

May 15, 2022 | This Week at Christ Church

### THIS WEEK'S HAPPENINGS

#### Sunday, May 15

- 10 a.m. Service with choir (NURSERY open)
- 11:30 a.m. Vestry Meeting
- 1:30p.m. SpiritCare at Silver Oaks Memory Care.  
Readers/Singers needed.
- 5 p.m. Confirmation Class

#### Wednesday, May 18

- 10 a.m. Women's Spirituality Class
- 4 p.m. [Vital and Thriving Congregations](#)  
informational Zoom meeting

#### Thursday, May 19,

- 9:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study

### TODAY'S SERVICE

- Flowers:** Tricia Christensen
- Greeter:** Paul & Lenore Lovoi
- Altar Guild:** Mary Soubirous
- Usher:** Betsy Alexander
- Acolyte:** Louise Delafield
- The Lesson:** Vinie Miller
- The Epistle:** Robert Redfern-West
- Intercessions:** Andy Pflaum
- Coffee Hour Host:** Tricia Christensen

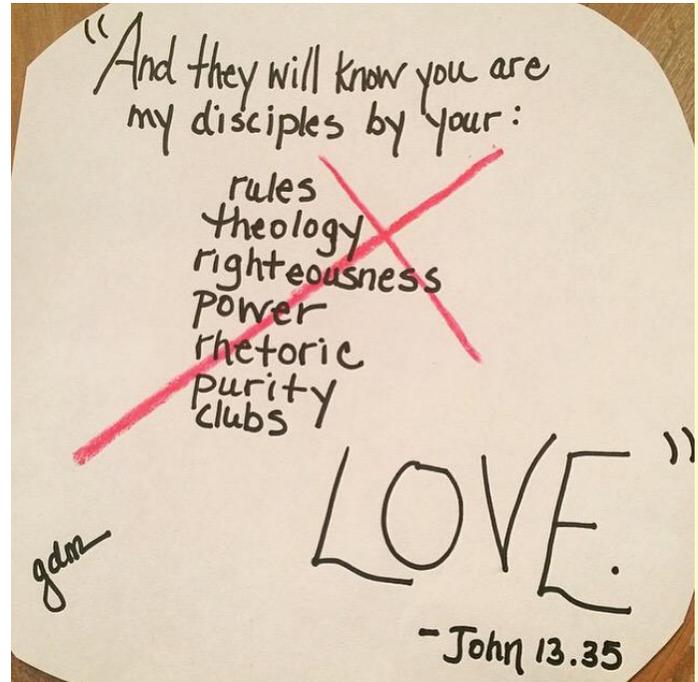
### CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

#### Birthdays

Caroline Geenen, Kathy Kennedy

#### Anniversaries

Gavin & Tricia Christensen



[CLICK HERE to watch on YouTube](#)

[Click Here for Bulletin/Order of Service](#)

[CLICK HERE to join on Zoom](#)

## A Note From Your Rector

Dear Christ Church Family and Friends:

Although I am a cradle Episcopalian, the fact that I grew up in Missouri means that there are some strands of the conservative Christian evangelical/fundamentalists/literalist movement in my DNA. I use these terms as they have come to be used synonymously in our society and press. This means that I hold space for the possibility that Jonah was literally swallowed by a fish. To me, it really does not matter whether this actually happened or is simply a metaphor and great storytelling. The deeper and more important message of the Jonah story to me is whether we are going to truly forgive our enemies and move forward.

The more difficult issue for me has always been trying to navigate the secular, legal world on *beginning* and *end of life issues* as a Christian, law student, and law clerk for Missouri Supreme Court. What does the Bible have to say, if anything, about these issues and should any single religion's sacred scripture be considered?

During my time as a law student and law clerk, two important issues were pending before the court. The first, *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, 492 U.S. 490 (1989), upheld several provisions of a Missouri law that regulated the performance of abortions and refused to invalidate the law's preamble stating that "life begins at conception." The second case was *Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Department of Health*, 497 U.S. 261 (1990), the first "right to die" case in the United States. Nancy Cruzan was in what was called at the time an irreversible "persistent vegetative state" following a traumatic car wreck when she was 25 years old. After five years, her parents asked doctors to remove her feeding tube, which would result in her death. The court did not deny the parents request but required that they show "clear and convincing evidence" (a very high standard of proof) of what their daughter would want if she were able to make her own decision. My voice still quivers when I think about those difficult days. These were real people in difficult situations. (This was excruciatingly painful for the Cruzan family. No one mentions how much Nancy's parents loved her, or that her father, Joe, was a devout Catholic, or the toll of having the government interfere and then being dragged through the mud in the press resulted in Joe's ultimate death by suicide.) Both cases go to the core of our existence. There were and still are no easy answers. I was standing at the intersection of my life as a practicing Christian and a public servant wondering whether there was a conflict between my identity as a Christian and my role as a public servant.

I remember asking my Rector if the Bible had any guidance on these issues. The one thing I recall in particular is that he pointed me to Exodus 21:22-5: "*When people who are fighting injure a pregnant woman so that there is a miscarriage and yet no further harm follows, the one responsible shall be fined what the woman's husband demands, paying as much as the judges determine. If any harm follows, then you shall give life for life, 24 eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe.*" The dominant view of commentators and theologians is that if the miscarriage results from an injury incurred; the offender should pay a fine to compensate for the loss of the fetus; and only if the woman herself suffers serious, permanent injury or death does the lex talionis (the law of retribution) apply. Some contemporary commentators believe that "miscarriage" should be translated as "so that her children come out." Consequently, they argue that a fine is only applicable if the baby is born prematurely, not if it dies. This is not persuasive to me, because if the baby is only born prematurely and "no further harm follows," then why would one owe anything? Why pay a fine if the baby is born healthy just early? What I find more persuasive is that Jewish Talmudic commentators since ancient times have uniformly held the majority view translating the word as miscarriage. Thus, causing the termination of a pregnancy or a "miscarriage," was not considered "murder."

Therefore, if you are like me and find it difficult navigating these issues, I recently learned that while The Episcopal Church (TEC) does not support "abortion as a means of birth control, family planning, sex selection or any reason of mere convenience," it has maintained an "unequivocal opposition to any legislation on the part of the national or state governments which would abridge or deny the right of individuals to reach informed decisions [about the termination of pregnancy] and to act upon them." In light of the recent report about a pending decision in the Supreme Court case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*, TEC reaffirmed its commitment to "equitable access to women's health care, including women's reproductive health care," which it views as "an integral part of a woman's struggle to assert her dignity and worth as a human being." TEC's Office of Government Relations continues to advocate at the federal level to protect reproductive rights and encourages you to read [this overview](#) of TEC's positions on abortion and women's reproductive health (and here is some additional [background](#)).

I hope this information helps you navigate some of the most difficult and complex decisions any woman or family can face.

Grace and Peace,  
Beth+

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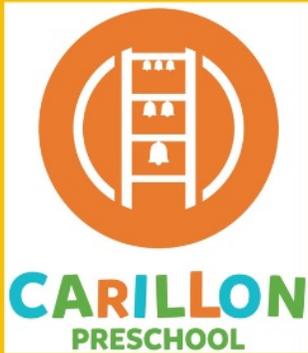
## VITAL + THRIVING CONGREGATIONS

- The Diocese is starting a program called **Vital + Thriving Congregations. A year-long (or more) program that helps parish leaders AND MEMBERS lead their parish in renewal. The more of us that commit to form a parish team the better!** It is an opportunity for parish

leaders to dream big, grow together, and strengthen their parish. It costs us nothing and is funded by donations to the Diocese (not by parish assessments). Each participating parish receives \$5,000 to support ministry innovation efforts with opportunities to apply for grants of \$25,000 to support parish mission and ministry growth. We must apply to be included. The Diocese will select a cohort of 10 parishes in the Fall. The Diocese is hosting three informational meetings to share more about the process and goals of this initiative. The last session is this Wednesday. [Click here to register](#) to learn more about the program.

## DINNER FOR FAMILIES WITH SCHOOL-AGE KIDS

Friday, June 3  
5-7 p.m.



We at Cariillon Preschool and Christ Church know how busy families with kids are these days. We get it! So we want to create some space for you to relax and slow down at the end of the week. Bring the kids and enjoy a casual dinner on our gorgeous patio (with a fun adjoining playground) while you get to know other families in the area. RSVP by Friday, May 27th to [nicole@ccpvw.org](mailto:nicole@ccpvw.org) or call 650-851-0224.



[RSVP FOR FAMILY DINNER HERE](#)

NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH TEAM



**Dinner for Maple Street Shelter:** On **Saturday May 14th** Christ Church is making dinner for the 100 residents of Maple Street Shelter in Redwood City. The team of Sarah Halsey, Liz Laderman, Carol Wentworth, Ruth Ann Wrucke and Regina Yeager is making Paella with chicken and shrimp, Broccoli Cheese Casserole, Cole Slaw plus cookies and oranges for dessert. Contact Ruth Ann Wrucke at 650-851-8435 to volunteer for our dinner in June. We also **need volunteers to spruce up the garden** at the shelter so if you know how to use clippers or a trowel, we could use your help. Again, contact Ruth Ann. Maple Street Shelter is part of Life Moves which provides 1549 beds and a meal each night to otherwise homeless adults and families in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties.

**SpiritCare visit:** Singers and readers are needed on **Sunday May 15th at 1:30** at Silver Oaks Memory Care in Menlo Park. SpiritCare provides spiritual and emotional support for “forgotten” elderly and disabled residents at over 60 care centers in the Bay Area. Christ Church has partnered with Silver Oaks Memory Care for this important ministry. Contact Angela Hey at 650-796-2377 or [amhey@heymash.com](mailto:amhey@heymash.com) to volunteer on **Sunday May 22nd**.

**Life Moves Summer Adventure Camp** is seeking volunteer teen camp counselors, ages 14+ (and have completed freshman year of high school) to work with homeless kids ages 5 - 14 from June 20 - August 4. Commit to any 3-week period (or more). The camp runs from 8:30AM - 3:30PM Monday - Thursday and there are two camps in Redwood City and one in Menlo Park. Fill out the application form at <https://www.lifemoves.org/volunteers/summer-adventure-camp/> Life Moves is also seeking one-on-one “Tap-in tutors”, ages 16+ to tutor homeless kids (6th - 8th grade) in math and language arts.

**Redwood Family House Needs a Few Things:** Redwood Family shelter provides interim shelter for 10 otherwise homeless families in Redwood City. The shelter needs new or gently used **children’s clothes, blankets plus pots & pans** so if you have a surplus let us know or bring items to the large box in the breezeway. Contact Kathy Kennedy at 650-291-9678 or [kennedyiti@aol.com](mailto:kennedyiti@aol.com) for more information. On **Sunday May 29th** we will also be collecting needed new children’s underwear, children’s socks and some toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, baby wipes).

**Rise Against Hunger:** POSTPONED. Christ Church will still make **10,000** pre-packaged meals (rice, soy and vegetables) in two hours with 30 - 50 volunteers, but we will do it on **Sunday SEPTEMBER 25th**. Mark your calendar now so you have plenty of time to gather friends since we need 30 - 50 volunteers. Almost 193 million people in 53 countries suffered acute hunger in 2021, a record. The war in Ukraine will further drive worldwide famine this year especially among African countries which import agricultural products from Russia (due to shipping bans) and Ukraine, where the war is making it difficult to plant crops. To learn more about Rise Against Hunger watch this 2 1/2 minute video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TI9LOljt1RU&t=4s>. Contact Mary Soubirous at [msoubirou@aol.com](mailto:msoubirou@aol.com) or 650-224-0277 for more information.

**GAIA Global Health:** GAIA has spent 22 years trying and succeeding in its quest to eradicate AIDS in Malawi. Africa. In 2021 they achieved a key UN goal needed to expunge the disease by 2030. In Malawi, 95% of AIDS patients are diagnosed, 95% are treated and 95% are viral suppressed. GAIA achieved this goal **FOUR YEARS** ahead of schedule. GAIA expanded from 3 rural regions in Malawi and now covers 9 regions. And while AIDS testing decreased 22% worldwide during the pandemic, in Malawi AIDS testing increased by 22%. GAIA has trained over 500 nurses, many of them AIDS orphans, and another 110 are being trained right now. Great news all around

from Malawi.

**Seeking Toiletries:** Remember travel? If you have any travel size shampoo, conditioner, soap or lotion you picked up during your last hotel stay you can donate them for use by the Maple Street Shelter. Bring them to the box in the breezeway. And if you have a toothbrush or toothpaste your dentist gave you on your last visit that you have no use for, they could use that too. Maple Street Shelter is located in Redwood City and provides housing for 120 homeless adults each night.

**Ukraine:** Outreach does not have a program to help in Ukraine but Spanish-American Chef Jose Andres has set up his “World Central Kitchens” (WCK) in 7 central European countries plus Ukraine. From 2000+ distribution points they have served 20+ million meals in the three months since the war began, currently serving 320,000+ meals per day. WCK has also distributed 10+ million pounds of food to chefs in Ukrainian communities on the front lines. They support chefs in 450+ locations in Ukraine including Kiev, Odessa, Kharkiv, newly liberated towns on the front-lines and are currently getting as much food as possible to villages in the next battle front in the Donbas. WCK is helping feed the 6+ million Ukrainian refugees who have left the country (90% are women and kids) plus the 7.7 million displaced in-country Ukrainians. This the worst refugee crisis in Europe since WWII. One quarter of all Ukrainians and half of all Ukrainian kids are currently refugees. In newly liberated areas, which have no electricity, water or roads WCK is delivering hot meals and 30 lb. food bags. They are also providing food for animals. If you want to help, this organization is worth your consideration. [wck.org/benevolentspirits](https://wck.org/benevolentspirits). The TripAdvisor Foundation, Rosenthal Family Foundation and Salesforce have all announced they will match any donations. Ron Howard has a new Documentary coming out May 27th on Disney+ about Chef Andres and WCK called ***We Feed People***.

