Please mark your calendars for the opportunity to learn more about Becca Stevens and the transformative and reconciling ministry that is available through Thistle Farms-Magdalene. During her time here, she will offer sessions on Wednesday afternoon and evening, and Thursday morning. Learn more on page 23.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and Burning of the Palms**Tuesday, February 9, 2016 | 5:00–7:00 p.m.**

The Men's Fellowship and Youth cohost a delicious pancake supper on the final night before Lent. Children help symbolically "bury" the Alleluia near the Bell Tower, and everyone is invited to bring palms to burn outside to create the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday**Wednesday, February 10, 2016**

Services at 6:30 a.m., 10:00 (PES), noon, and 7:00 p.m. are offered to help people begin the solemn season of Lent with the imposition of ashes and litany of penitence. Younger children are invited to attend an age-appropriate liturgy with their families at 5:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross Art Show Opens**Sunday, February 14, 2016**

Join us for the opening of the Lenten art installation, a collection of amateur and professional artist's work from the greater DFW area based on the 14 Biblical Stations of the Cross. The gallery will be on display through April 3. Learn more about this opportunity on page 21. 🎨

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services

Christmas Eve Services—Thursday, December 24

3:00 p.m. Families with Younger Children Eucharist (Sung—Holy Family Choir)* All children are invited to help build the Crèche at the homily.

5:00 p.m. Families with Children and Youth Eucharist (Sung—Canticle Choristers & Youth Choir)*

8:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Sung—Transfiguration Choir & Instrumentalists)

10:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist (Sung—Transfiguration Choir & Instrumentalists) (Incense)

*Childcare is only available at 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Please note: the church offices will be closed beginning at noon on Thursday, December 24 and will reopen on Tuesday, December 29.

Christmas Day—Friday, December 25

Join us for a contemplative, holy, and beautiful Christmas Day Service at **10:00 a.m.**



ADVENT Outreach Day

The annual Advent Outreach Day sponsored by the Youth Ministries is one of the most anticipated events on the youth calendar.

Formerly known as “Nick Off,” AOD is a time for people of all ages to participate in a slew of different service projects around the DFW metroplex and spend a Saturday in outreach. The youth of Transfiguration treasure the opportunity to bring the church together to go out into the world to love and serve the Lord.

This year, Advent Outreach Day will be held on Saturday, December 5. Childcare will be available for those who need it, and a light breakfast will be provided.

The projects include:

Half-Day (9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.)

- North Dallas Shared Ministries—Elementary age and up
- Voice of Hope—Must be 10 years or older

Full-Day (9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.)

- Our Savior Community Garden—No minimum age
- ReStore—Habitat for Humanity—Must be 15 years or older

Sign up at volunteerspot.com/login/entry/12760843500111 or in the Tower Cloister before and after Sunday services this month. 🙏

Advent Lessons and Carols

On Sunday, December 6 at 5:00 p.m. the Transfiguration Choir and congregation celebrate the richness of the Advent season through scripture and song. During the service the choir will move from place to place throughout the church as it sings carols and anthems. The congregation will join in singing hymns, chants, and carols accompanied by organ, handbells, and other instruments. A reception follows the service in Roper Hall. Childcare is provided.



Icon Writing Workshop

Join the Rev. David Holland for a creative exploration of iconography, January 7–12

Have you ever gazed at the icon of the Virgin and Child in the Nave and wondered how such sacred images are created? You may be surprised to learn that the practice of writing icons is just as much about method and patience as artistic virtuosity. Join Fr. David Holland for a weeklong workshop for new iconographers and learn about the ancient devotional power of these holy images.



The Rev. David Holland

What is an icon?

Icons are visual aids that are used to point to something beyond the stuff they are made of, or to the *someone* beyond the stuff the icon is made of. In Christianity, they become so much more than “religious pictures”—they are an opportunity to encounter God’s love. Icons have been part of Christian worship for more than 1,500 years, when they first appeared in Christian worship in the ancient catacombs where many Christians gathered for unmolested worship. By the fifth century they had become a part of Christian worship. While their use in previous centuries was primarily among Eastern Orthodox Christians, today they are experiencing a wider appreciation in Western Christianity and within The Episcopal Church.

The purpose of an icon is to aid the worshipper in focusing upon the object of their worship, and ultimately to deepen our devotion to God. If we dig a bit deeper and are open to the Holy Spirit, we can experience icons as what our Eastern brothers and sisters refer to as “windows into heaven.”

Icons are painted, or as the tradition prefers, “written” in a particular style and order. We say “written” because we understand they are the Scriptures or sacred stories of our faith written, not with pen and ink, but with paints and brushes. In fact, icons are almost always copies of copies of copies back through the years.

The subject matter for an icon can be the saints of the Old and New Testaments or the lives of non-biblical saints who are celebrated and commemorated within the Liturgical Calendar of the Church(s). Some saints are particular to the Orthodox or Roman Catholic or Anglican or Lutheran Communions, but they are all proper subjects for an icon. For the Transfiguration Workshop we will be writing a copy of Christ the Teacher.



Christ the Teacher

Do you have to be an artist to paint an icon?

In a word—NO! The most important thing is to be able to follow instructions, practice patience and humility, and trust a process that has worked for almost 2,000 years.

How does a workshop work?

Fr. David will provide the materials required to complete an icon. A comfortable, well-lit, and dedicated room is required that has tables, chairs, electricity, and water.

Participants will work on their icons from Thursday evening through the following Tuesday. At that time participants will have painted—written—their own icon.

What are the classes like?

Each session begins with prayer. The process of writing an icon, just as much as the completed image, is a meditative experience, so frivolous conversation is avoided. Fr. David will play some devotional music, so private headsets are discouraged. Icon writers take great joy in their craft, so participants should expect to enjoy the process!



What are the materials used?

Fr. David will provide all materials. The icon is written on a prepared board made of 5/8 Cabinet Grade Birch Plywood that has been cut to size and coated with multiple layers of gesso. After each application the gesso is sanded to a smooth, marble like finish. A pattern is traced upon the board and the paint is applied with either a #6 or #2 brush. The paint is an artist grade acrylic paint, Jo Sonja’s, and is layered and shaded as instructed. A 23K gold leaf is applied for the halo, and it and the borders are lined with either a compass pen or a liner pen. When finished, the icon is varnished and, after drying completely, ready for display.

What is the cost for the workshop?

The cost for this five-day workshop is \$360 per person and includes all materials. The class entails evening meetings during the week and daytime meetings on the weekends.

About Fr. David W Holland

David is a retired Episcopal priest who lives in north Texas. He has served congregations in the Dioceses of Dallas, Fort Worth, Texas, and Nebraska. He has three grown children and one granddaughter. He has been writing icons for over 20 years and teaching workshops for the last 10. A graduate of General Theological Seminary and Missouri State University, he has expanded his knowledge of icons and iconography through reading and workshops.

If you have questions about the workshop, or would like to register, please contact the Rev. Erin Jean Warde at ewarde@transfiguration.net. 🙏



The Flower Guild

An Interview with Carolyn Lewis

What is your favorite part of serving on the Flower Guild?

There are several things that are very rewarding about this ministry. First is watching other members develop their design skills. So many people say, "I could never do that." But most

of the team members who are serving now started by attending one of the Flower Guild classes. They discovered that, after learning a few basic techniques,

you begin to try your own variations. You discover what you like and you look at what others are doing. You learn and advance your skills. Creating flower arrangements is simply fun and anyone can learn to do it! It's also satisfying on a personal level to see a design you've created or an idea you had "come to life." I often step back in wonder

because it's hard to believe that I did that.

Another gratifying project done by the Flower Guild is creating small arrangements each week for those people who receive home communion. These mini-arrangements are just a way to say that we are thinking of that person, but the gratitude expressed by the Eucharistic Visitors and those parishioners who have received them has been extraordinary.

What goes into creating the flowers for the altar (and other spots around the church) each Sunday?

Early in the week, David Diggs or I will place an order with our wholesaler for product—flowers, greenery and other supplies. Sometimes we have a general theme or design in mind, and sometimes not. We try to order items that are abundant and "in season" to keep the cost reasonable. The flowers are then delivered to the church on Friday.

We start Saturday morning with a general clean-up of the arrangements from the previous week. The stench from dying

flowers can be overwhelming at times and all the used containers need to be washed out and placed back in storage too. This is the "not fun" stuff.

Then we generally ask people to do the various arrangements with rotating assignments. There are the mini-arrangements for the homebound (usually 10–12), flowers for the altar and font, and small arrangement for the children's chapel altar, Memorial Garden, and church office. When we have enough left, we also create arrangements for the picture gallery or transepts. Except for the altar, where the two designs must balance, each person is free to select their container and use the flowers and greenery to create their own unique design.

In addition to the fresh cut arrangements, we also take care of the houseplants around the church, the ferns in the garden, and the blooming plants in the restrooms near Roper Hall. If there is a special event, such as wedding or funeral, theater gala, or Transfigured Nights performance, we will also create arrangements for those. That might include table arrangements, standards

Ministry Highlight



The Flower Guild ministry, led by the creative hands of Carolyn Lewis and David Diggs, blesses the congregation with altar arrangements and flowers around the church each week.

at the end of the pews, handheld bouquets, or other designs. Because this team is so great, we are usually finished by noon!

How does your work change with each liturgical season?

The arrangements on the altar and font always reflect either the liturgical season or a particular theme (such as the recent apples and stewardship).

During the fall and Thanksgiving, we design with seasonal products like mums, fall leaves, and pumpkins. For Advent, in keeping with tradition, we will use only greens and other materials such as pinecones, and occasionally pheasant feathers, for accents. This year, for the first time, the Flower Guild (rather than the Altar Guild) will construct the Advent Wreath from fresh greenery decorated with holly and berries. The Christmas season is one of celebration, and the flowers will reflect that. The colors will be red with white accents, and you will see more flowers and plants on the altar and in the church.

Once Lent begins, there are no flowers or other arrangements in the church. Everything is bare to reflect the solemnity of the season. Easter is a huge celebration of white, representing the exhilaration of new life and new beginnings. Several parishioners will remember the confetti canons we used at the Easter Vigil to emphasize the excitement of the occasion. (I believe we still have one or two available that we can use again, if I can coax the clergy into it!)

For Ascension and Pentecost we use red as the key note color. Then we are back to the “Ordinary Time” which is late spring, summer, and early fall, and the altar and font arrangements reflect the flowers and colors of the season.

How does one join the flower guild?

The Flower Guild is open to anyone who is interested in flowers and design. If you don't have a background in floral work, we can help you get started. The Flower Guild is a tremendous team and welcomes your support! If you can't join us in person, you are welcome to write a check instead.

Generally, we meet each Saturday from 9:00 until about noon. Obviously not everyone can come every week, and sometimes there are extra hours during the week. But when you're creatively involved in your design, the time just flies by. 🌸

Did You Know?

The increasing cost of flowers and number of ways the Flower Guild now blesses our congregation means the budget for this ministry has doubled to \$400–500 weekly.

Donations in memory of, or in thanksgiving for a particular blessing, or a loved one are always invited and encouraged to help fund this important ministry. If you'd like to donate flowers for a particular Sunday or occasion, please contact Christopher Thomas at cthomas@transfiguration.net or by calling the church office. You may also fill out a donation envelope in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate.

Burning of the Greens

On the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, the twelve-day season of Christmas draws to a solemn and beautiful close.

In the earliest centuries of the Church, Epiphany was the principle occasion when Christians commemorated the Incarnation, as Christmas was not widely observed until the fourth century. At Epiphany, Christians celebrated the Son of God entering the world, as well as other gospel stories in which Jesus' divine glory was revealed (such as his baptism in the Jordan River and first miracle at a wedding in Cana). The focus of these stories, and the focus of the season as a whole, is the celebration of the Light of Christ revealed to the whole of our darkened world.

Since the Feast of the Epiphany always falls in the middle of winter in the northern hemisphere, when nights are their longest, it has been a custom in some Christian traditions to symbolically burn the Christmas greens, creating a huge, holy bonfire. We will once again honor this tradition at Transfiguration on the night of the Feast, January 6, and you are invited to bring some of your greens with you to church that evening for our solemn Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. We will create a large burning area in the parking lot, and light our greens aflame to remember the Light of Christ that shines in the darkness, and that darkness cannot overcome it (John 1:4–5). 🌸



PHOTO BY BART STOCKTON

Adult Formation Opportunities in Epiphany

Revelations of God

Join us as we look at the different ways that God is revealed to us in Scripture, specifically through theophany: the manifestation of God to humankind. This study is offered so that we can gain a deeper understanding of the season of Epiphany, a time when we celebrate the manifestation of God the Son as a human being in Jesus Christ. This class meets on Sundays, January 10–31 at 10:15 a.m.

Telling the Story of Mental Illness

Join us on Sunday mornings in January as we explore what it is like to suffer from a mental illness. This is an opportunity to hear stories, as well as to discuss how we can break down the stigma around mental illness. We hope to learn how we, as a church, can cultivate a heart for loving those for whom this is a challenge. 🌸

Why Transfiguration?

Getting to Know Meghan Mazur

In 2008, my husband Brian and I had just gotten married and graduated from Oberlin College. We were using our “honeymoon” to participate in a summer opera program in Italy, where we were both in a production of *The Marriage of Figaro* before moving back to Dallas in the fall for me to start graduate work at SMU. One day, as I was sitting in an internet cafe in Arezzo, Italy, I saw an email with a job announcement for a soprano section leader at Church of the Transfiguration. I was certain that the job would be taken by the time we got back to the States and completed our move to Dallas, but I decided to give Joel Martinson a call anyway. After a conversation about Early Music and choral singing, I agreed to come over for an audition. The rest, as they say, is history.

On my first Sunday at the church, I couldn't have been more impressed with the music and worship experience, as well as the welcoming spirit of everyone I met. I gushed about the magnificent choir to Brian when I got home, and brought him along the following week. I remember catching his eye mid-service, and I knew that both of us were thinking that this was where we were meant to be. Not long after that, we were “Dingwalled” (a verb meaning to be joyfully invited to join the church as full members by Ellen Dingwall, Minister of Congregational Life and Outreach).

After we began attending both Sunday services regularly, we began to attend Nextgen events like the Christmas party, Superbowl party, and Newcomer Barbecue. We also helped to lead hymns for Evening Prayer, and enjoyed the fellowship with friends that followed. Getting involved in more of the programs allowed us to meet more Transfiguration members and enhance existing friendships. These friendships drew us deeper into the Transfiguration community, and to this day continue to be a primary reason that this church is so special to us.

Another reason we love Transfiguration is the intentional inclusion of children in church life. I am so grateful that children are considered full members of our church, and that their needs are considered for programming and worship. It is apparent that the classes and programs offered are not merely afterthoughts, but true Christian formation. Most Sundays, our sons, James (4) and Paul (1), may be seen racing down the hallways, truly feeling at home in this space. You might see one or both of them in the choir loft, sometimes in the arms of one of their Godparents, Joel Martinson and David Reece. Observing their



Meghan and Brian Mazur, seated at the foot of the Belltower with sons James (4) and Paul (1).

“Whatever your interests are, Transfiguration offers many opportunities to deepen your faith and grow in community with God’s people.”

inclusion in the Eucharist is also an indescribably joyful experience. The way they enthusiastically participate as they receive the life-giving body and blood of Jesus teaches me that this is the proper reaction to sharing in the Eucharist! It is a testament to the spirit of Transfiguration that the priests and Eucharistic Ministers always seem just as excited to offer the host and chalice as our children are to receive them. We are also a foster family, and have been so grateful that when we bring a new member of our family to Transfiguration, they too are included without hesitation.

The fellowship and diversity of personalities amongst parishioners, clergy, and staff make it difficult to be uninvolved

at the Fig. Although Brian and I are not necessarily extroverts, people are so friendly, that I have never felt uncomfortable going to an event that interested me. We have at times participated in everything from women’s book club discussions, to events like the EMF fish fry/silent auction, youth garage sale, and the iParent chili cook-off (still trying to reclaim our winning turkey

chili title!). Whatever your interests are, Transfiguration offers many opportunities to deepen your faith and grow in community with God’s people. We know that God has put us in this place for a reason, and we hope to share our love of God and this church with everyone we meet. 🍌

Stations of the Cross Lenten Art Festival



February 8 through April 3

Transfiguration is excited to present a deeply profound and creative way to honor the **fourteen biblical Stations of the Cross** for the 2016 Lenten season, through the eyes of a community of artists. Starting this month, we will commission artists from Transfiguration, as well as the greater DFW area, to reflect on and produce one of the fourteen stations to showcase during the season of Lent.

Artists can include hobbyists, amateurs, and professionals who enjoy working with different mediums and are looking to share their gifts. Mediums can include but are not limited to: acrylics, icon writing, oils, pastels, pencil or charcoal, collage, fabric, stained-glass, paper, metal, sculpture, water-color, wood block, photography, etc. We would like to enlist at least one artist per station. If you are interested, or know someone who may be, please make plans to attend the information meeting on Sunday, November 29 at 12:30 p.m. in the Library.

Questions? Contact Suzanne Finan at sfinan@transfiguration.net. 📧

Festival Events Timeline

"Calling All Artists" Information Meeting

Sunday, November 29
12:30 p.m. | Library

Roper Hall Gallery Open

Monday, February 8
–Sunday, April 3

Artist Gala & Show Closing

Sunday, April 3
5:00–7:00 p.m.

Ambassadors of Reconciliation

Becca Stevens and Thistle Farms-Magdalene February 3–4, 2016

The Rev. Becca Stevens is an Episcopal priest, entrepreneur, author, and social justice activist.

She is founder and president of Thistle Farms, a community of women who have survived trafficking, prostitution and addiction. She has been featured in New York Times, on ABC World News, NPR, PBS, CNN and was named a "Champion of Change" by the White House in 2011. Most recently she has been featured in the PBS documentary, "A Path Appears." She was named 2014 Humanitarian of the Year by the Small Business Council of America as well as the TJ Martell Foundation, has been inducted into the Tennessee Women's Hall of Fame, and was conferred an honorary doctorate by Sewanee: The University of the South. Her latest book is, *Letters from*

the Farm: A Simple Path for a Deeper Spiritual Life. She lives in Nashville with her husband, Grammy-winning songwriter, Marcus Hummon, and sons, recording artist Levi Hummon, Caney and Moses.

Please mark your calendars for the opportunity to learn more about Becca Stevens and the transformative and reconciling ministry that is available through Thistle Farms-Magdalene. During her time here, she will offer sessions on Wednesday afternoon, Wednesday evening, and Thursday morning. 📧





14115 Hillcrest Road
Dallas, TX 75254

STRIKE A POSE

*Our Directory
Will Be
Incomplete
without YOU!*



On Sundays in January, please stop by the photo stations to have an updated portrait made for a new pictorial directory (coming this spring!). This is being done in-house, so there will be **no images for sale**. Just come and smile and we'll take care of the rest.

