

illumine

enlightening and celebrating where God is at work in our midst

vol. 1 no. 1

Fall 2015

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Scotland pilgrimage

How thirteen young pilgrims
prayed their way through
Scotland in July



CHURCH STAFF

CLERGY

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

PROGRAMS

Ellen Dingwall—Director of Adult and
 Newcomer Ministries
 Suzanne Finan—Director of Children and
 Family Ministries
 Colin Hills—Director of Youth Ministries
 Rebecca Gingles—Director of Communications

MUSIC

Joel Martinson—Director of Music and 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
 Ann Mason—Receptionist

PROPERTY

Bracken Reece—Director of Facilities
 Jose Miele—Sexton

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 Laurel Brewster
 Bob Button (ex-officio, Treasurer)
 Hal Bybee
 Bridget de Bruyn
 Bill Edwards, Senior Warden
 Susan Fisk
 Louise Harms, Junior Warden
 Chris Holley
 Liz Kerner-Wyse
 Michelle Kirby
 Jay Madrid (ex-officio, Chancellor)
 Jonathan Maedche
 Tudi Owens (ex-officio, Clerk of the Vestry)
 Paul Sternweis

Worship Service Times

Morning Prayer | 8:30 a.m. weekdays

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.



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feature

A pilgrimage is a journey for journey's sake. It begins and ends in the same place.

COVER PHOTO
 BY CASEY SHOBE



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From the Rector

CASEY SHOBE

Walking up the mountain

Just this past week we celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration, our feast of title as a church, and a day that reminds us of one of the most remarkable moments of Jesus' life. Everything leading up to that moment should have revealed his true nature to his friends and followers, and yet it totally caught them off guard when he began to radiate brightness, as though a slipcover had fallen from his visible body revealing the pure light beneath. It has always been one of my favorite stories in the gospels, because it reminds me that the true, divine nature of things can occasionally be glimpsed. What we see much of the time appears to us as though we are looking through a glass dimly, according to the apostle Paul, but sometimes, miraculously, we are able to see one another and the world with proper clarity—to see Christ in them—and it dazzles and amazes us.

I wonder when you have experienced those glimpses of the true, holy nature of things, when the veil concealing the Kingdom of God from our eyes slips just enough to allow you to glimpse its beautiful nature? I have been blessed to have a few of those moments, when I was surprised and amazed to find myself gazing upon the Kingdom in all its goodness and peace. It happened when I was in college and spent a summer working at my diocesan camp, and it felt like every single day was filled with prayer and music and fun, and God was nearer than ever before. It happened in a missionary house I visited in Costa Rica, where I encountered people from six different countries who lived and prayed and worked together, and served the people of their neighboring villages. It happened when I served as a hospital chaplain for a summer, and a patient I visited engaged me in a profound conversation and then prayed for me more passionately and charismatically than I've ever been prayed for before. Yes, it's happened several times, and even now the memory of those moments fills my heart with joy, and I feel rejuvenated to continue loving and serving and sharing. I think that's what these "transfiguration

“. . .they are foretastes of that ultimate glory so that we can carry on with the hard work of being disciples of Jesus in the world.”

moments” are about: they are foretastes of that ultimate glory so that we can carry on with the hard work of being disciples of Jesus in the world.

You may have noticed that this magazine looks and feels a little different than its predecessor, *Crossroads*. Over the past six months we have taken time to reflect on our shared desire to hear more stories, and to share with one another about the hard and beautiful work of being Christians in our modern age. There will be necessary information in this magazine about coming events and the people who help our church “go,” so I hope you will pay careful attention and learn about what's coming up. But it is my fervent hope that each issue will provide stories that stir your imagination, that remind you of “transfiguration moments,” that spur you to carry on the holy work of seeking and serving Christ in all people.

Because that's ultimately what the Christian life is about: walking up the mountain to where we experience the glory of the Lord in worship and community and friendship and service, but also walking down the other side, to all the places where we've been called and sent, so that we can share the transforming, transfiguring love of God with the world.

—The Rev. R. Casey Shobe
Rector





New Ministry Highlight

Daughters of the King

By Sally Manning

Q What is The Order of the Daughters of the King?

The *Daughters of the King* (DOK) is a spiritual, praying Order for women, both lay and clerical, who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it (Anglican, Lutheran), or churches in the historic Episcopate but not in communion with it (Roman Catholics).

The order is 140 years old and was instituted in New York City at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, now Church of the Resurrection, in 1885. It grew out of a senior Bible class for young women taught by Margaret J. Franklin. Over the years it has grown to include chapters in every Diocese of the Episcopal Church, with many international chapters worldwide.

Q What distinguishes the Order from other church organizations?

Daughters in the order make a commitment to practice a *Rule of Life* on a daily basis. The *Rule* is a self-imposed discipline of daily prayer, including a pattern of regular and seasonal devotions, both private and public.

Q What do Daughters do?

The purpose of DOK is evangelism. Through a disciplined rule of prayer and service, a Daughter desires to encourage in others and in ourselves a deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Daughters are called to be and to do: *to be* Christ's hands and feet in the world; *to do* service through the exercise of our individual talents and blessings. The sign of our discipline is the emblem of the order—our cross—that we wear daily as a visible witness of a life committed to showing forth the love of Christ to all people. The disciplines of DOK pervade your entire life as a woman.

Q Why did I want to establish a Chapter at Transfiguration?

I came from a very active parish in Amarillo with an active Daughters of the King chapter. My own spiritual journey and experience is tightly woven with the order. Through DOK, I found women of like-desire: to know God and to follow the Gospel of His Son Jesus, the Christ. The fellowship, the deepening relationship to God, and the seeking of God's will in my life led me to the order almost fifteen years ago. I earnestly desired a community of like-minded women here at the Transfiguration and have been marvelously amazed at the depth of the response to this purpose!

Q What is the Study and Discernment period?

The order asks women to participate in a twelve-week, three month period of learning about DOK and discerning whether God is calling you to this ministry of prayer and service. Although the study period may seem a long time to many, a thorough study or review of the order and its rule of life will provide a solid foundation for every



Daughter and the chapter to build upon. The woman who is well-informed about the order and her role as a member is in the best position to fulfill the commitment and responsibility involved in being a Daughter of the King.

Q What is the main focus of this new ministry?

Prayer, service and evangelism! Individuals and the chapter as a whole should have a direct impact on the prayer and service life of the parish.

Q What are you most excited about for the new chapter at the Fig?

I'm excited that there will be a large group of women strongly committed and organized to assist the parish and clergy in the next several years. I've personally experienced the power of the order's ministry and look forward to see what God has in store for this ministry at the Fig!

Q If someone missed out on the process this summer, how could she get involved moving forward?

Because Daughters of the King are NOT members of a spiritual elite, but rather women who feel a need to conform their lives more closely to God's will, we welcome all women who are inspired to make a similar commitment. Classes for prospective members will



be held in the future as the need and interest arises. Call or talk to a member of the new chapter if you are interested!

Q When will the new chapter be installed?

On Sunday, September 27, the new chapter of the order of the Daughters of the King will be instituted at Transfiguration! A beautiful service, with representatives of the order from the Diocese of Dallas and Province 7 joining us, will be celebrated where the Charter will be presented from the National Office in Atlanta and the new members from the Transfiguration will be given their DOK crosses. The hymn of the order will be sung—*Lift High the Cross*—and a Daughters of the King Banner will be presented to the Parish. 🙏

Single Parent Fellowship (SPF)

By Lara Korba

Many of us never thought we would be raising children alone. Even with a little help from friends and family, it is certainly not what we imagined. If you are anything like me, there are stretches of your child(ren)'s development or growth that are so challenging, you wonder how you'll get through the day (let alone the next decade or so). Then, there are the proud and joyful moments we share with all parents. The times when we want to jump up and shout, "That's my baby!" Thank goodness for iPhones and Facebook to document such events.

One of my greatest challenges as a single parent is learning how to raise spiritually strong kids. Their faith is tested far too young. I never anticipated the questions with which my children would come to me,

nor did I know how to feel remotely prepared. It is hard to be out of your depth when you are already exhausted with many demands on your time. I knew I needed to find my village.

When I joined Transfiguration three years ago, there wasn't a ministry specifically designed to help single parents. I found fellowships of this nature at non-denominational churches, but I didn't want to leave the Fig. I knew that God didn't intend for any of us to go through challenges or through life alone. Paul reminds us in his first letter to the Corinthians that *we who are many are one body*. Fortunately, I had joined a church community that truly lives our mission; so wonderfully embracing, seeking, and serving Christ in all persons.

Accordingly, when I suggested to Casey and Ellen the idea of forming a fellowship for single parents, I was met with enthusiasm and excitement. Thus, the Single Parenting Fellowship (SPF) was born. Here, those of us raising children alone, either by choice or through divorce, loss of a spouse, or as a grandparent may find mutual support and guidance as we travel this path together.

To learn more about us, please contact Ellen Dingwall at (972) 233-1898 ext. 229. We meet once a month after the 11:15 service with childcare available. Please join us. 🙏

New Ministry Highlight

Youth Week

Youth ministry is all about helping young people decipher what it means to be a Christian, and we tend to have a good time doing it.

Youth Week is one example of a time we focus more on fun and fellowship than on difficult questions or Scripture. During the first week of summer after school let out, we partnered with Church of the Ascension's youth ministry to bring young people together in a laid back, fun environment by providing different opportunities for fellowship each day. We encouraged youth to bring friends along with them so we could introduce them to the youth ministries' family.

This June, we played Whirleyball and laser tag, watched a movie, attended a Rough Riders game, and hosted the now infamous Olympiad (pictured here). About thirty people participated in each event. Of course, no youth event happens without making some kind of positive impact on the community, so over the course of Youth Week we collected donations of clothing, school supplies, board games, and more to supplement Transfiguration's Summer of Service. If you would like to know more any aspect of what we do in youth ministry, don't hesitate to ask one of our youth, or contact Colin directly at chills@transfiguration.net!

PHOTOS BY
CAROLINE
SCHMIDT





From the Editor

REBECCA GINGLES

illumine

def: 1. to light up; brighten. 2. enlighten (someone) spiritually or intellectually.

Welcome to the first issue of *Illumine*, a quarterly publication of the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. The goal behind this magazine is to tell the stories of this congregation, bring to light new ministries, and celebrate where God is at work in our midst.

Though this publication has existed in several forms over the years, we find ourselves in a new phase as a congregation. Since the last issue of *Crossroads* was published a year ago, we have a new Rector and Associate Rector, a new Director of Children and Family Ministries, a full-time Director of Youth Ministries, a new Administrative Assistant, and a new Director of Communications (and editor).

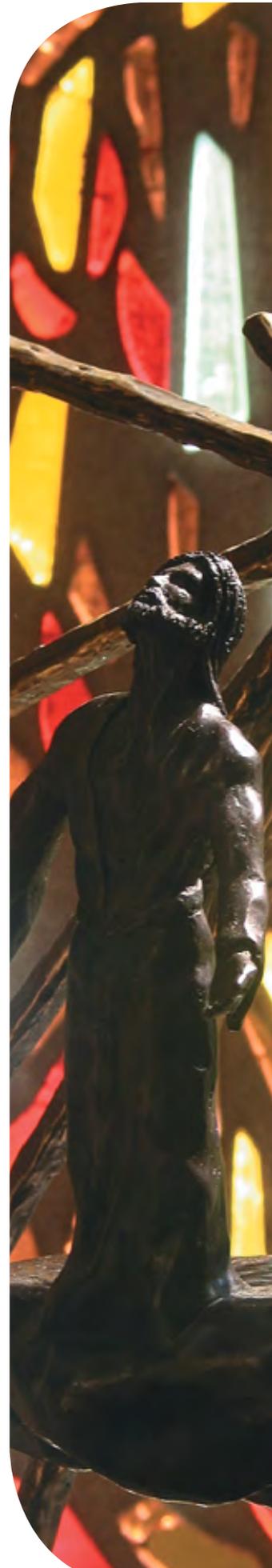
As the staff and leadership of the church pray about how to live into our vocation and direction together, I have considered how best to communicate all of the wonderful growth happening at Transfiguration. The Notices are a weekly channel for brief announcements, and the E-news serves as a spot to reflect on Sunday's texts and receive upcoming reminders. The blog has been a great space for timely musings and the website hosts a near encyclopedic array of calendar and program information. Facebook hosts comment feeds and photo albums. But where can we have a space to stop and consider all that has

occurred and all that is to come? Reviving a magazine seems to be the ideal place for this type of collective story-telling.

And it seems only fitting to have a new name for a new season. *Illumine* means to bring to light or to spiritually and intellectually enlighten. As Father Michael shared with me over lunch this week, in the early church, another word for baptism was to be "illuminated." In the Transfiguration, Jesus is surrounded by a cloud of light and becomes radiant in front of his disciples. They leave changed by their encounter with Jesus. They are illumined.

No one person can attend every event, class, program, service, or group hosted by this church. Even as a staff member, it is difficult to keep up with all of the celebrations and concerns among us. As you read these stories of our current life together, I invite you to listen and look for the ways in which Christ is at work, shining light into new places in our gathered lives. It is my most fervent hope that through reflecting on the summer of 2015 and looking ahead to fall, you feel Christ in our midst.

In Peace,
Rebecca Gingles
Editor





Celebrating 2015 Vacation Bible School

By Suzanne Finan, Director of Children and Family Ministries

This summer Transfiguration celebrated a tremendous Vacation Bible School experience. In total we hosted over 105 children during the week of June 15–19 for mornings of movement and motion with the theme “G-Force!” Hand-painting wooden surfboards, glow in the dark staircases, morning dance parties and priests riding big wheels in Roper Hall are only a few of the joyous moments children experienced during VBS.

One special highlight was the new partnership that formed between our friends at St. Philip’s School and Community Center in South Dallas. A generous gift from our own Transfiguration Theater Company sparked the idea to invite 25 St. Philip’s children, volunteers and staff to join us for VBS week. The icing on the cake was having the distinguished Rev. Dr. Terry Flowers preach at the VBS Sunday 9:00 a.m. service. The saying “It takes a village to raise a child” could not have been more evident than during the VBS preparation. Hundreds of volunteers of all ages filled the building weeks before as well as each morning of VBS to make it a true success. The Holy Spirit flowed endlessly through the outpouring of love and generosity of our Transfiguration community. A heartfelt thanks goes out to everyone involved! 🙏

PHOTOS BY CAROLINE SCHMIDT AND ROBERT HACKER





Getting to Know...Mother Erin Jean Warde

Erin Jean Warde is our new Associate Rector for Christian Formation.

Erin is a native Alabamian, who loves Texas. She graduated from Seminary of the Southwest in Austin in 2012. Prior to SSW, Erin attended Troy University in Troy, AL, where she received her bachelors in English and Creative Writing. She previously served as assistant rector at St. Paul's and Campus Missioner at the Episcopal Student Center, both in Waco. She enjoys writing, reading, taking long walks, and learning how to cook. We asked her a few questions to get to know her even better.

What is your favorite season of the church calendar and why?

This must be the equivalent of asking a parent which child is their favorite. My favorite season of the church year is Lent. As a self-proclaimed doubter, and someone who really struggles with a lot of Christianity even with a collar, Lent feels familiar to me, in a way that is both comforting and rough. Rough because I know what it is like to walk in my own wilderness; comforting because I know what it is like to have that wilderness and death met with resurrection.

What is your favorite dessert?

Cheesecake! I remember tasting it for the first time when I was in about middle school and feeling resentful that no one had given me any sooner. From then on, it has been my chosen type of birthday cake, even though many would say it isn't really a cake.

What is something people don't know by looking at you?

I collect teapots! It's such an odd thing to love, but I love tea and it reminds me of tea parties as a child with my stuffed animals and my Mama. Those were times of great imagination, with the inkling even then that communion, in the general sense, meant something to me. For the past 3 years, my mother has given me one for Christmas every year to bolster my collection.

What are your top three favorite things about Texas?

1) Tacos! You only think you know tacos until you eat them here. 2) Wide open spaces. I love looking out into the vast Texas



PHOTO BY CAROLINE SCHMIDT

Erin Jean Warde rides a Big Wheel into VBS opening gathering during her second week of work.

hill country, with what looks to be such an amplified sunset. 3) I can't believe I'm going to say this, but I love all the ridiculous Texas pride t-shirts, coozies, what have you. No other state loves itself like Texas, and I used to think it was arrogance, but now I just agree! My mother even sent me a set of earrings and a necklace made from Texas quarters that I love in that kitchy Texas way. Is it cheating to own all that stuff when you have only lived here 6 years? 4) I have to add in a fourth, because I am obsessed with cowboy boots as well, which didn't start until I moved to Waco.

What was your favorite class in seminary?

Any theology class with Tony Baker. I loved learning theology, because we were taught ways to think about God, and how to discern for ourselves how those thoughts might take form in our lives. We were taught how to talk about God, and how to talk about God with others. We had to read the really heady theology books, but then on our midterms and finals we had to write papers as if we were talking to a stranger on the subway who saw our collar and wondered if

they could ever be forgiven for their sins. It was rich academically, but it also formed me as priest and pastor.

Tell us about your new kitties, Penny and Pip.

First, let me explain how nerdy I am. My cat who passed away in April's name was Easter Kitty, and she was named before I got her. She was the best cat ever, and to honor her, I continued the theme of liturgi-cats, naming my two new cats Pentecost Kitty (Penny) and Epiphany Kitty (Pip). They are almost a year old, which means they are a mess, but they are very sweet, and learning how to be calmer everyday. Penny is black and white, and Pip is so much of a snowshoe that he has the crossed eyes to prove it.

What is your favorite church memory?

I still remember the first time I took Eucharist. I remember walking back to my pew and even once I had made it back I could still feel the warmth of the wine in my chest, and taste the bread on my lips. I had always wanted to be able to feel like I knew God, like I could sit across from God and know that God was with me. I had wondered for years whether God was "real." This is the first time I felt like I knew God was real, and with me. That connection to the sacraments began (though subconsciously at the time) my calling to be a priest.

What are you most looking forward to at Transfiguration?

I'm just dying to go through Advent and Lent with this congregation, and specifically to be a part of the Christmas Eve and Easter Vigil services. I am counting down the minutes until I get to hear the Exsultet!

What has been your biggest surprise so far?

I have never been formally trained to sing, and have had one-on-one meetings with people to work on my chanting maybe 3 times. I chanted a few times at St. Paul's-Waco, but not enough to feel like I could say I know how to chant the liturgy. This is obviously a learning curve for me here at The Fig. I met with Joel to work on it, and he told me I have good pitch! I am shocked! 🙄

Adult Formation Opportunities

Hebrew Bible 101: Abraham & Stewardship

Dr. Roy Heller
Roper Hall

Join Dr. Roy Heller, Associate Professor of Old Testament at SMU, as he continues to journey through the Hebrew Bible. In this section, the class will explore the life of Abraham



as a lens through which to gain a deeper understanding of stewardship. This is an opportunity for an in depth exploration of the Hebrew Scriptures, as well as a time for rich reflection on Abraham and his place within the biblical tradition.

Raising Generous Children

Father Casey Shobe
S-203

Father Casey Shobe, rector, will lead a class on how to encourage stewardship in children. In this class, participants will learn about generosity theologically,



explore how a spirit of generosity can be present within parenting, and cultivate practices that teach stewardship at home. This class is not just for parents; it is for anyone interested in the spiritual formation of children.



ENOUGH
SIMPLICITY  GENEROSITY

First Session of Formation Classes

September 13–
October 4

All classes occur during the Sunday formation hour at 10:15 a.m.

Being Consumed: Economics and Christian Desire

Mother Erin Jean Warde
Vestry Room

Mother Erin Jean Warde, associate rector, invites you to join her for a class that looks into the theology and ethics of economics, by naming the undeniable relationship between money and desire. What do we say we desire? How do our practices of spending money name our desires for us? Discuss topics like freedom, detachment, and abundance in this class, inspired by William Cavanaugh's book by the same title.

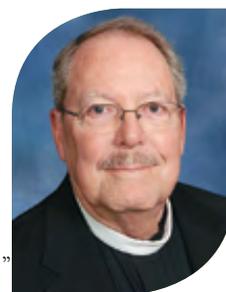


Sacraments and Sustainability

Father Michael Merriman
Conference Room 2

The Catechism of *The Book of Common Prayer* says "the sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace..."

Join Father Michael Merriman in a discussion of how these outward and visible signs, such as water, oil, bread, etc., influence how we look at a world in which there is material scarcity for most people. What does it mean that for all of us the material world is increasingly degraded and polluted? How can our use of the outward signs of the sacraments lead us to work for a sustainable use of the earth God has created for us and given to us to keep and care for? Explore the sacraments as gifts that bring us inward and spiritual grace and that lead us to be carers and stewards of the earth and its people. 🙏



Second Session of Formation Classes

Sundays,
October 18–December 20
at 10:15 a.m.

Hebrew Bible 101

Dr. Roy Heller
Roper Hall

Join Dr. Roy Heller, Associate Professor of Old Testament at SMU, as he continues to journey through the Hebrew Bible. This is an opportunity to learn about the history of the Old Testament, as well as many of the aspects of Jewish life and culture that are not obvious to modern readers.

The Gifts of Imperfection

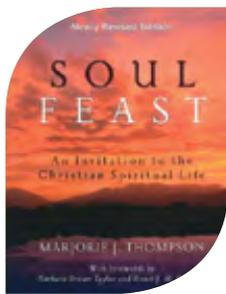
Mother Erin Jean Warde
S-203

Mother Erin Jean Warde, associate rector, will lead a class exploring *The Gifts of Imperfection* by Brené Brown. Mother Erin will specifically discuss how Brown's work can be understood in a Christian context, to nurture a wholehearted Christian faith and life. Brené Brown is a research professor at the University of Houston, and she teaches how vulnerability disarms shame and positively changes how we live, parent, and lead.

SoulFeast

Nancy Jagmin
Vestry Room

Join spiritual director and parishioner Nancy Jagmin to explore how spiritual practices can enhance our worship during the Advent season. Do you feel called to make your walk as a Christian more heartfelt and intentional? *SoulFeast* by Marjorie Thompson is considered a classic work on how to develop and nurture spiritual practices as part of your life.



Charity: The Place of the Poor in the Biblical Tradition

Dr. Gary Anderson

Join us Thursday, September 24 as we welcome Dr. Gary Anderson, Hesburgh Professor of Catholic Theology at University of Notre Dame, for a night to explore his book *Charity: The Place of the Poor in the*



Biblical Tradition. This is an opportunity for us to think about the intersection between stewardship and how we love and serve the poor. You will have the opportunity to hear him talk about the book, and he will be available to sign copies of the book as well.

RSVP for this evening of dinner and insightful conversation at

<http://garyandersondinner.eventbrite.com>.



Advent Before Christmas Strikes

Father Michael Merriman
Conference Room 2

Join Father Michael Merriman as we explore how a renewed Advent can change our lives in Christ by influencing our worship and mission to the world. If we wait to reflect on Advent until Advent Season begins, our reflections are inevitably mixed up with Christmas thoughts. So, taking advantage of our Sunday Lectionary

which begins Advent-related readings and themes several weeks before Advent begins, we will look at the liturgical season and themes of Advent apart from Christmas.

This may well enable us to find ways in our corporate Advent worship and in our homes and personal liturgies to more deeply discover what the Advent/Coming of Christ means for us today.

Please note that this class ends on November 29

Other Classes/Events

Practices of Prayer

Nancy Jagmin

Meet in a small group to discuss and engage in practices of prayer which have deep roots in the history of Christianity. We will use the book *Creating a Life with God* to guide our practice.

The group will meet the first and third Thursday morning of each month from 10:00 to 11:30 in the Library.

The Way

Modeled after the centuries-old process of preparing adults for baptism, confirmation or reception called the *catechumenate*, The Way is more than an inquirers class; it's a way of exploring your faith with other people, all of whom are at different places on their walks with Christ. It's about faith formation as well as newcomer orientation, incorporation rather than indoctrination, and discipleship beyond just membership.

The group meets every Monday, September 14–November 30 in the Youth Center, from 7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

Advent Labyrinth Retreat

Respond to Advent's call to prayerful expectation by reserving some quiet time Friday night and Saturday, December 11 and 12. Our time together will include opportunities for group interaction and individual reflection. We will use some of the beautiful settings offered by our church to evoke the sense of anticipation, starting out Friday night on the candlelit labyrinth.

All Saints Labyrinth Walk

Come anytime between 1:00 and 3:00 on All Saints Sunday, November 1, to walk the labyrinth. Commemorate the life of a loved one or seek healing from the loved one's passing by walking the labyrinth in remembrance. If you wish, you may carry a special reading or an

Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God

Dr. Lauren Winner

Join us Tuesday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m. as we welcome Dr. Lauren Winner. Winner is an Episcopal priest and Assistant Professor of Christian Spirituality at Duke Divinity School who writes and lectures on Christian practice, the history of Christianity in America, and Jewish-Christian relations. She is the author of numerous widely known books, such as *Girl Meets God* and *Mudhouse Sabbath*. We will explore her new book, *Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, and Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God*. Her books will be available for purchase at the lecture. Please reserve your seat at laurenwinnerwearinggod.eventbrite.com.



Youth Formation Opportunities

Sunday School

Youth Christian Formation classes meet every Sunday from 10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Youth Center, and are divided into two age groups. Our 6th through 8th grade students follow the Rite 13 curriculum, while our 9th–12th grade students follow J2A, or Journey to Adulthood. Our formation plan is centered around embarking on a lifelong pilgrimage, and all the difficulties and challenges we face as young Christians.

This is no ordinary Sunday school! Instead of lecture, we make our classes discussion and activity based, and maintain a small student-teacher ratio of about 1:10.

Crossover

This year, junior and senior high students will both meet on Wednesday evenings for a meal and time to recharge, catch up, and discuss topics not usually talked about in school. Junior High will gather at 6:00 p.m. Senior High will join them for dinner at 7:00–7:30 p.m. and then will meet until 8:30 p.m..

There will be a study area available for siblings in different age groups so parents can better arrange pick up and drop off. 🍷

Other Classes/Events Cont.

object which reminds you of your loved one as you walk. Brief written instructions on walking the labyrinth will be available and a facilitator will be present to answer any questions you may have.

Nurturing Faith Through Fiction

Stories shape our lives. They help form our ideas and commitments, our dreams and emotions, our personalities and characters. And if we look at and reflect on them carefully, we realize that stories also connect us with both the human and the divine, the immanent and the transcendent. Join this group as they meet together for reflection once a month, alternating between a movie and a novel.

This group meets on the first Tuesday evening of every month in Room S201, near the elevator on the second floor. Doors open at 6:30 and the screening or book discussion begins at 7:00.

The Women's Thursday Evening Book Group

If you are a reader who likes to discuss thought-provoking books, then this is a monthly group you don't want to miss. The group reads an eclectic selection of books chosen by the members each May, and has thoughtful discussions in an informal setting. Facilitated by Betsy Warren and Clare Lattimore. Reading list is available online at <http://www.transfiguration.net/education/adult-formation>.

Meets 1st Thursday of the month year-round in the Parlor from 7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

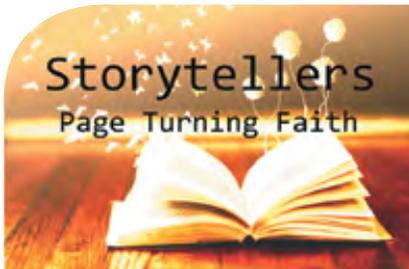
Women's Tuesday Morning Book Study

Join Deacon Liz O'Donnell as she facilitates this book study, beginning Tuesday September 15 and continuing through December 15. This study meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Vestry Room, and will two books this fall.

In our first selection, *Parables of Paul* by the Rev. J. Ellsworth Kalas, we will explore how Paul used metaphors to share Jesus' message. Kalas writes, "Jesus taught with words. Paul taught with pictures." Our book for Advent will be *Mudhouse Sabbath* by Lauren Winner, an Episcopal priest who converted to Christianity from Judaism. Winner presents eleven Jewish spiritual practices that can transform the way Christians view the world and God.



Children and Family Programming



Storytellers

Ages: four years–third grade

Storytellers, is a home-grown curriculum based on the work of Valerie Reinke and Suzanne Finan, that introduces Christian themes—forgiveness, tolerance, redemption, empathy—through children’s literature and hands-on Bible study. Each Sunday guest readers will be invited to read to our youngest members creating a multi-generational experience during the formation hour. Creative responses as well as attention to the Episcopal calendar will round out the hour.

Godly Play

Ages: four years–fifth grade

Godly Play is a Montessori based curriculum written by The Rev. Jerome Berryman. The Godly Play approach helps children explore their faith through story, as well as learn religious language, and enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Children will explore their faith using open ended “I wonder” questions that allows for space and thoughtfulness in the growth and development of a child’s faith journey. Godly Play is staff by teachers that attend special training through the Godly Play Foundation to provide their gift to the classroom each week.

Questions?

Please reach out to the formation staff.

The Rev. Erin Jean Warde
Associate Rector for Christian Formation
eward@transfiguration.net

Suzanne Finan
Director of Children and Family Ministries
sfinan@transfiguration.net

Colin Hills
Director of Youth Ministries
chills@transfiguration.net

The Rev. Michael Merriman
Priest, and Formation Teacher
mmerriman@transfiguration.net

Children’s Chapel

Follow the cross! Children ages three years through third grade are encouraged to join us during the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. services for a meaningful and interactive chapel experience built on the foundation of our Episcopal traditions.

Godly Journey

(Tweens) Fourth & Fifth Grades

Godly Journey is a curriculum developed for tweens interested in putting their faith into action. It takes many of the basic principles of Godly Play and incorporates them into everyday life. Outreach including social justice themes launch tweens into action projects each month. In between “Project Sundays” tweens will experience a variety of multimedia lessons based on the life of Christ fueling their hearts for their work in the world.

Mom’s Book Study and Fellowship Hour

Come renew your soul! Starting August 5, join other mothers every Wednesday morning from 10:00–11:30 a.m. for study and fellowship. This is a guilt-free, come-as-you-are time during which the group will explore a variety of content to discuss, inspire, and refuel our spirits for the week. Coffee, snacks and childcare will be provided.

The Family Room

“A safe place for parents and children to connect, support and nourish relationships.”

Beginning Friday, September 11, Transfiguration will host a weekly community drop-in center from 9:00–11:00 a.m. This is designed for parents with babies and toddlers looking for a comfortable place for children to play, as well as conversation and community for with other adults.

The time is geared for babies–preschool, however, siblings are welcome. A child-safe area supplied with baby and toddler toys, as well as good coffee and snacks, will be provided each week.

Advent Family Festival

All Creatures Great and Small

Beast and birds also prepared for the birth of our savior. Join us Sunday, November 22 at 10:00 a.m. for this special formation hour creating wonderful home Advent moments along with the animals of the Nativity.

Families are encouraged to come and experience Advent through the eyes and hands of our children. Volunteers are needed. Contact Suzanne at sfinan@transfiguration.net if you are interested in helping. 🙌

2015 Transfiguration Outreach Grants

Each year, the Outreach Committee of the Vestry accepts grant applications from local organizations and Transfiguration ministries.

In the winter, parishioners were encouraged to apply for funding of special community and global outreach projects. Areas of ministry to be considered address hunger, homelessness, education, crisis intervention, aging, evangelism, and health. In April, a subcommittee reviewed the requests, and using criteria of how to best serve our community and beyond, decided how to distribute our \$56,500 for 2015. In June the subcommittee report was made and approved, and letters and checks are being distributed to the following eleven organizations:

The Assistance Center of Collin County

is an agency which offers prompt, emergency assistance to individuals and families who are in short-term financial crisis. It works with them on strategies and training designed to return them to self-sufficiency. Our grant of \$5,000 will help fight hunger, poverty, and homelessness.



Transfiguration has been a long-term partner with Austin Street Center in fighting homelessness and hunger. Our grant of \$10,000 will provide funding for purchasing food and serving materials for monthly meals served to their clients.



DME Exchange is a new beneficiary for Transfiguration. This agency is addressing a major concern in our community. Thousands of people are unable to acquire medical equipment, such as wheel chairs, walkers, hospital beds, etc. Our grant of \$1,000 will assist DME Exchange in the collection, restoration and distribution of equipment to their clients. We also hope to have our parishioners donate their own medical equipment when it is no longer needed.



Happy Homes Pre-School South Africa

is a longtime outreach project for our parish. This school provides care of infants and young children while their parents seek employment. This year our grant will provide \$3,000 to assist Happy Homes with building an administrative area for their staff and supplies.



Cathedral Gardens is a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas which was started in 1978. The mission of this retirement center is to provide low-income housing for seniors 62 and older in a caring and independent environment. Our grant of \$5,000 will help with the purchase and installation of fire doors to ensure the safety of the residents.

North Dallas Shared Ministry is an agency which works to address the effects of hunger, homelessness, aging, health, and poverty for families

and individuals who are struggling. Our grant of \$5,000 will provide funds for client/patient assistance programs, such as food purchase, medications and lab work, glasses, as well as administrative costs.



St. Phillips School & Community Center is a thriving organization providing college preparatory educational opportunities for children, in partnership with a community center that offers resources and services to improve the quality of life of nearby families and individuals. Founded as a ministry by the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas, St. Phillips and Transfiguration have developed a strong connection over many years. Our grant of \$5,000 will be used for community center programs and events, such as the Community pantry, Kid's Cafe, free legal clinic, etc.



St. Simon's After School Program helps thousands of DISD children by providing a safe place to stay when the school day ends, plus programs and services to benefit their lives. This program exists in many poverty-stricken neighborhoods and gives latch-key kids and their families an alternative—staying at school for snacks, help with homework, activities, etc. Our grant of \$7,000 will fund one program in one school.



The Gathering was founded by Jim Webb, the arch-deacon of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas, and a group of dedicated clergy and laypeople, in 2012. Weekly Mass in a downtown Dallas park is followed by lunch, Bible study, and pastoral care to homeless men and women. Our grant of \$2,000 will help purchase books and supplies for The Alpha Program and Bible study, as well as assisting with clothing, shelter, personal hygiene items, etc. when needed.



The first week of August, Transfiguration Youth went on a mission trip to Houston, accompanied by the rector and youth from Ascension. They worked with the Cathedral Urban Service Experience to serve the homeless and underprivileged. Our grant of \$2,000 assisted with van rentals and gasoline expenses for their trip.



Voice of Hope Ministries is an agency in West Dallas that provides inner-city children and their families with resources and skills to break the cycle of poverty in a Christian-based environment. Our grant of \$5,000 will help provide programs for 400 West Dallas youth, K–8th grade, in their ASPIRE After-School Program and Summer Day Camp.



The final decision of the Outreach Committee is to reserve \$6,500 for emergency needs which may arise during the remainder of the year. Projects and programs may be brought to the attention of our staff and clergy for referral to the Outreach Committee.

—Linda Ayres ☩

Fall Kick-Off

General Convention Q&A

Sunday, August 23 | 10:15 a.m. | Roper Hall

Anne Schmidt and Melody Shobe will present on their experiences as deputies to General Convention of The Episcopal Church on Sunday, August 23, at 10:15 a.m. in Roper Hall. They will discuss the huge array of actions and resolutions taken by GC, including the overwhelming approval to extend marriage to same-sex couples.

Organ 201 | Sunday, August 23 | 10:15 a.m. | Gallery

Join Director of Music and Organist Joel Martinson to learn more about our Opus 17. If you have specific questions, email them to jmartinson@transfiguration.net.

Newcomer Brunch | Sunday, August 23 | 12:30 p.m. | Roper Hall

All those who are new to Transfiguration are invited to brunch to learn more about ways to get involved in the parish.

Parish Council Dinner and Meeting

Thursday, August 27 | 6:00 p.m. | Roper Hall

Ministry leaders will gather for dinner and time with the staff to review policies and procedures for events and programs.

Ministry Fair and Scotland Presentation | Sunday, August 30

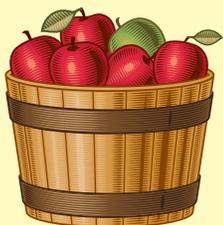
Members of the youth pilgrimage to Scotland will be our preachers at both morning services to share some of their reflections on their journey. We will celebrate the many ministries at Transfiguration between services.

Vestry and Delegate Information Session | Sunday, September 6

An informational meeting will be held in the Vestry Room following the 9:00 a.m. service for those interested in running for election for Vestry or as a Convention Delegate. Join Bill Edwards and Anne Schmidt for a casual question and answer period about responsibilities and time commitment. All are welcome.

Ice Cream Social | Sunday, September 6

Between services join us for a Labor Day weekend ice cream treat.



Fall Formation and Stewardship Kick Off

Sunday, September 13

The “Enough” series will begin kicking off both stewardship season and fall formation classes for adults, children, and youth.

ENOUGH
SIMPLICITY  GENEROSITY

Important Fall Events

The Way Begins

Monday, September 14

This class prepares adults for baptism, confirmation, or reception and meets in the Youth Center every Monday evening from September 14–November 30 in the Youth Center, from 7:00–8:30.

Clothes Horse \$1 Sale

Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19

Transfiguration's resale shop will host its annual dollar sale. Come help us clear out our inventory with some great deals.

Flu Shot Clinic

Sunday, September 20

Prepare for fall and winter with our annual flu shot clinic before and after services.

Solemn Evensong for Holy Cross Day

Sunday, September 20 | 5:00 p.m.

The twelfth season of Transfigured Nights begins with our traditional evensong service in celebration of the founding day of The Church of the Transfiguration—the Feast of the Holy Cross. A reception in the Gathering Space and Tower Cloister follows the service.

Food Pantry Distribution

Monday, September 21

Transfiguration's new food pantry will continue monthly food distributions on the third Monday evening of each month.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Gary Anderson

Thursday, September 24 | 6:30 p.m.

Join us as we welcome Dr. Gary Anderson, Hesburgh Professor of Catholic Theology at University of Notre Dame, for a night to explore his book *Charity: The Place of the Poor in the Biblical Tradition*. This is an opportunity for us to think about the intersection between stewardship and how we love and serve the poor.

Bishop-Elect George Sumner Visits

Sunday, September 27

The bishop-elect for the Diocese of Dallas will preach both morning services followed by a reception in his honor at 12:30 p.m.

Daughters of the King Service

Sunday, September 27

The new chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King will complete its study and discernment period with an installation service during worship. Diocesan representatives will be present to celebrate this special day.

Youth Garage Sale Donations Begin

Saturday, October 3

The pods to store donations for the annual Youth Garage Sale will arrive at the church by Saturday, October 3. The youth will begin accepting donations and can arrange for pick-up of large furniture items. Watch the Notices for drop-off times, and contact Colin Hills at chills@transfiguration.net with questions.

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 3

Bring your pets and receive a blessing on the lawn on Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Pets are welcome to attend the 5:30 service or can be left with on-site pet-sitters.

Parish Episcopal School Sunday

Sunday, October 4

Trustees, administrators, and students from Parish Episcopal School will join us in worship and the PES choir will sing at the 9:00 service to celebrate our important relationship.

In-Gathering Celebration

Sunday, October 11 | 10:00 a.m.

The "Enough" series will conclude with the annual in-gathering of pledge cards for 2016 in one combined morning service. We will celebrate with a large party for the whole congregation on the lawn after services.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Lauren Winner

Tuesday, October 13 | 7:00 p.m.

Join us as we welcome Dr. Lauren Winner, an Episcopal priest and Assistant Professor of Christian Spirituality at Duke Divinity School. She will speak about the topic of her latest book, overlooked biblical images of God, followed by a dessert reception.

**Benefit & Auction—
from Broadway to Bristol**

Saturday, October 17 | 7:30 p.m.

Transfigured Nights presents an evening of song, desserts, and drinks featuring the Transfiguration Choir in Roper Hall. Favorite music theatre and popular song selections from the US and England will be performed by our splendid parish singers. A silent auction of artistic, musical, and other treasures will accompany the entertainment and will benefit the Choir's England Tour 2016.

Annual Youth Garage Sale

Friday, October 23 and Saturday, 24

Support this major youth group fundraiser by shopping at the annual Youth Garage sale on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. (*Donations will be accepted beginning September 25.*)

Trunk or Treat

Friday, October 30 | 6:00 p.m.

Come dressed up to trick or treat in the church parking lot. Church members are invited to decorate their trunks and hand out candy. We will conclude the evening with the All Hallows Eve liturgy in the Memorial Garden at 8:00 p.m.

All Saints Day

Sunday, November 1

We honor all the saints, named and unnamed, who have gone before us in the faith at the weekend services. The sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated at the 11:15 a.m. service, as our "new saints" are welcomed into the church. A Labyrinth Walk will take place from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Gathering Space. Our celebrations will end with an Evensong for All Souls' Day, commemorating All Faithful Departed at 5:00 p.m. This service will conclude in the Memorial Garden with the reading of the names of all who are interred there.

Fellowship Breakfast

Sunday, November 8 | 10:15 a.m.

Adults will gather in Roper Hall during the formation hour for the fall fellowship breakfast. Representatives from CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) will be present to talk about their important work.

Bishop's Consecration

Saturday, November 14

The Very Rev. George Sumner will be ordained Bishop of Dallas on Saturday, November 14, at a time and place to be announced. Episcopal ordinations are grand and memorable events, and it would be great for us to come with a large Transfiguration contingent to represent our place in the diocese. Information available at edod.org.

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

November 13 and 14;

Matinee on November 15

November 20 and 21;

Final matinee on November 22

Mark your calendar for the fall production of The Fig Theater Company. Auditions begin in September.

Kirking of the Tartans

Sunday, November 15 | 11:15 a.m.

Join the annual Kirking of the Tartans when we remember and give thanks for Scotland, the Scottish Episcopal Church, and the profound impact it made on the The Episcopal Church in the United States.

Be sure to bring/wear your tartans if you would like them blessed at the service. A festive procession begins the Eucharist and a light reception will follow in the Parlor.

Advent Festival

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

All families and children are invited to join us from 10:15–11:00 a.m. for Advent crafts and an annual visit from St. Nicholas.



Ben Guion and Becca Hodge on the holy isle of Iona.

Cover Story

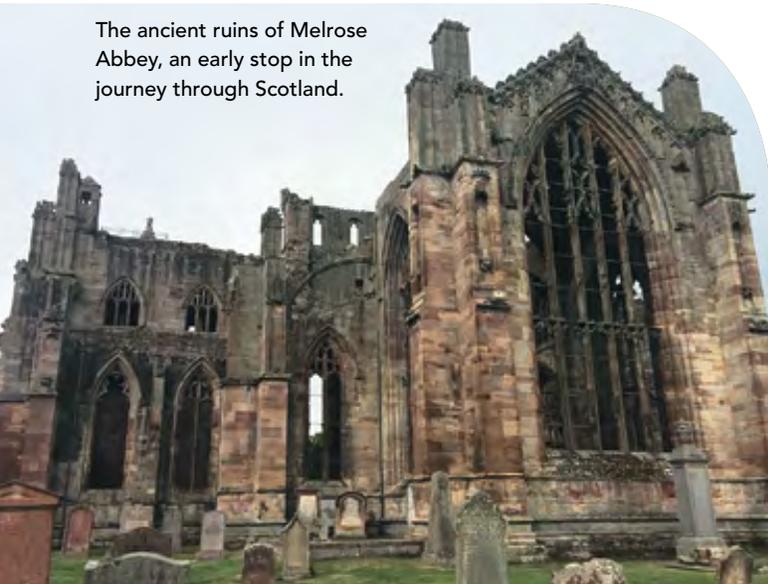
Youth pilgrimage to Scotland

By Colin Hills, Director of Youth Ministries

A pilgrimage is a journey, dedicated to the express purpose of finding... something. That “thing” varies from person to person. For some, it is family heritage. For others, it is redemption. For a great many, it is God. Regardless of their object, all acts of pilgrimage share one thing in common: a search for something larger than oneself. This search is long and arduous. It is not meant to be easy; if that “thing” could be found easily we would not subject ourselves to sleepless nights, cold mountaintops, or wet marshes to find it. The thing we search for is worth struggle, and discomfort, and a journey. In fact, it demands those things.

A pilgrimage is a journey for journey's sake. It begins and ends in the same place. Our pilgrimage had no destination, nor did it have an objective. To set an objective for a pilgrimage would be to imply that one can succeed or fail as a pilgrim. In our reflections, we warned against thinking in terms of productivity; there is nothing to achieve on pilgrimage. There is no measure for success or failure. It is simply a journey on which we take special care to focus inward to our hearts and outward to God.

The ancient ruins of Melrose Abbey, an early stop in the journey through Scotland.



Our faith heritage tells us where to focus our search. It tells us of “thin places” where God's kingdom feels closer to our world. By looking in those places, we are able to get a head start on our journey. Iona has a long and storied history of being one of those places. From Columba's instinct to base his mission from the island in the 6th century, to George MacLeod's efforts to create the ecumenical Iona Community, people have recognized the value of Iona for centuries. In going there, we simply take our cue from the thousands who have gone before us.

For the youth of Transfiguration, pilgrimage could be incredibly easy. If Transfiguration is point “A,” and Iona point “B,” it would take less than 24 hours to get from “A” to “B.” Taking that route, however, would not be pilgrimage. It would instead be vacation. We deliberately chose to take the long way around, making stops along the way. After all, a search that only looked in one place would be a farce. Knowing that, we chose to look in big cities and small, in ruined cathedrals and standing ones, on mountains and in the sea.

With a group such as ours, ten young people and three adult leaders, multiple pilgrimages are happening all at once since it is an inherently internal act, and is experienced individually. Being in a group certainly influences pilgrims in many ways, but the ways God and Christ move in each of them is no less personal or unique than if they were on their own.

Pilgrimage Stops

Edinburgh
 Holyrood Palace
 Edinburgh Castle
 Arthur's Seat
 Melrose Abbey
 Aberdeen
 St. Andrew's Cathedral
 Glen Nevis & Nevis Mountain Range
 Old Inverloch Castle
 Iona
 Iona Abbey (Michael Chapel)
 Dun I
 Columba's Bay



St. Oran's Chapel on Iona



“I didn’t know you could actually feel God.”

On our journey the second week of July, many deep, meaningful friendships were forged or reinforced. Many moving moments were—and continue to be—had. We often found ourselves getting incredibly close to the “thing” we each were searching for. No one kept tally. We left our scorecards at home, and for good reason. We know that Christ does not keep score, so why should we? There are thirteen unquantifiable stories to be told here, and I only know one of them. What follows are two short stories. They are reflective of my own faith, and anxiety, and journey, but might provide insight into the pilgrimage as a whole.

A Journey of Firsts

This pilgrimage was full of first experiences. Some of the firsts I heard:

“This is my first time on top of a mountain.”

“This is the first time I’ve ever touched a sheep.”

“This is the first time I’ve gone through customs.”

“I’ve never been on a ferry before!”

“I’ve never left the country before this.”

“This is the most beauty I’ve ever experienced in my life.”

“This is the first time I’ve been in a hostel.”

And, my personal favorite,

“I didn’t know you could actually feel God.”

Some of these are funny, some deeply profound. Regardless of where they fall on the spectrum of profundity, they provide an immensely valuable feeling in each pilgrim: newness. It is easy to fall into old habits when surrounded by the familiar. Surrounded by the unfamiliar, however, we quickly search out new things to fill the gaps left where habits used to be. On pilgrimage, God has a funny way of being there when that happens.



Colin and the pilgrims taking a coffee break after noonday prayer.

“They pray, even when you don’t tell them to.”

Many parishioners wrote letters to the pilgrims before we departed. This was kept under wraps, and revealed to the pilgrims on our second full day on Iona. We gave them the letters, and invited them to find a spot on the island to read them, pray with them, and experience God through them. These letters were written by all sorts: vestry members, Sunday school teachers, clergy, family members, old friends, and so on. Some letters began with “We’ve never met, but...” while others began with the context of years of familiarity and understanding.

When we sent the pilgrims off to read their letters, I had to run into town to assist in preparing for a guerilla birthday party for our rector. It was Casey’s birthday that day, and we conspired to bake him a cake while he played golf (yes, Iona has a golf course). Gathering the ingredients, smuggling them back to the hostel, and turning them into a cake on a two mile long island is no easy feat, but we did it. All of this is to say, I was occupied.

When we returned to Dallas, I set up a sharing site for pilgrims to post all of the photos they had taken during the pilgrimage. Sitting next to my mom, I regaled her with stories of the pilgrimage while scrolling through those photos.

Somewhere around photo five hundred, I stopped. I was looking at a picture of two pilgrims kneeling at the altar in the Iona Abbey, heads bowed in prayer. It was taken moments after they had read their letters. No one had asked or told them to do this. I will never know what those letters said, and I don’t want to. It isn’t really any of my business. Being unexpectedly confronted with the vulnerability of that moment—young people praying together in an unfamiliar place—took me by surprise, and I was moved to tears. “I’m going to cry,” I said to my mom.

She put her hand on my shoulder and said “See? It worked. They pray, even when you don’t tell them to.”

That was the moment I became reassured that Christ had picked up the slack where I couldn’t. Being the trip leader, I was wracked with anxiety over whether this pilgrimage would be as moving and profound as it could be to each pilgrim. Seeing that photo gave me evidence of the thing youth ministers live for, but never get to see: the moment when all of the pointing to Christ pays off, and Jesus takes over.

With Gratitude

Pilgrimage is an internal process. We each can embark on pilgrimage in our day to day lives by making a conscious decision to seek and serve Christ in all persons. This decision lies at the center of Transfiguration’s youth ministries. Youth spend years learning how to seek Christ, and how to be pilgrims at home. This trip to Scotland represents a capstone experience for them, and provides a unique opportunity to better understand God. It quite plainly would not be possible without the support of a generous and vibrant congregation. Leading up to this pilgrimage, the parishioners of Transfiguration came together to raise tens of thousands of dollars to make it a reality. So, on behalf of the pilgrims, their families, and the entire youth ministries family, thank you. 🙏

Pilgrims at the top of Arthur’s Seat in Edinburgh.



Loving Our Neighbors as Ourselves: Transfiguration Launches a Food Pantry

By Ellen Dingwall, Director of Adult and Newcomer Ministries

Who Is Our Neighbor?

Who is your neighbor? Is your neighbor the young family next door or the older couple across the street? Is your neighbor the person you see in Central Market each week or the friend you sit next to in church? Just who is your neighbor?

The Outreach Committee has been prayerfully asking these questions on behalf of the congregation over the past two years. At Church of the Transfiguration, our mission statement (and also part of our baptismal covenant) is to seek and serve Christ in all persons. We have many neighbors whom we faithfully serve through partnerships with Austin Street Center, North Dallas Shared Ministries, Spring Valley Elementary School, Happy Homes in Africa, in addition to many other wonderful agencies and ministries. As we discerned the answer to “who is our neighbor?” we realized that often we seek and serve “out there”—not right here at the corner of Hillcrest and Spring Valley.

A Food Pantry Partnership is Born

After discovering that we are in a food insecure area, about a mile east of us at the Coit and Spring Valley intersection or just south of us on Meandering Way, the committee put months of research and prayer into how we serve our closest neighbors who are hungry. As a result, we decided to begin a Food Distribution Ministry by becoming a Community Distribution Partner with Crossroads Community Services (CCS). Crossroads Community Services is the urban outreach of First United Methodist Church in downtown Dallas. Their mission statement is:

To enrich the lives of our neighbors in need by compassionately providing tangible support and by helping people develop the strategic skills and self discipline necessary to enjoy well being.

CCS partners with 60 local organizations and faith communities to act as a mini-food bank. This means that they provide food for organizations like us who are too small or don't meet the criteria to become North Texas Food Bank Agencies.

As a social agency, CCS offers improved quality, quantity, and variety of food over what we are able to gather during an on-site food drive. The food from CCS is nutritionally balanced and chosen for each family according to ages or health concerns. For instance, families with little children get more milk or a diabetic gets fewer carbs (the USDA program has strict nutritional guidelines).

Partnering with CCS also avoids the concerns of storage space and spoiling. Since we do not have additional space to keep boxes of canned goods, or a process to monitor “use-by” dates, we are relying on professional nutritionists.

Spreading the Word

With the help of the principal, counselor and teachers at our neighborhood school, Spring Valley Elementary, we identified several families who would benefit from food each month. After registering people in person during the month of June, we were ready to serve our first five families. CCS reviewed each family's registration and used a formula created by the USDA which takes into consideration nutritional needs to determine the amounts and types of food to distribute. This



PHOTO BY ROBERT HACKER

month each family received packaged vegetables, meat, milk, fruit, soup, juice, tuna, rice, and spaghetti noodles.

The First Distribution

On the morning of Monday, July 20, our able truck driver, Stephen Matthews and his sidekick, Alan Justice, arrived at CCS downtown where food was loaded onto the bed of the truck. Once back at Transfiguration, volunteers unloaded the food into our designated space in the Niles Building. Beginning at 1:00 p.m. more volunteers arrived to sort the food according to each family's size and needs. Then we waited for our neighbors to pick up their loaded grocery bags. We also prepared bags of non-food items that were so generously donated throughout the month of June: paper towels, toilet paper, soap, shampoo, and cleaning products.

Just after 5:00 p.m., our first neighbor came bounding through the door with a huge smile on her face and promptly began hugging each of us. Those of you who know me well can guess what I did—I cried! To see the joy and gratitude on that woman's face was overwhelming and made the two years of planning and waiting for this day worth every minute. I was moved to tears as one by one, the others arrived. One person even brought a friend who wanted to register for next month. Another young family walked in and registered for next month, too.

How Can You Help?

The word is already circulating in the neighborhood that Transfiguration is reaching out in this new way. What can you do?

- ✓ **VOLUNTEER**—As we grow we will need more volunteers to help during our distribution days on the third Monday of the month. The next date is August 17. If you are interested in unloading, sorting, or distributing food, please contact me at edingwall@transfiguration.net.
- ✓ **DONATE**—The food that CCS processes and provides to us is obtained through the North Texas Food Bank. We will have a food drive this fall benefitting them and will continue to collect non-food items throughout the year, as well.
- ✓ **PRAY**—Pray for our ministry, for our beloved parish, and that we might meet the needs of our neighbors. We are here to take care of each other and to love each other as Christ loves us. 🙏

Transfigured Nights Fall Events

2015–2016 Season

Solemn Evensong for Holy Cross Day

Sunday, September 20 | 5:00 p.m.

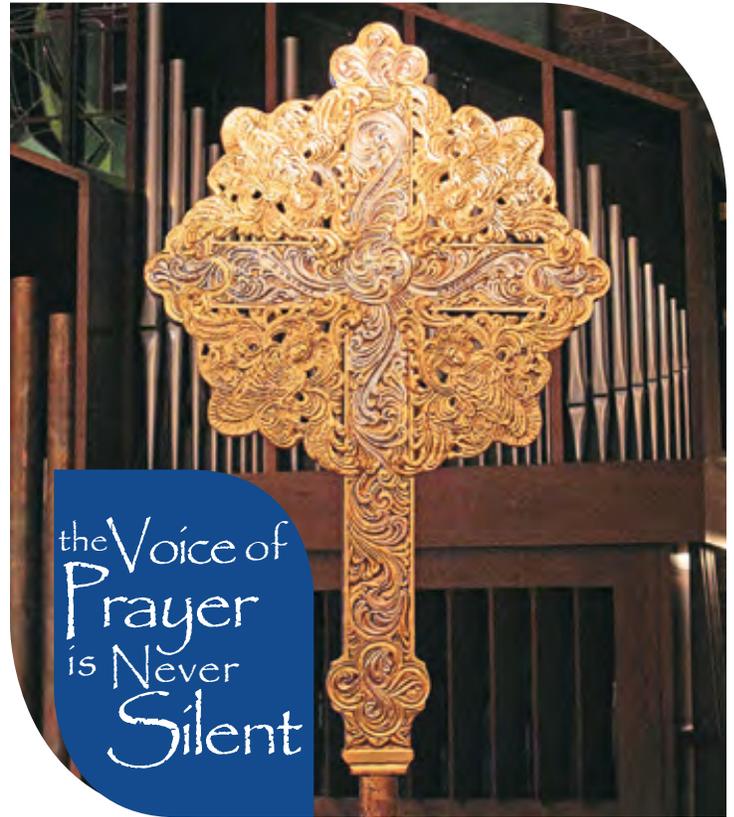
The twelfth season of Transfigured Nights begins with our traditional evensong service in celebration of the founding day of The Church of the Transfiguration—the Feast of the Holy Cross. The Transfiguration Choir will sing Joel Martinson's *Evening Service for the Transfiguration* as well as Philip Moore's anthem *It Is a Thing Most Wonderful* in honor of the parish's 59th anniversary. A reception in the Gathering Space and Tower Cloister will follow the service. Childcare will be provided.

Benefit & Auction— from Broadway to Bristol

Saturday, October 17 | 7:30 p.m.

Transfigured Nights presents an evening of song, desserts, and drinks presented by the Transfiguration Choir in Roper Hall. Favorite music theatre and popular song selections from the U.S. and England will be performed by our splendid parish singers. A delectable array of desserts by Transfiguration's best practitioners of the culinary arts will be accompanied by wine and non-alcoholic beverages. A silent auction of artistic, musical, and other treasures will accompany the entertainment and will

benefit the Choir's England Tour 2016. This event will last approximately two hours. Childcare will be provided. *As seating is limited, advance purchase of tickets is required: \$35 per person or \$250 for a table of 8.* Please watch for printed or email notices for additional details regarding ticket sales. This event sold out in 2013, so email jmartinson@transfiguration.net now to reserve your table!



the Voice of
Prayer
is Never
Silent

Advent Procession of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 6 | 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 hymn, chants, and carols accompanied by organ, handbells, and other instruments. A reception follows the service in Roper Hall. Childcare will be provided.

Evensong for All Souls' Eve

Sunday, November 1 | 5:00 p.m.

Transfigured Nights commemorates the Feast of All Faithful Departed with an evensong offered in remembrance of all loved ones who have gone before us in the faith. Following the liturgy, attendees are invited to join the clergy and choir in the Memorial Garden for the reading of names of all those interred in Transfiguration's Columbarium. Childcare will be provided.



Calendar Requests

Need to reserve a space in the church for an event or meeting? Have an ongoing program that needs to be scheduled for the year?

Visit us online at transfiguration.net/connect/facilities-request-form for our Facilities Request Form which will go to Meghan Mazur, Administrative Assistant, who is now managing the calendar, and to Bracken Reece, Director of Facilities. They will make sure there are no conflicts and that your space is available. Not web savvy? Please contact Meghan at mmazur@transfiguration.net or at 972.233.1898 x223 to set up your event. 🙏



SAVE THE DATE

September 18–19

Clothes Horse \$1 Sale

Mark your calendars
for September 18–19
when the Clothes Horse
will have its

ANNUAL \$1 SALE.

GIVE BACK WHEN YOU SHOP

Did you know that Transfiguration has an Amazon Business account that we operate through AmazonSmile?

This means that Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of the church's eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Episcopal Relief and Development. It's easy to set up for yourself at home; just visit amazon.com/smile and search for Episcopal Relief and Development to add them as your charity.



Upcoming Baptism Dates

November 1—All Saints' Day
January 10—Baptism of the Lord



A Saturday retreat will be held for parents and godparents of those preparing for baptism in October. Watch the Notices for more details.

Publications

Does your ministry have an upcoming event, but you're not sure where or how to publicize it? Have a story idea for the next issue of *Illumine*? Talk to Rebecca Gingles, Director of Communications, about the best channels to promote your activity. She can be reached at rgingles@transfiguration.net or at x227.

Deadline Reminders

The deadline for The Notices and weekly E-News is Mondays by 5:00 p.m. with the exception of holiday weeks. Please send your materials to publications@transfiguration.net.

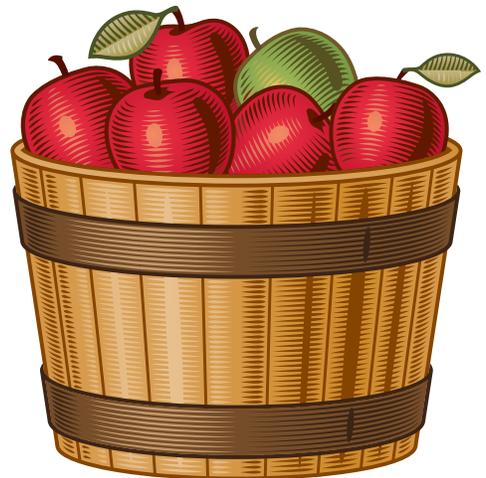


14115 Hillcrest Road
Dallas, TX 75254

what does it mean to
HAVE ENOUGH?

how do you try to
LIVE SIMPLY?

in what ways can you
BE GENEROUS?



ENOUGH
SIMPLICITY  GENEROSITY

JOIN US THIS SEPTEMBER AS WE
ASK THESE QUESTIONS TOGETHER.