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### About the cover photo:

Everyone attending our March 17 worship services was given three colored circles and asked to write things they were grateful for. Grace member Carla Kurth combined those individual circles with hearts created by our church school students to design this beautiful paper mosaic, which is hanging in our narthex. This creative project was a special event for our capital campaign, *Our Journey Continues....*



**Grace Episcopal Church**  
514 East Argonne Drive  
Kirkwood, MO 63122  
314-821-1806  
www.GraceKirkwood.org

### Worship with us:

**Sundays:**  
Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.  
1st Sundays at 5 p.m.

**Tuesdays:**  
Holy Eucharist at 9:30 a.m.

**Wednesdays:**  
Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m.

**Bread for the Journey**  
is a quarterly publication of  
Grace Episcopal Church

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## Spring Happenings

from Grace's Church School Ministry

### Confirmation

**Saturday, May 11 / 10 a.m. / Christ Church Cathedral  
Celebration at Grace: Sunday, May 12 / 10 a.m.**

*In the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop.*  
BCP, p. 413

15-year old **Jacob Ludbrook** and 14-year old **Hannah Pierce** have successfully completed a year-long confirmation program at Grace under the direction of the Rev. Todd McDowell and Christian Formation Director Janis Greenbaum.

The students have attended classes to learn about the Episcopal Church, the Bible, and the power of prayer. They have participated in community service projects and engaged in diocesan youth programs. They have considered their covenant with God and are ready to confirm their commitment to Christ, understanding that their faith will continue to grow and change as they continue to grow and change.

We invite everyone to witness the confirmation of Jacob and Hannah, Saturday, May 11 at Christ Church Cathedral and then celebrate with us at Grace Church on Sunday, May 12 at 10 a.m.

### 2019 Youth Mission Trip

**Final meeting for youth,  
parents and chaperones  
Sunday, May 5 / 11:30 a.m.  
Mission Trip: June 2-9**

A group of seven youth and five adults are heading to Des Moines, Iowa to spend a week working with Habitat for Humanity.

All parental consent and student forms must be completed at our May 5 meeting. **This is Grace's 24th Annual Youth Mission Trip!**

### Youth Sunday & Ice Cream Social

**Sunday, May 19 / 10 a.m.**

All students are invited to select a way to serve in our 10 a.m. worship service for our second annual Youth Sunday.

Students can help with the altar guild, be an usher, read a lesson, serve at the altar, sing in the choir, be a greeter -- but first, you must meet with your Sunday school teachers **May 5 and/or May 12** for instructions to participate.

We'll celebrate the end of the school year with an Ice Cream Social for students and adults alike in Albright Parish Hall after the worship service.

## An Easter Message: Hallelujah, Anyhow

from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

The Rt. Reverend Barbara Harris was the first woman ordained and consecrated a bishop in The Episcopal Church and in the Anglican Communion. In her memoir, entitled *Hallelujah, Anyhow!* [she] quotes an old Gospel hymn that says it this way:

*Hallelujah anyhow  
Never let your troubles get you down  
When your troubles come your way  
Hold your hands up high and say  
Hallelujah anyhow!*

When I get to Heaven, I want to meet one person, and her name is Mary Magdalene. Because if ever there was another Hallelujah, Anyhow sister, it was Mary Magdalene. And her life, and her example, tells us what it means to follow in the way of Jesus, in the Way of Love.

Mary Magdalene showed up when others would not. Mary Magdalene spoke up when others remained silent. Mary Magdalene stood up when others sat down.

John's Gospel tells us that when many of the disciples fled and abandoned Jesus, Mary Magdalene stood by him at the cross. Hallelujah, Anyhow.

Against the odds, swimming against the current, Mary Magdalene was there.

John's Gospel says in the 20<sup>th</sup> chapter, early in the morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene and some of the other women went to the tomb. Hallelujah, Anyhow.

They went to the tomb when it didn't make any sense. They went to the tomb when the evidence was against them. Jesus was dead. They knew that. The power of the Empire had crushed the hope of love. They knew that. And they got up in the morning and went to the tomb anyhow. Hallelujah, Anyhow.

But more than that, John's Gospel says it was dark. It was dark. That's not just the time of day in John's Gospel. The darkness in John is the domain of evil. In John's Gospel when Judas leaves the Last Supper to betray Jesus, John inserts a parenthetical remark. When Judas leaves to betray him, John says, "And it was night." The darkness is

the domain of wrong, of hatred, of bigotry, of violence, the domain of sin and death and horror.

And early in the morning while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb, Hallelujah, Anyhow.

The truth is, she didn't know that Jesus was alive. She was just doing what love does. Caring for her beloved, her Savior, her friend, in his time of death, to give him the last rites of burial. And when she got to the tomb, and the other women with them, they eventually discovered that Jesus was alive, and in the silence of the night, in the moments of despair, in the moments of the worst darkness, God had done something incredible. God had raised Jesus from the dead.

The truth is, nobody saw Jesus rise from the dead, because God had done it secretly and quietly, when nobody was looking.

When I was in high school, I learned a poem composed by James Russell Lowell. He wrote it in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in one of the darkest periods in American history, when this country was torn asunder by the existence of chattel slavery in our midst. In this great land of freedom, there were slaves being held in bondage. And this nation literally went to war, tearing itself apart, trying to find the way to do what was right. And James Russell Lowell wrote, in the midst of this darkness, in this dark hour:

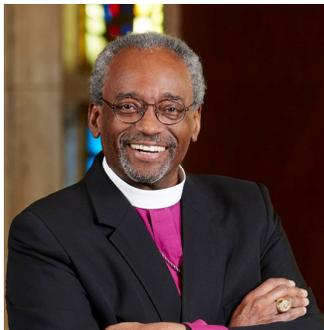
*Though the cause of evil prosper,  
yet 'tis truth alone and strong . . .  
Though her portion be a scaffold,  
and upon the throne be wrong  
Yet that scaffold sways the future,  
and behind the dim unknown  
Standeth God within the shadow,  
keeping watch above his own.*

Hallelujah, Anyhow.

Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen, indeed.

God love you, God bless you, and may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.



## Making a First Fruits Offering

*Our Journey Continues...* moves to the next phase

Honor the Lord with  
your wealth, with the first  
fruits of all your crops.

Proverbs 3:9



The concept of first fruits began in biblical times when people lived in an agrarian society. God called his people to bring their first yield -- the first fruits -- from their harvest to him as an offering. The act showed the Israelites' obedience and reverence for God. It also showed they trusted God to provide enough crops to feed their family.

Although we no longer live in an agrarian-based society, we still use the idea of first fruits when we talk about giving to our church. Making a first fruits offering opens us up to allow God to work in our life. When we approach God with open hands - rather than clenched fists - it makes it easier for him to give us more to work with.

Giving our first fruits reminds us that God is our ultimate priority. Being generous in this way shows that we are grateful for all God has given to us.

(source: [tithely.com](http://tithely.com))

*Our Journey Continues . . .* moves from our inspirational/discernment phase, into fulfilling our commitments over the next three years. We encourage those who are able to make their first payment, or pay their entire commitment (as some have already done), to consider doing so before **May 19, 2019** as your First Fruit offering. Making this First Fruit offering now will allow us to start on lighting improvements in the nave sooner, rather than later. While the three-year schedule for the campaign will conclude in April 2022, for those who can give early, your gift will be put to immediate use. Clustering your charitable gifts in a single tax year may also be beneficial for tax purposes.



We are sincerely grateful to the more than 90 households who have already made their commitment to the future of Grace Church through *Our Journey Continues...* As we celebrate 160 years of providing Jesus Christ's mission through Grace Church, these actions will help build a new foundation of faith for future generations. The campaign is designed to provide a permanence to the care of our buildings and grounds. The majority of the money raised will be invested in Grace's Legacy Fund, where it will provide income for generations to come:

- **70% of funds raised will go to Grace's Legacy Buildings and Grounds Fund**, where income generated will be used to help cover our annual building expenses year after year.
- **10% of funds raised will be used to purchase new lighting in the church nave**, to brighten our worship space and reduce energy costs.
- **10% of funds raised will help pay down loan debt** from new boilers and new roofs installed over the past few years.
- **10% will go to Grace's Legacy Outreach Fund**, as our tithe to God and our community for the blessings of this campaign.

The campaign began in Lent, with pledges collected on Palm Sunday. After Easter our leadership team will be writing thank you notes and making follow-up calls to those we haven't heard from yet.

We will announce the results of the total pledged to *Our Journey Continues...* and first fruit funds already received, on **Sunday, May 19**. Whether you made a three-year pledge or would like to make a one-time donation, we encourage you to make your "First Fruit" offering by May 19.



Dozens of Grace members donated their time and talent to lead efforts of prayer, gratitude, and celebration for the parish. We are so grateful to everyone on our leadership team:

### Capital Campaign Leadership Team

**Rector:** The Rev. Todd McDowell

**Campaign Co-chairs:** *(pictured above)*  
Lesley Hoffarth & Tim Engelbrecht

#### Coordinators:

Susanne Haring & Shari Bonham

#### Communications:

Dianne Casey & Janis Greenbaum

**Lead Gifts:** Brent VanConia

#### Advance Commitments:

Amy Shands & Becky Engelbrecht

#### Celebration Team:

Paula Russell & Karen Wallach

#### Prayer Team:

Barbara Manuel & Sara Losse

#### Youth & Children:

Joanie Van Rees & Janis Greenbaum

#### Gratitude & Ministry:

Carla Kurth & Phillip Brunswick

#### Connection Team:

Lyn Ballard & Mike Heyer

Our thanks also goes to the many other members who helped our leadership team carry out their missions!

If you are interested in learning more about our capital campaign or making a pledge, please contact the church office or a member of our leadership team.

## Thanks to our Donors:

(as of April 18, 2019)

John & Sandi Adams  
R.J. & Laura Agee  
Liz Allen  
Chad & Lindsay Amen  
Frank & Lyn Ballard  
The Rev. Virginia Bennett  
Carroll Bollard  
Wayne & Shari Bonham  
Stan & Christie Boyle  
Shirley Browne  
Phillip Brunswick  
Bill Cadwallader  
Michael & Dianne Casey  
Ronald & Lucinda Cobb  
Tom & Becky Coulter  
Jim & Kathy Davis  
John Dotson  
Eric Eickmeyer &  
Elizabeth Shands  
Dirk Elsperman  
Tim & Becky Engelbrecht  
Dick & Becky Entenmann  
Richard & Kelly Eschenroeder  
Michael & Pam Fitzgerald  
Sonja Freeman  
Michael & Elizabeth Gibbons  
Ted & Wendy Guhr  
Ben Guire  
Sheila Gurley  
Roger & Julie Haddock  
Kenneth & Debby Hand  
Elizabeth Harding  
Susanne Haring  
Bill & Rebecca Harrison  
Tracy Hart  
Mike Heyer & Joan Sale Heyer  
Carla Hildebrandt  
Bert Hitchings  
Jay & Lesley Hoffarth  
Steve & Lisa Jianakoplos  
Hank & Jackie Johnson  
Mike & Yvonne Johnson  
Martha Johnston  
Ron & Alice Jones  
Chris & Carla Kurth  
Daniel & Susan Leiweke  
Michael Lillmars &  
Amy Kilpatric  
Ken & Gretchen Logue  
Sara Losse  
Chris & Wendy Ludbrook  
Greg & Chris Ludbrook  
Carl Mann  
Chris & Barbara Manuel

The Rev. Todd McDowell  
James McKown  
Mary Merriweather  
Marlowe Meyers  
Andy & Denise Miller  
Ryan & John Missel  
George & Virginia Moellenhoff  
Don Neubacher & Lisa Langen  
Vince & Michele Nicosia  
Mark & Sue Nixon  
Doug & Pat O'Brien  
Marty O'Leary  
Garrett & Ruth Owler  
Roy Pennington  
Tom & Jane Petrie  
Chloe Poe  
Tom & Jane Pohlman  
Wes Proctor, Jr. &  
Luella Foster  
Larry & Kathy Reimelt  
Joe & Susan Reis  
Brian & Tina Roche  
Bob & Susan Rolf  
Richard & Paula Russell  
Dick & Susan Russell  
Dianne & Steve Sehie  
Courtney & Amy Shands  
Bob & Kathy Stanza  
Vicky Stricker  
Diane Thompson  
Olive Thompson  
Nick & Joan Van Rees  
Brent & Ann VanConia  
Paul & Linda Vandivort  
Tom & Cindy Voller  
Jim & Jenn Wethington  
Kent & Marilyn Wilton  
Don & Barbara Woehle



Our circle of gratitude, created by Carla Kurth with the help of ALL Grace members!

## A New Chapter for SPROG

Forming new partnerships to better serve our community



For the past 45 years, Grace Episcopal Church has been the home of SPROG, a summer camp for underserved students in our community. The program has enriched the lives of thousands of children and their families throughout its history. But big changes are taking place this year -- changes that could make SPROG an even better service to our community.

SPROG is now partnering with Horizons National and is moving its summer camp from Grace Church to Kirkwood High School. These new partnerships will bring many benefits, including more certified teachers, better access to students in need, more space, and an onsite swimming pool.



“The kids are great. The mission is great. I think Grace needs to stay engaged,” said Grace member Andy Miller. Andy has served on SPROG’s Board of Directors for 20 years. He said this transition comes because the nonprofit organization was running out of money and looking for ways to continue operating. In the spring of 2018, the Board engaged with the Taylor Community Consulting Program at Washington University in St. Louis to explore possible solutions. A group of six graduate and undergrad business students conducted research, surveyed the community, and concluded SPROG needed to partner with a larger organization to survive. They recommended Horizons National.



Horizons is an expanding, community-centered network of 58 programs in 19 states that provides high quality academic enrichment programs to children from underserved communities. Horizons requires a certified teacher in every classroom and limits classroom size to 15 students. To enroll in the program, students must be eligible for free or reduced lunch in the Kirkwood School District. Two-thirds of each class must be below grade level when they begin the program.

This year, SPROG will accept students in Kindergarten through fifth grade. The camp will be free to some students; low-cost for others. If things go well, the program may eventually expand through high school.

Although SPROG is known as a summer program, this new plan will stay in contact with the students throughout the year by engaging high school students as mentors and tutors.



All these changes and program additions require a lot of organization. The woman tasked with bringing everything up to speed is SPROG's new Executive Director, Angela Brooks. Angela has a bachelor's degree in psychology, a master's degree in education, and years of experience teaching children and training teachers.

"I consider myself a servant at heart," Angela said. "This is a great opportunity to serve."

Angela grew up in programs similar to SPROG and values the importance of developing partnerships with caring adults and the community. Her first priority is to get the new program up and running -- hire teachers, schedule programs, work out the logistics of their new space, etc.

"I'm a woman of faith. I believe all this will work out for the best," Angela said. Noting that change can sometimes be difficult for a community, she is reaching out to the current SPROG families with empathy to answer questions about the new program.

"Are we losing our identity? To a certain degree, yes," Andy reflected. "SPROG did a great job for 45 years. But we were like a 1970s or 1980s summer program. When we looked around to see what others were doing, we saw we aren't doing all the right things. We're making it better. It was time for us to upgrade what we were doing. It wasn't bad what we were doing, but we can do it better. It's a better program for the kids."

We will, of course, miss having the joyous summer campers in our building this summer, but recognize the great potential this transition could mean to our community. SPROG will continue to maintain office space at Grace Church. And there are still many ways our members can volunteer their time to support SPROG this summer:

- Teach or assist in a classroom
- Lead a two-week enrichment project in your area of expertise (like sewing, art, biology, etc.)
- Host lunches or snacks
- Chaperone field trips
- Read to the children

If you would like to support SPROG in any way, please contact Andy Miller at [andrewmiller15@earthlink.net](mailto:andrewmiller15@earthlink.net).

#### Learn more about Horizons National:

<https://www.horizonsnational.org/>

#### Learn more about Taylor Community Consulting Program

at Washington University:

<https://olinwustl.campusgroups.com/cel/taylor-community-consulting-program/>



SPROG Executive Director  
Angela Brooks

#### About SPROG:

SPROG was started in the late 1960s, when the residents of Kirkwood's Meacham Park neighborhood were facing high unemployment rates. Many of the young men in the area were getting into trouble and becoming part of the juvenile justice system. Longtime resident William "Bill" Jones mobilized a group of adults to assist with employment and provide transportation to and from work. Grateful for the support they received from their mentors, this group of youth formed SPROG to plan activities for the younger children of Meacham Park.

Although the group initially served young men, they quickly grew to include young women, boys and girls. After just a few years, the group needed more space for their summer program. Grace Church has offered use of our facilities, free of charge, for the past 45 years.

The summer enrichment program offers academic, recreational and cultural activities to low-income students in the Kirkwood School District. The day camp runs each summer for six weeks.

Many of SPROG's former students have returned as teens and young adults to serve as teachers and counselors for a new generation of campers.

Learn more at [sproginc.org](http://sproginc.org).



## Caring for Creation: *Grace can make a difference!*

by Betty Bowersox

### ***Only 13% of Americans think that care of the environment is a faith issue.***

This was a statistic quoted during the Faith and Climate Ambassador Training workshop during General Convention [GC] last July. Americans also came in 18<sup>th</sup> (the least sustainable) out of 18 countries in the 2014 National Geographic's Greendex Sustainable Consumption Ranking Index. While scoring highly as believing that the choices individuals make could make a difference, American's were found to be among the least likely to feel guilty about the impact they had on the environment.

The Episcopal Church has selected Creation Care as one of three pillars of their 2019-2020 budget (with Evangelism and Racial Reconciliation/Justice as the other two). So it's up to the Diocese of Missouri, and those of us at Grace, to do our part to raise that 13% number and care for God's gifts!

**Water as a Human Right** was one of the resolutions passed at GC, recognizing water and sanitation as human rights. The resolution also urges the phase-out and eventual ban, by 2021, of the sale or distribution of bottled water in church-related facilities and at church events, except where local water is unsafe. During the recent Diocesan Leadership "Invite-Welcome-Connect" workshop held at Grace, pitchers of water were used on every table instead of providing about 200 bottles of water. *Grace made a difference.*

**Advocating for ocean health** was another resolution from GC, affirming projects to protect and restore the global ocean to ecological health and to advocate for ocean health through adoption of appropriate public policies. What we do in Missouri affects oceans – using green fertilizers and properly disposing of toxic materials, supporting sustainable fisheries, and even using reusable straws are just some of the many things we can do. *Grace can make a difference.*

Through the resolution **The Planting of Paris Groves**, GC invites each confirmand, person received into the Episcopal Church and each person reaffirming his/her baptismal vows to plant a tree in gratitude and to cherish the wondrous works of God, and protect and restore the beauty and integrity of all creation! *Grace can make a difference.*

Creation care is also life-giving, as called out by Presiding Bishop Curry's Episcopal Creation Care Pledge invitation (<https://episcopalchurch.org/creation-care/pledge>).

### ***Did you know?***



The Bible has more than **1,000 references** to the earth and caring for creation.

Resolutions titled **Stewardship of Creation with Church-Owned Land and Support Producers of Locally Grown Food** point to enabling the use of church-owned land for regenerative agriculture and biodiversity conservation projects. Wildflower plants that feed butterflies and bees, or vegetable gardens that alone, or together with similar produce grown by parishioners, can be used to prepare and serve meals and/or distribute at events and ministries. *Grace can make a difference!*

### ***How to get involved:***

#### ⇒ **The Larger Conversation**

- 1-hour webinars, April 23 & May 28 @ 7 p.m.
- Hosted by GC Deputies: The Rev. Tamsen Whislter of Trinity, St. Charles and Betty Bowersox (from Grace)
- <http://wiki.diocesemo.org/larger-conversation:start>.

#### ⇒ **Gardens of Grace**

- All ages are invited to help clean, plant, and care for our raised garden beds this spring and summer.
- Sign up on the bulletin board in Albright Parish Hall or contact Janis in the church office if you are interested in helping.

#### ⇒ **Summer Sunday School: God's Gardens**

- Sundays at 10 a.m., beginning June 2 for elementary students (youth are invited to assist)

## The Search for Our Next Bishop

by Dick Entenmann

When I volunteered to be part of the selection process for our 11<sup>th</sup> bishop, I thought I knew what I was signing up for. I had previously served on two searches for priests and had it all figured out. After attending our first team meeting on December 1, 2018, I knew that this was going to be a new experience. We decided that we needed to get the input of the whole diocese as we began our search and discernment process. This meant the development of an online survey and visiting all the parishes, diocesan committees and diocesan ministry leaders within our parish boundaries. As committee members, we all agreed that this was doable and divided up the task.



During the months of January, February and into March we accomplished our task, despite Mother Nature throwing us several curve balls. I am thankful for this experience. It opened my eyes to the diversity of our diocese and the many ministries that are ongoing that follow Jesus' teachings. We listened to more than 650 fellow parishioners and had more than 850 respondents to the online survey. The overall response was a big *thank you* for asking our opinion and including us in the process. The thing that I took away was the common themes in the responses we received. Our diversity as a diocese may seem daunting on paper, but I can assure you that we are very much alike when it comes to following Jesus and exploring God's calling where we are. Parishes responding to the needs found in our various communities within the diocese are alive and well.

I am looking forward to the next phases of our process. When our profile and application go "live" the end of April, our first major task will have been completed. We will review candidates' applications and answers to questions, make decisions on the candidates, set up live phone interviews, perform follow-up background check interviews and make decisions on the final slate of candidates. I am sure that the summer will go quickly. Our team is healthy, and the diverse voices of the diocese are well represented. I am confident that the process is robust, but please keep us in your prayers as we move into the future.



Dick Entenmann and other members of the Bishop Search Committee held a Holy Listening Session at Grace, March 10.

The Bishop is the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese of Missouri.

The **Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith** has served as the 10th Bishop of Missouri since 2002 and will be retiring in 2020. The 11th Bishop of Missouri will be elected at this year's Diocesan Convention.



Diocese of Missouri  
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

To learn more about the process of finding and electing our next Bishop, plus the latest news in the search, visit **[www.DioceseMo.org](http://www.DioceseMo.org)**.

## The Importance of Presence

by Deborah Caby



Deborah & Hank Caby in Christchurch, New Zealand, February 2018

Street life in in Christchurch, New Zealand.



Recently I came across a quote. I do not know the author, but it caused me to reflect on a travel experience I had last year in New Zealand. “Who you are being is much more important than what you are doing.”

My husband Hank and I flew into Christchurch, NZ in the darkness of night on February 22, 2018, one day after Cyclone Gita hit the region. We were worried about the effects of that storm, but we were not properly prepared for the devastation we witnessed the next day as the sun came up. The devastation we saw was not from the hurricane, it was from earthquakes that hit Christchurch February 22, 2011 — seven years to the day earlier.

On this anniversary, the city was still mourning the loss of nearly 200 citizens while rebuilding and envisioning a new city that is more sustainable. Their vision includes more green spaces and focusing on a quality of life that has meaning and brings peace to all while honoring the history of their ancestors.

What my husband and I thought would be a day of exploring and sightseeing turned into a day of listening to the laments of the people. The day was filled with memorials, including the dedication of a memorial garden on the site of an office and medical building reduced to rubble seven years earlier.

It was then I realized the gift of presence is a form of evangelism. Jesus said, “I am with you always.” He is -- and His best ambassadors are His followers. Being Jesus’ hands and feet in this world is sometimes best done by listening first. Listening to understand, listening as a presence in someone’s life lets them know someone cares. It also opens us up to the presence of God in our lives. Our natural inclination is to rush to “do” -- to make it better. Then we can go on with our lives. What if we step back and wait while listening? We find this spiritual approach to be one of the first steps to being fully PRESENT. To be with another -- fully present -- quiet and listening, asking the Holy Spirit to be with us, allows us to connect spiritually with a stranger.

Walking around the outside of the Anglican Cathedral, which was severely damaged by the earthquakes, we wondered how they would ever rebuild. This was literally the town center! A “transitional” cathedral, called the Cardboard Cathedral (yes, it’s partially made of cardboard) has since been constructed. As we consulted a map and began walking toward it, we were approached by a man who asked if he could direct us (not unusual in New Zealand, as they are among the most helpful people you would ever want to meet). Telling him where we were headed, he began to walk with us. When we talked about the

shock of seeing the devastation surrounding us, he began to tell his story. He had just come from a council meeting where there was much discussion on the rebuilding of the Cathedral and the city. He gave us his opinion and told the story of the dedication of the memorial garden that is sitting catty-cornered from the Cardboard Cathedral. This background story helped us to become more centered into being present.

We saw people of all ages visiting that garden and mourning the loss of their loved ones -- a young mother who left for work one morning, never to return home to her husband and children. Youthful secretaries who faced the same fate that day and husbands who left behind families and loved ones. I thought about the twin towers in New York and all the losses there while I was observing people taking tracings of the names on the bronze bricks. Hank and I did not say a word as this was truly a sacred space and a time of remembrance.

There was a woman who was displaced (as many were!) who no longer had any anchor to her past. Her childhood home, the church where she worshipped, the school she attended, grocery store, etc., were all gone. The stories of loss were heartbreaking, but even as you heard them you realized these are a resilient people who resolve to reinvent and honor who they are and give tribute to those who lost their lives.

Sitting in the Cardboard Cathedral, I observed a young priest trying to set up for a service among tourists crawling over chairs to take pictures. I finally approached him and asked how he was doing with the changes in his environment and the seeming disregard for a holy place seen only as an architectural object of beauty. He told me this was built as a temporary church, but with all the prayers said there on a daily and weekly basis, it had become a sacred and holy place. Now this was his home. His answer regarding the tourists was practical and philosophical. The tourists help fund the upkeep of the building, as well as the funding for constant reshoring and rebuilding of the previous Cathedral.

The importance of being present in that moment and time will always stay with me, long after the pictures have faded. Hearing these stories of the people without being intrusive hopefully helped them in their healing also. We had a much richer travel experience by being open to the Holy Spirit as She helped us connect with others through the path of Presence. The amazing landscapes of New Zealand are only surpassed by the lovely souls of the people who inhabit the country.

Next time you travel, be open to not only new experiences or sights to see, but the gift of presence. The same God that is with you and the God who is in you is in others. Be open to the Spirit and the gift of “being” and let that take the place of “doing.”



Damage from the 2011 earthquake at the Cathedral in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The Cardboard Cathedral, a transitional worship space built for worship while repairs are being made to the main Cathedral.



# Grace Episcopal Church

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## Register Now for Camp Phoenix

Get ready for the loudest, funniest, and most impactful week of your summer! At Camp Phoenix, campers jump high, dance silly, adventure big, and learn all about Jesus Christ. From awesome activities and exciting theme days to deep relationships and outdoor adventures, you'll find that Camp Phoenix is no ordinary summer camp. Join us and see why we're Christ-centered, others-focused, and seriously fun!

Camp Phoenix is a traditional camp with Episcopal values that seeks to bring campers into contact with God and into closer community with each other.

In support of our mission, we focus on three main priorities: to value each other, to love each other, to provide a positive experience and opportunities for spiritual growth.

The camp is open to students ages 8 to 15 and is held at DuBois Center in DuBois, Illinois. Tiered pricing and discounts are available. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Registration closes May 31.

For more information, please visit:  
**[www.camp-phoenix.org](http://www.camp-phoenix.org)**

