

THE MAGAZINE OF CHRIST CHURCH

CrossWalk

SUMMER 2018

road to carnegie hall

Rutter's Magnificat & the
2018-2019 Concert Schedule

saying yes to jesus

Allie's reflections on her
time with youth ministry

member spotlights

Sizer Family & Sunny Walker

from the rector's desk

THE REV. TED DUVAL, TDUVALL@CHRISTCH.ORG

DEAR PARISH FAMILY,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I want you to know that in my prayers, I continue to pray, “Come Holy Spirit, come.” Why? Because I have a personal desire and need to know God, to be with God, and to live in the power of God – and I believe that this is also the desire and need of the Church. And I believe that God has come into the world to fulfill that desire and meet that need in Jesus Christ, *and that Jesus Christ is mediated to us by the Holy Spirit.*

{It is true that Christ is also mediated to us by the Holy Scriptures, the Sacrament of Holy Communion, by other believers, and through a relationship of compassion with “the least of these my brethren:” but in all of these cases it is the Holy Spirit’s work which accomplishes the mediation – for example, the Scriptures were written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit; the Communion elements are consecrated by the Holy Spirit; the Spirit likewise animates believers’ hearts and lives; and Christ’s presence in the least of these is discerned spiritually as we minister with them.}

Our desire and need is for God, who thus gives us Christ, *whose presence and life is communicated to us by the work of the Holy Spirit.* In talks this past Lent, several insights emerged from the New Testament accounts of the work of the Holy Spirit, and I want to summarize some of these insights for all, especially those unable to attend the talks.

Promise and Necessity –

We can start in no better place than to realize that the coming of the Holy Spirit to believers is as central and fundamental to God’s plan in Christ as anything else. It is not wrong to focus, as we mostly do, on Christ’s atoning work on the cross, but that is what He did to put us right with God, and if we leave it at that, doing nothing ourselves, and allowing nothing to be done within us, we miss life with God: having conquered sin and death, Christ ascends to heaven and...it’s done? No! It has just begun: the gift of the Spirit is intended by God to change us into the likeness of Christ, to empower us to live with Christ, in Christ, for Christ. Luke 24 and Acts 1 make clear that God’s plan, His promise to us, is that we will receive the Holy Spirit for changed living, for Christ-like living. And so, in places like the beginning of John 3, we hear Jesus saying that the Holy Spirit is necessary for entering the Kingdom of God. Come Holy Spirit, come!

Before and After –

Before the coming of the Holy Spirit, a clear pattern emerges – three things particularly: the believers are gathered all together, they are praying, and they are hearing and believing the Word of God. These conditions may seem unremarkable, but my experience is that the willingness to gather together for Word and prayer is the exception rather than the norm among the majority of the members of the Church. We would know more of the life and power of the Spirit if our hearts and lives were more concentrated on gathering together, praying together, and hearing the Word of God together. Then, when the Spirit is given, a variety of outcomes ensue, including a boldness to testify about the Lord Jesus to others and in response to hostility toward the Faith; the glory of God is seen and felt; the Church is comforted in its afflictions and multiplied through its missions; and some begin to speak or pray in an angelic or heavenly language. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Gifts for Christian Living –

Added to the extraordinary outcomes just named, the Spirit comes to us to infuse our personalities and direct our day in and day out lives. Permeating every aspect and manifestation of this daily character is the one great, primary, and enduring gift of the Holy Spirit – love. It is first in Paul’s list of the gifts of the Spirit in Galatians 5 and is the central characteristic of the Spirit-led life as described throughout the New Testament. Second, the Spirit cultivates in those in whom He dwells the “lowly virtues”: patience, peace, kindness, gentleness, goodness, self-control. And third, all these daily traits and practices are to be used to build up the Body of Christ, to be intentionally put to use to further the cause of Christ. Come Holy Spirit, come!

The Guide of the People of God –

In many places in the New Testament, we are told that the Spirit directed someone or some action (e.g. Matthew 4:1 or Luke 4:14; Acts 13:2 or 16:6). So we may ask, how should we expect the Holy Spirit to guide us today? Three fundamental, practical principles help answer this question. First, the Spirit keeps us and guides us in the Scriptures: the Spirit does not move contrary to the Word of God (which is inspired by the same Spirit!). If the Bible teaches us to be generous to others as God has been generous toward us in Christ, then the Spirit will never say to the Church, “Don’t be generous in mercy, or in grace toward sinners, or in giving money.” Second, the Spirit keeps us and guides us in our spirits, in our hearts. We are not given a Spirit of fear, or of division, or of anxiety, but one of peace and conviction and unity. The Spirit is not overbearing, but tender, guiding with gentleness. Third, the Spirit keeps us and guides us in the Body of Christ, the Church. See how, for example in Acts 15:22, 28, that a whole body of believers are gathered together discussing and praying and the direction they are led in is one that seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to them all – as it is with an individual’s heart, so it is with the Church: the Spirit brings a peaceful, corporate conviction, not division and chaos. Come Holy Spirit, come!

My hope is that you all will join me in praying, “Come Holy Spirit, come!” And I invite you to share with me your discernment of the Spirit’s presence and work in your life and ministry.

REQUIEM

JOHN RUTTER

OXFORD

JOHN RUTTER MAGNIFICAT

VOCAL SCORE



John Rutter

THE IMPACT OF
HIS MUSIC AT
CHRIST CHURCH

God endowed Rutter with extraordinary gifts and he used those gifts to craft great liturgical music which we can lift up as a love offering to Him. It has been our privilege and blessing to do just that in the Christ Church Choir. - Bruce Elliott

What a privilege it is to sing a Rutter composition! Rutter paints the sense of what the passage is about with the notes and chords he so masterfully colors with each of the voices. It is worshipful to experience musically the depth of sorrow in the Requiem, and the heights of joy he has incorporated in the Magnificat. - Rita Weston

I find his music captivating and spirit lifting. Rutter has the ability to create music to fit the words of scripture. - Rhett Crisler

Rutter's compositions, while challenging to learn to sing well, brings great satisfaction and joy in performance. One feels a part of an angel choir. - Andrew Weston

When I hear Rutter's music, I marvel at how it conveys the reflection of beliefs in the Christian traditions of death and eternal life. - John Legun

Who is this Rutter that our choir members compare his music to a worshipful experience or singing with angel choirs? They are describing the music of John Rutter, an English choral composer born in 1945 in London. David Willcocks, a renowned contemporary liturgical composer, describes Rutter as “the most gifted composer of his generation.”

Rutter has composed or arranged over 30 Christmas carols, over 60 anthems and 11 extended compositions. The Requiem is one of those extended compositions that our choir loves to sing so much. I stumbled on the Requiem when I was researching different requiem masses for my Good Friday drama “A Requiem Experience.” The music was so powerful and rich in texture AND had such beautiful melodies that when the choir started learning it, they fell in love with it immediately. In fact, the Kyrie from that Requiem is the Lord Have Mercy, Rejoice #1, that we sing on Sundays in Lent.

Here is what Sarah Althen says about that music: “I feel so many emotions when I sing and have had the blessing to sing many of John Rutter’s music through the Christ Church choir. I get chills every time I hear it and sing it as it highlights darkness to light. There is one part of the song where we sing, “Kyrie eleison, kyrie eleison...” and it just repeats with many different variations highlighting all vocals. I just fall into a place of pure joy and thankfulness. I can see the Angels singing that to me with Jesus’ arms open wide as I enter Heaven.”

We sang the Requiem at Piccolo Spoleto in 2010. That concert was recorded and put on YouTube. Eight years later, this past January, I was contacted by a New York talent scout who was looking for choirs who not only loved singing Rutter’s music, but also were able to handle the level of difficulty it required. The scout was searching You Tube and came across our live recording and contacted me about our choir singing at Carnegie Hall! They were planning a concert of Rutter’s music and asked if we would consider singing Rutter’s Magnificat with two hundred other singers accompanied by a full orchestra on March 17, 2019. We, of course, said YES! We are now in the midst of learning Rutter’s Magnificat, an equally beautiful but challenging work as the Requiem. Here is the English translation of the Magnificat that we are singing in Latin:

*My soul doth magnify the Lord.
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm,
He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel.
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.*

Please keep us in your prayers as we learn 82 pages of difficult music and raise money for our trip. I know the choir concurs with Bob Krantz who says: “I am inspired with every note I am fortunate enough to sing of John Rutter’s music. Very challenging, but very rewarding.”



SAYING



YES TO



ALLIE THIES'
REFLECTIONS ON
HER TIME IN
YOUTH MINISTRY

JESUS.



Saying “yes” to Jesus has never let me down.

Think back on your life in Christ. Think of all the times you have chosen to be obedient to God and say “yes” to something He is asking you to do. Have you ever regretted saying “yes” to Jesus? Through God’s grace and kindness, I can honestly say that His way has always been the best way in my life, and that I have never regretted choosing to say “yes” to a request from God.

In the summer of 2016, when I was working part-time as Director of Contemporary Music at Christ Church, and making ends meet by running a personal training business on the side, I began to feel stressed and anxious, that my time and attention were being pulled in too many directions. So, I chose a week in July and cleared my calendar, and took a few days to get away to a quiet place and pray about what God wanted me to do next.

I sensed the Lord asking me to do two things: 1) Quit doing personal training, and 2) Don’t look for another job. I am so thankful that I have seen God’s faithfulness in my life over the years before this, that He showed how trustworthy He is, that I was able to trust Him and say “yes” to both things that God asked me to do. Although I was a single person, living on my own and needing to support myself, I knew that God would provide some means to replace the salary that I would be losing. I did not know where it would come from, but I was expectant that when the right opportunity crossed my path, I would recognize it. After all, remember that God had told me “don’t go looking for another job.” I know that Psalm 84:11 says “no good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.” So I was willing to wait, knowing that God would not keep anything good from me.

It only took a few weeks before the right opportunity came across my path: Robin Quick asked if I would consider stepping into a role on the Ministry Team for Youth. I knew this was what God wanted me to say “yes” to, but I did not yet know how thoroughly He would bless me through the chance to know and walk through life with our Christ Church youth. Here are some of the ways that I have received God’s grace over the past two years of youth ministry!

Blessings from my time in youth ministry:

- Seeing teenagers grow into themselves and into their faith
- Meeting and getting to know parents
- Going on retreats to Camp St. Christopher, missions trips to Florida and North Carolina
- Being encouraged by other youth ministers in the Diocese and sharing in mutual ministry
- Finding a new partner in ministry (and close friend in life) in Joseph
- Learning from Robin, having a listening ear and someone always willing to pray for me
- Going more deeply into the life of Christ Church through bonding with more families
- Learning (and still learning) how to deliver a Bible lesson and speak to a group
- Seeing the Lord provide for my material needs through a full-time job in ministry, and for my heart’s needs through a calling that I enjoy
- Witnessing parents step up to the plate to be spiritual leaders of their families
- Hearing and connecting with the topics that are on the minds of middle school and high school students each day
- Seeing our youth make wise and brave decisions to live for Jesus at school amongst their friends
- Watching our upperclassmen take on leadership roles in FCA, in Youth Commission, in their school communities and clubs, and leading small group Bible studies
- Seeing the excitement as our middle school youth bond with each other through Life Group meetings, and make new friends, and discuss the Bible on their level and through their perspective
- Receiving the blessing of adult volunteers who tirelessly and selflessly give their time and care to our youth, some of whom do not have kids of their own, but simply care enough to invest

At the end of June, I will be saying “yes” to God again as I step down from my position as Youth Minister, creating room in my week to focus more fully on music ministry and room for Joseph to step into his calling to lead and invest in our Christ Church Youth. I am so thankful for everything that the Lord has done, shown, and provided over the past two years. I am thankful for the relationships with youth and families that I now have and will continue to have. I am thankful to see our youth getting to know Jesus and learning to live their lives for His glory. I will still see y’all around every week, as I will continue to lead the music at the contemporary service, by God’s grace.

If you are a youth, or a parent of a youth, thank you for allowing me to be in your life!



FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

FEATURING THE SIZER FAMILY

I remember the first time I went over the Sizer's house. A lovely home in its own right, I couldn't help but notice the front door. Proud and pink, the door was a true statement, matching the colors of the flowers in the front garden. I instantly appreciated the door. A pink door isn't groundbreaking as far as doors go, but much like the Sizer family, it was something special that put smiles on many faces.

The Sizers, Cathy and Garrett and their sons Gil and Lewis, first came to Christ Church 6 years ago. These days you can regularly find them leading the youth discipleship classes on Sunday Mornings where they diligently teach God's word with true love and devotion. Cathy says:

"Garrett and I were pulled towards ministering to the youth soon after our first child was born. I was lucky to be selected to the youth ministry team at my childhood church, First Presbyterian-Greenville. I learned a tremendous amount about the importance of equipping our children with all that they need for their week in just one hour on Sunday mornings. Wow... now that is a God sized job! Our church sent me to a training conference in Chicago (Willow Creek) where I heard many of the "rock stars" of children's ministry speak, and I am still impacted by the things discussed/learned."

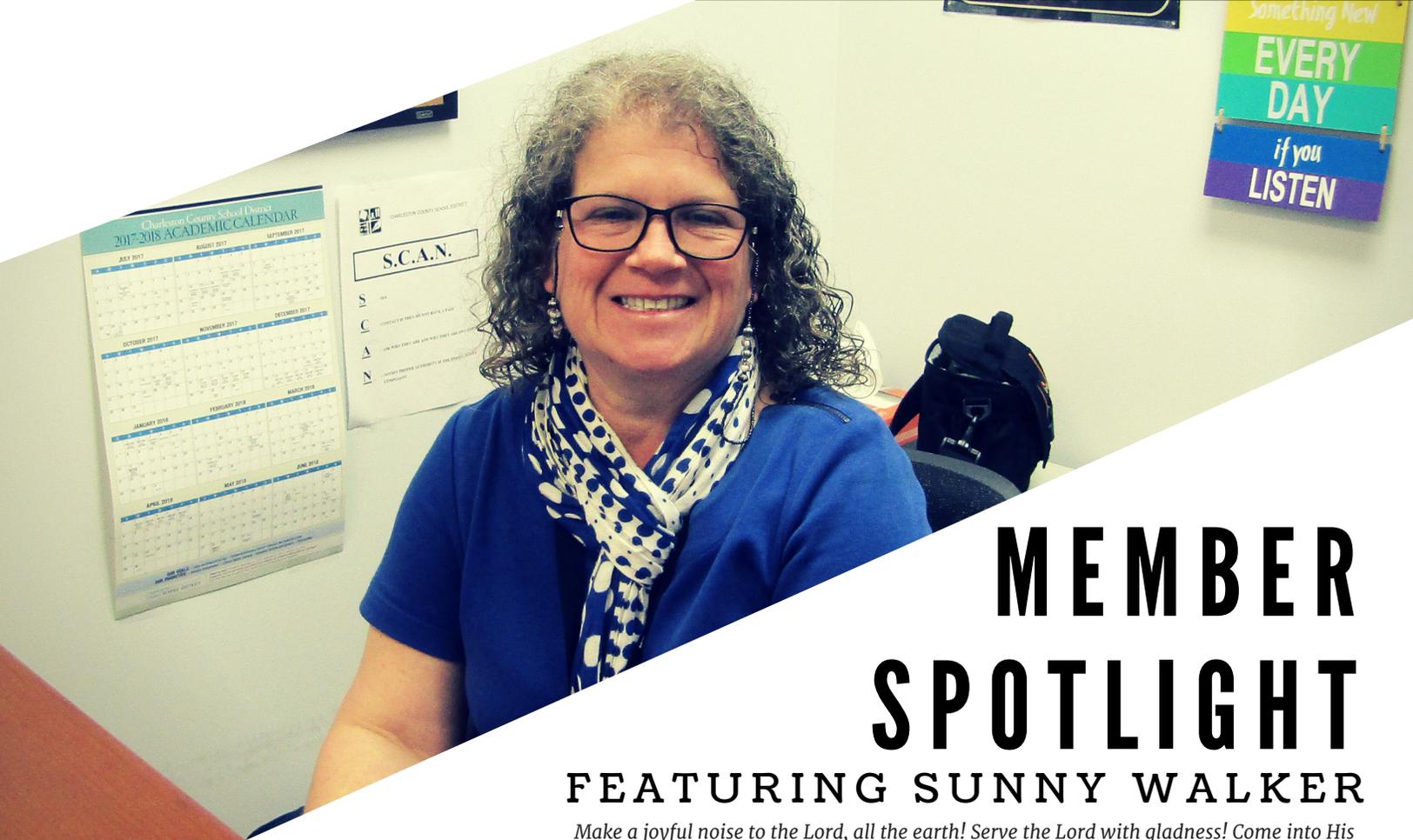
Garrett and Cathy certainly have a heart for working with youth, and feel that it is one of the most important areas of ministry. Saying, "we both have a heart bent towards young kids and the struggles they face. No matter if you have tons of experience or no training at all, the most important thing you can do for kids is just love them."

That love for the youth is made evident the moment you enter the room. My first experience with the Sizer's teaching was a delight. I walked into a room of excited youth playing a run card game where I was instantly handed one of Cathy's amazing homemade cookies, all before sitting down to hear them teach a meaningful and digestible lesson, the love of God on full display.

"Every time Garrett and I have the opportunity to lead a class, we find it blesses our lives so much. (We can only hope that others in the class are blessed as much as we are.) Very early in our family life, we made the commitment that we would be a family that worshiped together every week...no grey area. I wanted to provide the same foundation that I received as a child growing up in a great church group. I knew first hand how a strong youth group could be such a benefit in a young life. Our youth group was so impactful that something like 75% of the kids went into Christian ministry in their adult lives. I have seen God alive in the hearts of youth and I have seen what God can do through them. I am humbled and blessed to have had the opportunity to be a part of youth group as a member and leader. Nothing excites me more than when I see God using me for His purpose. Usually the only way this is crystal clear is when I realize my inadequacy and know I can't do it without fully relying on God to do it through me!"

When you see a bright pink door, it catches your eye and it makes you smile. When you see the Sizer's at work in the church, it catches your eye and reminds you of just how good God is. The Sizer family is a true blessing to Christ Church and to the Youth Ministry team, and I can not wait to see how God works through them next.

Submitted by
Joseph Dubay



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

FEATURING SUNNY WALKER

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. – Psalm 100:1-3

Hello!

I am Sunny Walker. I am a new member here at Christ Church. I started attending in November 2016 and had my membership transferred in November 2017. Why did I choose to join Christ Church? The answer is simple: the friendliness of the members, the caring atmosphere, and knowing that I have a place here.

I grew up in the church. It is what I know. My parents always emphasized worship, giving, and serving. Serving was to glorify God, not to glorify yourself.

I was fortunate to attend a private college, Presbyterian College (PC) located in Clinton, South Carolina. While at PC, I majored in Music and Elementary Education. Although I was attracted to the small, family-like atmosphere of PC, the main aspect that attracted me was service. PC's motto is *Dum Vivimus Servimus*- While We Live, We Serve. During my four years at PC, I was able to serve as a substitute musician at a local Presbyterian Church and an Episcopal Church located in a neighboring town. I frequently served as a musician on campus playing for various events as well as for special occasions at the President's House. I also served as a Special Olympics volunteer and on the Appeals Board for the college's Judicial Committee.

After graduating from PC, I relocated to our diocese where I reconnected with All Saints', Florence. While there, I served in the choir as a substitute organist, chalice bearer, lay reader, and youth volunteer.

As I have spiritually grown in the diocese, I have served on several Faith Alive Teams as the Children's Coordinator and in the Cursillo Movement where I have had the opportunity to be a Weekend Lay Rector (#140) as well as a Ultreya Rector. I have also served as the Diocesan Historian for the Daughters of the King and am a commissioned Stephen Minister. At the church level, I have served on the altar guild, Mission Council, Bible School volunteer, and Sunday School teacher.

What have these experiences taught me? Be blessed to be a blessing to others. As scripture says: "Serve the Lord with gladness."

I am lucky to live the motto of my college, PC, as well as the motto for the Daughters of the King: "For His Sake... I am, but one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do..." I take both these mottos to heart and constantly look for that something to do, while remembering that I am not supposed to do everything.

Here at Christ Church, I play the clarinet during the Rite II service and have contributed items for the children, the Seafarer's ministry, and helped during the Diocesan Convention this past spring. I am also a part of the Cursillo movement as well as the Daughters of the King.

I have a passion to serve and love others. I can honestly say that Christ Church is an extension of my family. It is here that I want to continue to grow in my faith and as well as my spiritual walk with you.

2018-19 MUSIC EVENTS

THE ROAD TO CARNEGIE HALL

September 7 - East Cooper (Carnegie Hall) Concert Series (7pm)

Dr. Lorna Barker performs the music of Liszt and Franck, featuring the Christ Church Concert Choir in a performance of Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*.

September 28 - CoffeeHouse Serenade (7pm)

Come enjoy coffee and desserts as the choir serenades you through 100 years of music, beginning with the roaring 20s and ending with current hits.

October 7 - Southcoast Orchestra Concert (4pm)

Enjoy the music of a full orchestra in the wonderful acoustics of our sanctuary. Donation benefits the Southcoast Orchestra.

November 24 - Christmas Tree and Wreath Pick-up

Fresh Fraser Fir Christmas trees, wreaths, and garland are on sale beginning September 7. Come to Christ Church on Saturday, November 24 to pick up your pre-ordered greenery.

December 7 - East Cooper (Carnegie Hall) Concert Series (7pm)

The Southcoast Orchestra returns to Christ Church to celebrate the beautiful sounds of Christmas! Joined by the Christ Church Choir, this dynamic team of musicians will perform music from Handel's *Messiah* along with many other favorites.

February 10 - Oyster Roast Silent Auction

Take a break from those delicious steamed oysters and bid on unique baskets, vacations, and paintings.

March 3 - East Cooper (Carnegie Hall) Concert Series (4pm)

Come and hear our fabulous choir perform Rutter's *Magnificat* in its entirety accompanied by the Southcoast Orchestra. Culminating in a year of weekly rehearsals, this *Magnificat* will be debuted a week before our choir performs at Carnegie Hall.

March 17 - Carnegie Hall Performance (2pm)

Plan a trip to New York City to hear our choir perform Rutter's *Magnificat* in the famous Isaac Stern Auditorium at Carnegie Hall. Our choir will arrive Thursday evening, March 14, participate in two days of rehearsals, then perform the *Magnificat* with 200 other singers and a full orchestra.

May 5 - Southcoast Orchestra Concert (4pm)

Enjoy the music of a full orchestra in the wonderful acoustics of our sanctuary. Donation benefits the Southcoast Orchestra.



WHEN YOUR CUP RUNNETH OVER... FILL SOMEONE ELSE'S CUP

The Psalmist David declared that, in His care for him, the Lord provided so much abundance that his cup overflowed (Psalm 23:5).

Our Lord, the Good Shepherd, cares for his “flock” — us (John 10:14,16). Not only His willingness but also His ability to care for us by providing proper food and water in abundance, and protection in times of danger. He also provides both our physical and spiritual needs (Psalm 23:3). Jesus is the true and caring Shepherd (Mark 6:34).

We have been given a wonderful gift in receiving the Holy Spirit from the Father (John 15:26). Look at the tremendous blessings we have been given; most of all understanding of His plan for humanity and His truth. His way of life, living, doing, acting and being- is it not a blessing for us to know these things? How much are we sharing that with others every day? What example are we setting, being lights to the world (Matthew 5:14-16), by letting that living water bubble up out of us on a daily basis?

Are we drawing from Jesus' well and pouring it into the cup of others as we interact with them just as He did? Does our cup overflow with Thanksgiving, joy, deep appreciation to our Father and Jesus and others? Can they see that?

A few years ago we began a Coffee Ministry following the Contemporary and Rite II services. The simple gift of time and a cup of coffee can share a bit of the Holy Spirit with your fellow parishioners.

If interested in serving in the Coffee Ministry, please register online or contact the following:

9am service: Vicki Johnson, 843.323.7388, vicki.johnson@ingevity.com

11am service: Belle Croft, 843.324.0647, bcroft@christch.org



2304 Highway 17 North
Mt Pleasant, SC 29466
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