



## FALL: THE PRELUDE TO NEW LIFE

OCTOBER 2015



**F**all is already upon us. You can tell by the crisp mornings, blazing autumn colors, falling leaves, students studying, college football, festivals, and (unfortunately)

Christmas displays already popping up in stores. The cooling temperatures invigorate, and snap you out of the recent memory of lazy summer days. The beauty of the changing trees inspire the creation of arts and crafts. The smells of cinnamon, pumpkin, and funnel cakes at the fair inspire our scent memories and encourage us to make new ones. The cornucopia of the harvest is rich and abundant.

Why, then, does spring get all the credit for rebirth and new life? Could bright greens and pastels be over-rated? New life should be celebrated, but comes with new challenges and new responsibilities. There will be time for that soon enough. Now, we are to live into the season upon us.

Fall cannot be seen as the opposite of spring. For if spring represents new life, does fall represent death? Surely not! Fall is a necessary time of preparation for the coming spring. Much work is going on beneath the seemingly dormant exterior. Nutrients are being returned to the soil to become richer than before. Trees are conserving their strength by dropping their leaves, only to marshal the resources necessary to push forth new growth. Creatures prepare for the coming winter by storing food or fat so they might survive and ultimately thrive. The skill and experience of preparation in fall and the endurance and persistence through winter are Creation's natural order, so that God's glory might burst forth in the spring. But we can neither ignore nor deny God's glory in fall, the prelude to new life.

The resurrection, while certainly a high point in the Christian story, is not an isolated

event in the story of salvation. Jesus' suffering and death was a necessary path to resurrection. The road to new life can be challenging to say the least. Another key element in our faith that makes all the difference is the incarnation. The Word made flesh demonstrates God with us, reaching out to us, that further reveals God in our world and allows us nearer presence to the Divine. While our faith is bound to Christ's death and resurrection, new life is also revealed in Jesus' time among us before His death. Throughout the early chapters of the gospels in our current lectionary, Jesus teaches us how to live! In our liturgical year, all of this anticipation will culminate in Advent where we prepare the way of the Lord and then celebrate the birth of Christ, our Emmanuel, God with us.

Christ Church is amidst great preparation for new life. Opportunities for gathering, worship, fellowship, formation, outreach, and caring for one another abound. The Daily Offices provide a space and community for spiritual connection to scripture and each other in the tradition of the monastics. Wonderful Wednesdays offer gathering around table fellowship for teaching and learning as Jesus often demonstrated. Our Christian Formation offerings beg us to strengthen our community, our faith, and hope. Ministries such as Pastoral Care, Welcoming, and Foyer Groups call each of us to journey together as described in our Baptismal Covenant. New and seasoned parishioners are discerning where God is calling us to serve, and to glorify God. All of us are invited to discernment, not of what we want or expect, but to what God is up to in our lives and what is our next faithful step. Exploring our growing edges allows God to mold and forge us to a new purpose. This is the season to prepare for new life.

Bryan Hinson+

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*Photo:  
Safeguarding  
God's Children  
“Graduates”*

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Sundays @ 10 am

*There will be an Intergenerational Activity on Sunday, October 11 in the Great Hall*

### BIBLE STORY & CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

2 K & 3K,  
Downstairs  
Teachers

Mary Robinson,  
Walker & Tori Stewart

### GODLY PLAY I

4K - K  
Downstairs  
Teachers

Suzanne Shippen & Karen Baxley

### GODLY PLAY II

1st - 3rd Grade  
Upstairs  
Teachers

Elizabeth McCain & Helen Stewart

### GODLY PLAY III

4th-5th Grade  
Upstairs  
Teachers

Laura Evans & Vicky Cork

## SAVE THE DATES

### SPECIAL ALL SAINTS' PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Sunday, November 1st

### ADVENT WORKSHOP

Sunday, November 29th

### ST. NICHOLAS PARTY

Wednesday, December 2nd

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Fall schedule and Christian Formation opportunities are in full swing, and so is the nursery! Our nursery staff is ready to serve your family with two rooms on Sunday morning (8:45am-12:15pm) and one combined room for Wonderful Wednesdays (5:15pm-8:15pm). We hope this service allows adults to attend worship, formation, and fellowship opportunities while caring for our little ones.





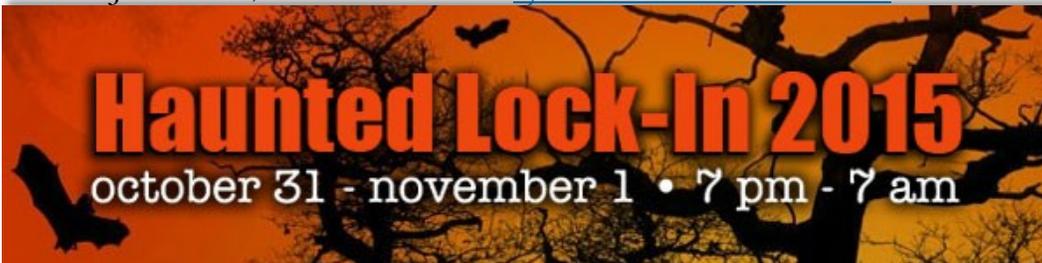
In June of 2016, we'll return to England for another Anglican Adventure! For Episcopalians, there are few experiences that can help us explore our Anglican roots than an actual visit to sites where significant moments in our religious history were lived.

When asked what this pilgrimage meant to him, our friend Harry Groce, now a sophomore at Sewanee, wrote, "Well, it was what brought me back to my faith. Before I went to England for the first time, I was pretty much just showing up at church to be social, but afterwards, after seeing our church's roots and feeling the connection to thousands of people who lived hundreds of years before me, I just felt like I belonged in the Episcopal Church and that it was the right place for me."

Christ Church Youth Ministry Assistant said, "My trip to London and Canterbury was such a pivotal experience in my spiritual journey. I was able to go to another country and see so many facets of our Episcopal and Anglican roots with friends that I loved. It was one of the best trips of my life."

University of Georgia Freshman Mary Blain Grist writes, "This is pretty cliché, but I've never felt more at home than when I walked into the Canterbury Cathedral for the first time."

All students in grades 9 (*rising*) - 12 are encouraged to participate in the 2016 Pilgrimage and are invited to an Informational Tea on Sunday, October 25, at 6 p.m., in Jones Chapel. There, you'll hear more about the experiences of others, sample a bit of what you might expect to find along the journey and learn how you can be part of this next great adventure. Parents are also encouraged to attend. If you have questions or need more information prior to the meeting, contact John Mark, or send an email to [eyc@christchurchmacon.com](mailto:eyc@christchurchmacon.com).



All students in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for a night of thrills and chills, ghouls and games, food and fun, surprises and saints! We're super excited that this year's Haunted Lock-In will begin on Halloween and end on All Saints Day! This event is going to be amazing. From 7 pm on Saturday until 7 am on Sunday, we have all kinds of things planned to make this event memorable. Of course, some of us plan to sleep for a while, but for those who insist on staying awake all night, there will be activities to keep you busy... a variety of special opportunities are in the works. Some new. Some classics. All fun.

Look for more detailed information in the upcoming electronic EYC-news, which will include details about what to bring, what to expect, how to prepare, etc. Try to get all your homework done for the weekend before you arrive! Costumes are encouraged but not required. Reserve the date, and invite your buds. We're expecting friends from several other churches to join us. You know what they say, "the more, the scarier!"

We could use a few brave souls to volunteer as chaperones for part or all of the event. Adults, let us know if you are willing to help! Just send an email to [eyc@christchurchmacon.com](mailto:eyc@christchurchmacon.com).

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sundays @ 10 am**

*Youth meet at 10 am in the EYC room to catch up, pray, share, and learn together. This is a great way to prepare for confirmation.*

### MORNING PRAYER BREAKFAST

**Tuesdays**  
**@ Jittery Joe's**  
**Mercer Village**  
**7 am**

**Thursdays**  
**@ Chick-Fil-A**  
**on Zebulon Rd.**  
**6:30 am**

### WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

**EYC Room**  
**6:45 pm**

*Join us in the EYC Room after Wednesday night dinner each week. Come play & pray with us!*

*The EYC needs your old magazines for a project that they are working on. You may drop the magazines off at the parish office during the week or at Christ Church Central on Sundays. We appreciate your help and will recycle what we do not use. Thank you!*

## MINISTRY OF THE MONTH:



### THE WEEKEND LUNCH PROGRAM

Since the mid-1990's, the Weekend Lunch Program at Christ Episcopal Church has provided hot meals for the homeless and hungry in downtown Macon on every Saturday and Sunday of the year. These meals take place at noon in Jones Chapel. Each weekend, we serve from two hundred to three hundred meals. You can support this important community ministry of Christ Church during the month of October by placing a check in the offering plate on Sunday designated to the Weekend Lunch Program, by making an online donation through our website, or by purchasing gift cards to Kroger or Publix.

## JANIE'S PERU TRIP REFLECTION



As most of you know, I went on a high adventure/ mission trip this summer to Peru. As I traveled, I found myself in awe of the cultural differences between my home and the country I came to love. Upon my arrival I met many new friends from all over the east coast in America. These new friends soon became my family as we hiked beside each other for 3 weeks. My new family and I had an amazing trip ahead of us. We went rappelling, zip-lining, rafting, hiking, camping, swimming, and even built a brick oven with some of the locals. Yes, the adventure seeking parts of the trip were to die for, but for me the most meaningful parts of the trip were working with the locals, and hiking the entire Salkatay Trek. In Cusco, Peru, there was a family that owned a shop in a very small part of town. We were

told that they needed help with some construction work, so we jumped right in and put our hands to work. On the work site, we met David and Dealfilo. These two men were the local workers helping out their friends. Speaking purely in Spanish, they told us our task would be to help them build a brick oven, and destroy and rebuild a small hut on the property. Immediately we all fell into our work spaces, mine being a translator, and helping Dealfilo build the oven. During the week of work, Dealfilo and I spoke a lot about our cultures. He asked me many questions about the US and was very interested in our culture, as was I about his. After hearing about his life, and many others' in Peru, I came to understand just how lucky I am to have all of the gifts that I have received. Things like plumbing, hot water, clean water, beds, and fresh meat are no longer things that I overlook in life; they are gifts we cannot take for granted. Shortly after working in the village, my group began our trek. This gave us a lot of time to reflect on the things we learned from the local people. As we hiked for miles and miles, our brains processed for hours and hours. By the end our 4 day trek we had acquired a new appreciation for the small things in life, like toilet paper, which we did not have on our trek. My overall experience in Peru was absolutely breathtaking. From the amazing activities, to the scenery, to the connections I made with the local people, it was almost like the trip put a filter on the way I see things. That filter makes the beautiful gifts in life bright and overpowering to the grey sorrows that occasionally drift by. After having this experience, I encourage anyone to try and look through that filter, and better yet, experience life in a place like Peru, so you can understand just how amazing this world is.

If you wish to hear about my trip in greater detail please visit:

<https://www.moondanceadventures.com/trips/machu-picchu/notes/>

## EXPLORING THE PATIENCE OF JOB . . . A SYMPHONY OF OCTOBER SERMONS



The "Patience of Job" has become a standard secular reference for enduring suffering with patience and grace. But is this interpretation really true to the text? The four Sundays in October, sermons from Bryan, Joseph, and Julia will explore the lectionary offerings from the Book of Job.

The inspiration for this excursus (a detailed discussion or exposition of a particular text) was the summer Preaching Conference at Princeton. Candler School of Theology professor Brent Strawn presented a series on the fading "language" of the Old Testament. As you might expect, most preachers focus their sermons on the gospel. The story of salvation, however, did not begin with Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The written story of God's action, participation, and purpose in the world begins with Genesis, runs through the stories of God's chosen people, and beyond revelation of Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection. Modern Christianity often presents a pasteurized version of scripture, boiled down and capsulated into palatable, bite-sized chunks. This can lead to faith by bumper sticker or "feel good" lessons that lack the true width and depth of scripture and our experience of God. Strawn suggests if we lose the culture, sense, and understanding of the Old Testament, could the New Testament be far behind?

Each of the lessons from Job in October explore relevant issues, often with no easy answers. Why do bad things happen to good people? What is the real source of evil in the world? If we are good and righteous, are God's blessings predictable or contractual? Can we count on God's justice? Do we even understand God's justice? How do we journey with others in the midst of suffering and loss? How do we journey with God in the midst of suffering and loss? Was Job really patient? How do we understand God's response to Job? Can we expect such a response? Are there any easy answers?

Your priests have accepted the challenge to explore the complex world of Job, and determine what scripture is saying to God's people today. We will attempt to be faithful to the Old Testament in its language and culture that forms us as Christians. And fear not, the gospel will not be neglected. There will be a healthy dose of Jesus. We hope you enjoy!

## PRAYER REQUESTS



Bailey, Barbara, Beth, Beverly, Bill, Bill, Carmen, Carolyn, Cloyd, Connie, Crawford, David, Doris, Etta Reese, George, George, Hazel, Jeffery, Lynn, Malinda, Molly, Nina, Russ, Scott, Sparky, Susan, Alan, Cliff, Ed, Ernest, Harriette, Maddox, Matthew, Ruby, Sean, & Suzanne.



We pray for all those who serve in the military especially, Austin, Charlie, George, Owen & Terry. We pray for our Staff, Vestry, & Search Committee; and for those displaced by the conflict in Syria.

# WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY SPEAKERS

*Dinner is Catered by Harpin's Restaurant at 6:15 pm*

*Cost is \$5/person Programs are at 6:45 pm*

## OCTOBER 7

**Fr. Joseph Shippen**

*"What They Don't Tell You in Confirmation - Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Episcopal Church but were Afraid to Ask."*

## OCTOBER 14

**Sr. Katie Norris**

*Director of the Daybreak Ministry to the Homeless*

*"Who is my neighbor? - City on the Hill Series"*

## OCTOBER 21

**Susan Welsh**

*Executive Director of the Museum of Arts and Sciences*

*Part 2 - "How to read Christ Church Through its Art: Religious Symbolism Throughout Christ Church, Including Architecture, Windows, and Paintings."*

## OCTOBER 28

**All Hallows Eve Service & Dinner**

# MUSIC MINISTRY

## Upcoming Events

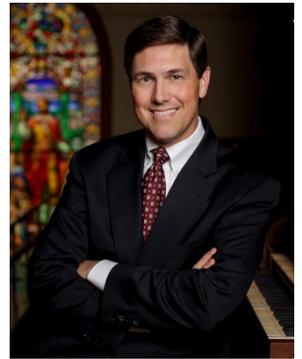
**CHORAL EVENSONG for ALL SAINTS' DAY**  
November 1 at 5:00 pm

*Evensong is one of the great treasures of the Anglican tradition. Please join us for this beautiful service as we remember those who have gone before us. A reception will follow.*

**ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS**  
Sunday, December 13 at 11:00 am

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
December 24 at 11:00 pm (Special music for choir and organ beginning at 10:30 pm)

**GUEST ORGAN RECITALIST**  
Friday, February 26 at 7:30 pm - Recital by **CHRISTA RAKICH**  
*Don't miss this opportunity to hear our magnificent and world-class Fisk organ played by this internationally-acclaimed organist.*



***Make a joyful noise to the Lord!***

# MUSIC and the Arts at

**VINEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Oct. 25**

**Kerrie Caldwell**  
*Soprano*

**Bradley Smith**  
*Piano*

Bradley is a former member of Christ Church, the performance will be at 4 pm  
2045 Vineville Ave., Macon, GA 31204

## CHRIST CHURCH

582 WALNUT STREET • MACON, GEORGIA 31201  
OFFICE (478) 745-0427 • FAX (478) 741-1685  
[www.christchurchmacon.com](http://www.christchurchmacon.com)

Dear Members of Christ Church,

It is with mixed emotions that I announce that starting on October 16<sup>th</sup> my position will change from fulltime to halftime as I begin a new position in the field of electrical engineering. During this interim period at Christ Church, even though my hours will change, I will remain as your Sr. Associate Rector in charge of administration, oversight, and pastoral care.

This decision comes after much prayer, and although I am sad to be cutting back on my ministry at Christ Church, I am excited about this new vocational door that God has unexpectedly opened for me. Thirteen years ago, I went to seminary directly out of college and never imagined I would be able to use my undergraduate degrees in physics and electrical engineering. This new position, primarily designing large-scale solar stations for Georgia Power and other power companies, allows me to work from home with flexible hours. My long term goal is to follow the model of St. Paul, who as a tentmaker was perhaps the first bi-vocational pastor. My hope is that in whatever church God leads me to, I can continue to serve as a pastor even as I live into this electrical engineering call on my life. I am so glad that the Bishop and the Vestry have agreed to allow me to continue in the tentmaker model at Christ Church as we celebrate the life of Christ in our community and prepare for the next rector.

Christ Church remains in a very good place. Of course, Bryan Hinson, whose great gifts for leadership have been displayed over the past few months, remains at Christ Church as your fulltime Curate with some added responsibilities. He and I will continue to work closely together.

As Bryan so wonderfully says in his article for this issue, "All of us are invited to discernment, not of what we want or expect, but what God is up to in our lives and what is our next faithful step." I look forward to continuing to walk that surprising and joyful journey of discernment with all of you!

Joseph+



Christ Episcopal Church  
582 Walnut St.  
Macon, GA 31201

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WE NEED  
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**SIGN UP TODAY!**

Photos will be taken October 21-25. Visit [ChristChurchMacon.com](http://ChristChurchMacon.com) to reserve your sitting today. If you need assistance, please contact the parish office. There is no charge for the sitting. Participating families will receive a complimentary 8x10 photo & a copy of the pictorial directory. Lifetouch is donating \$5/sitting to Christ Church. Photos are scheduled to arrive before Christmas!

THE FIRST CHURCH OF MACON, GEORGIA. ESTABLISHED IN 1825

*"Growing by God's Grace into a Family of Faith and Ministry."*

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S

## Annual Parish Picnic

AT THE SHERIDAN  
FARMHOUSE

955 MCCOWAN RD.  
FORSYTH, GEORGIA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18  
4 P.M.

