



The National Church Residences' Commons on Grant project in Columbus, Ohio, is an example of a church-supported housing project.

Gathering on Housing

Two years ago, Christ Church Cathedral's mission and outreach committee formed a study group to investigate low-income housing issues in the urban core and to suggest how the congregation could become involved in addressing those issues. The task proved to be extensive and complex, but the study group, known as the housing committee, is ready to propose a mission strategy.

With vestry approval, the committee is calling an informal version of a parish meeting for members to hear the proposal and to give vestry members a sense of whether they wish to pursue it.

The parish gathering will be held in the undercroft, beginning at 11:30 a.m., on Sunday, May 2. It is scheduled to last one hour.

The agenda will include brief presentations by committee members and by low-income housing expert Michelle Norris of National Church Residences. Ms. Norris is vice president for development at NCR, which is based in Columbus, Ohio. NCR was started in the 1960s by four Ohio Presbyterian churches and has grown into a respected developer of senior citizen and low-income housing in many parts of the United States. The housing committee is proposing that the

cathedral work with NCR if the members of the congregation express support for moving forward with the mission.

For more information about NCR, please visit the organization's web site at ncr.org. In addition, the committee has posted a series of questions and answers pertaining to its research and conclusions, along with other background material, on the cathedral's web site (christchurchcincinnati.org/housing). The background material includes a link to the committee's blog with minutes of its meetings. Printed copies of the questions and answers can also be found at the church reception desk.

At the parish gathering, Canon John Johanssen will moderate a question-and-answer period for members who wish to know more.

A simple process for establishing the range of opinion of those attending will conclude the gathering.

Housing committee members include chair Michael Bootes, Dave Eschenbach, Steve Gerdson, Don Lenz, Mark Mahoney, Mike Phillips, Mark Sackett and the Rev. Richard Schmidt. Other cathedral members have assisted at various times, and Canon Joanna Leiserson has been the committee's clergy liaison.

God's Glorious Flowers

The Easter arrays at Christ Church Cathedral were particularly beautiful this year, thanks to its flower guild. And while the guild expresses gratitude to all the donors whose generosity permitted the colorful creations, guild members themselves deserve praise for the expressive ways in which the flowers were arranged. They spent hours lovingly planning and working together to make the displays. Nan Witten, in particular, deserves thanks for her lovely daffodils, those perennial harbingers of spring.

The need for donors for flower arrangements at the cathedral is a constant. Donations may memorialize or honor loved ones, celebrate significant life events or simply express gratitude for the gift of life. To make a donation, call 513.621.1817 and leave a message for Shirley Schooler to contact you about your interest. The cost for flowers for the cathedral nave is \$60; for the chapel, \$40; for the prayer corners and Fourth Street entrance, \$30.

During the spring and summer, the flower guild also welcomes donations of flowers or flowering branches from members' own gardens for use in Sunday worship.

"In this way we connect our daily lives with our Sunday worship together," says Priscilla Dunn, guild president.

As symbols of deeper expressions, flowers are alive with meaning. They are given as peace offerings or to ask forgiveness. They are signs of friendship or love. They serve as memorials or tributes. Flowers tell the stories of our lives by conveying our true emotions. By making donations for the Sunday flower arrangements, members of Christ Church Cathedral contribute to this ongoing expression that brings people together and celebrates God's creation.

For more information about donating flowers or the guild itself, contact Priscilla at mdphd@zoomtown.net.



Gifts of the Spirit

Christ Church Cathedral's annual spring senior Eucharist and luncheon will be held on Thursday, June 3, beginning with a service in the Centennial Chapel at 11:30 a.m. A festive luncheon and program will follow in the undercroft.

Lorna Harrell, chair of the parish life committee, and Susan Sargen are coordinators of this biannual event. They will send formal invitations to all members on the senior census and arrange for transportation for those who need it.

Volunteers are needed to plan and execute all aspects of this special occasion that honors the cathedral's senior members. If you are willing and able to help, contact Lorna Harrell at harrellky@fuse.net.

Being the beginning of Pentecost season, organizers are praying for an appearance of the Holy Ghost.

At last year's spring luncheon, the Holy Ghost came to visit.





This Year in Egypt: Vacation Bible School

Christ Church Cathedral's annual Summer in the City Vacation Bible School will be held Monday through Friday, July 12-16, from 9:00 a.m. until noon. This year, children will be "traveling" to ancient Egypt to explore life in a bustling, noisy city along the Nile. They will hear the hubbub about what is happening in the palace and work with people who follow countless gods. They will learn of the man that the Pharaoh has put in charge of storing and distributing food, a former prisoner who has the gift of interpreting dreams! They will meet Joseph and learn of his incredible faith journey from prison to palace. They will experience new traditions, taste new foods, try new arts and crafts and discover that by trusting in God, they are never alone in life's trials and triumphs.

The program, which will be held at the cathedral, is appropriate for kindergarten through sixth grade students. The cost is \$30. Scholarships are available. Registration is available on-line at christchurchcincinnati.org/faith/VBS. For additional information, contact Stacy Park at 513.842.2080 or spark@cccath.org. Deadline for registration is July 8.

Choir Camp: Also as part of its Summer in the City program, Christ Church Cathedral will offer a choir camp the week of June 21-25. Children will sing, play instruments, create art, play games, enjoy good meals and explore Christian faith. The camp is children completing grade one through eight. The cost is \$30. Scholarships are available. Registration forms are available at christchurchcincinnati.org/music/choircamp. For more information, contact Stephan Casurella at 513.842.2065 or scasurella@cccath.org.



WORSHIP
Choral Evensong
May 2, 5:00 p.m.

CONCERTS
Music Live at Lunch
Tuesdays, 12:10 p.m.
May 4: ABC Trio
May 11: Flute Trio, performing music by Richard Arnest, in the cathedral nave
May 18: Bryan Mock, organ, in the cathedral nave
May 25: Brianna Matzke, piano

Organ Recitals on Third Sundays

May 16, 5:00 p.m.
Christ Church Cathedral's own director of music Stephan Casurella will be playing works by Brahms, Buxtehude, Franck, Howells, Liszt, Messiaen and Tournemire.



wangnews.net

Faburden Concert
Sunday, May 9, 5:00 p.m.

The evensong choir founded by Christ Church Cathedral's former interim director of music Charles Hogan returns for a performance under his direction



Community Issues Forum: Discuss topics of civic interest with Cincinnati leaders ... *Alternate Thursdays at noon ... This month's dates: May 6 & 20 ... Purchase lunch for \$5.00 or bring your own ... To see videos of past forums, go to www.airinc.org.*

Faith, Friends & Popcorn

*Friday, 7:00 p.m.**

See a movie that explores a concept of faith. Talk about it. Eat popcorn. All free.

April 9: The Visitor (2008)
Starring Richard Jenkins, Haaz Sleiman and Danai Gurira



Confirmation Class

Even if you are not preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation, you are welcome to attend Confirmation classes and learn more about the church. The classes begin at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided.

May 2: Sacraments: Pointing the way to God, presented by Canon Nancy Turner Jones

May 9: Church History: The story of the Christian community, presented by Canon Joanna Leiserson



Plumb Line Needs

Canned Vegetables & Fruits

During May, please donate canned vegetables and fruit to the Plumb Line ministry. Donated items may be placed in the basket outside the Plumb Line office. Thank you.

cathedral community

KITES IN THE PARK

Come fly a kite on Saturday, May 15, at 11:00 a.m. at Woodland Mound Park on Old Kellogg Road (east of Coney Island). With or without children, you can have a fun afternoon in a beautiful park overlooking the Ohio River. Bring your kites, outdoor games and a picnic lunch to the Fox Ridge Shelter. Friends are welcome too.

PARENT RETREAT

Parents whose children are attending morning classes are now welcome to come to Christ Church Cathedral's fourth floor apartment to enjoy their own quiet space. The rooms are set up to accommodate parents to chat with spouses, to read a book, to work on projects and to enjoy the company of other parents. A small breakfast is provided on a volunteer basis. For more information or to volunteer to serve as a host, contact children's ministries coordinator Stacy Park at 513.842.2080 or spark@cccath.org.

CALL FOR GRADUATES

On Youth Sunday each year, Christ Church Cathedral honors its members who are graduating from high school or college by recognizing their achievements and sharing their

educational plans. If you, or your son or daughter, are graduating this spring or summer, please contact youth and young adult minister J.J. Engelbert at 513.842.2079 or jjengelbert@cccath.org by *Sunday, May 9*. The annual Youth Sunday service will be on June 6 at 10:00 a.m. this year.

CATHEDRAL Shop

Two new books among the many interesting ones on the shelves of the Christ Church Cathedral Shop feature different genres, but both attest to the power of the written word to move us closer to what being human can mean.

The first is *The Butterfly Collector* (Black Lawrence Press, 2009), written by cathedral's chancellor, **Fred McGavran**. In a review of this collection of well-wrought and wonderfully quirky short stories, *The Write Place at the Write Time*, a quarterly on-line literary magazine, says:

"In this powerful ... debut, Fred McGavran displays a capacity for imagery and emotional prowess that belies his newly blossoming fiction-writer career. His is a fine contemporary voice to join modern literature. Be they beautiful or



visceral, his visual symbols shock and enchant by turns as themes of mid-life transformation, marriage, justice and aging are brought to the forefront for a no-holes-barred analysis."

Fred will be signing copies of his book at the Cathedral Shop on Sunday, May 23, at 11:30 a.m.

The second is Archbishop

Desmond Tutu's new book, *Made of Goodness and why this makes all the difference* (Harper One, 2010). Co-authored



with his daughter, the Rev. **Mpho Tutu**, the book proclaims what its title says: We are made for goodness, and it is up to us to live up to our destiny. Now more than any other time in history, our world needs this message.

"(Archbishop Tutu) and his daughter remind us here how clearly we are one: I am because we are," says Bono, lead singer of U2 and world activist. "The Tutu family takes us back to that fundamental truth, showing us that at the end of even the very worst day, it's in our DNA to look out for our brothers and sisters."

PARISH Life

We celebrate the baptism of **Brandon Lee Moss**.

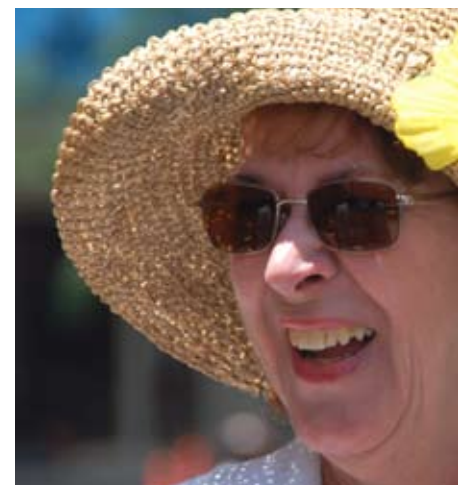
Picnic To Be Backyard Fun

It may be called a backyard picnic, but the Christ Church Cathedral membership committee plans for the annual event to spill out of the Bishop's Garden and onto Sycamore Street. As is the tradition, the picnic is scheduled for Youth Sunday, June 6, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service. Grill masters will be serving chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs. Tables will be loaded with tasty sides. And new this year will be a pie tasting contest. Cathedral members

will need to bring their best pies to find out: Are they worthy of ribbons?

The music will be lively. The games will be fun. Children's laughter will bounce with them in the "moon walk." And, of course, more than one – child and adult alike – will be soaked from the balloon toss.

All this fun needs volunteers. If you are interested in helping, contact Bertie Ray at bertie@switchcollection.com.



reflections



The need for gratitude by the Rev. Canon Joanna Leiserson

My very first memory is of my mother. I was two years old. We had gone to Astoria, Oregon, for her mother's funeral and stayed at her mother's big old house. One evening, its cavernous darkness scared me and I ran to my mother for comfort, burying myself in the folds of her skirt as she sat at the kitchen table talking with her brothers and sisters. I think that this house was probably her childhood home, where she and her seventeen siblings were born and grew up.

Now my mother has started to talk about wanting to go "home." Since she and Dad have lived in their home in California for fifty years, I think she may be thinking of Astoria. But I also have a feeling she has another home that is beckoning to her. As she continues to lose her hold on her earthly memories, her heart and soul are slowly moving on.

It struck me powerfully the other day that Mom probably doesn't remember a lot of her life. She has very few memories left of how she worked in a cannery, raised a family, learned ballroom dancing. She has lost all that. So before she finally goes *home*, the family will gather and share some of our memories with her and

celebrate her life with us. In her remaining days, it is important for us to tell her: We love you and we thank you for what you gave to us.

As we approach the end of Dean James Diamond's tenure here, let us also remember the gifts that he has brought to this place and to this community. Some of us, who are relative newcomers, don't know a Christ Church Cathedral that is any different. But when he came, he brought to this place his vision of the cathedral as a center for racial reconciliation. He fostered a community of diversity that we now take for granted. And he keeps reminding us that this is a "downtown church" with an urban sensibility, with resources and needs unlike a neighborhood parish.

In our own lives and in our life as community, we are a people of resurrection, and therefore of hope and gratitude. Let us not forget to share the memories and to celebrate the good things that have been given to us, and to remember, always remember, to give thanks. These last two months are good times for us to say: Thank you, Dean Diamond, for sharing your life and ministry with us.

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Christ Church Cathedral

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calendar

may

at the cathedral

www.christchurchcincinnati.org

WORSHIP

Holy Communion

Sundays, 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
Wednesdays & Fridays, 12:10 p.m.

Choral Evensong

Sunday, May 2, 5:00 p.m.

Evening Prayer

Tuesdays, 4:40 p.m.

Confirmation

(see Bishop's Visit note below)
Sunday, May 16, 10:00 a.m.

SEMINARS, DISCUSSIONS & FORUMS

Men's Bible study

Thursdays, 8:00 a.m.

Parish Gathering on Housing

Sunday, May 2, 11:30 a.m.

Confirmation Class

Sundays, May 2 & 9, 11:30 a.m.

Community Issues Forum

Thursday, May 6 & 20, 12:00 p.m.

Films on Fridays

Friday, May 7, 7:00 p.m.

CHILDREN

Weaving the Promises of The Good Shepherd

Sundays, 9:00 a.m.

Parent Retreat

Sundays, 9:00 a.m.

Kites in the Park

Outing at Woodland Mound Park
Saturday, May 15, 11:00 a.m.

YOUTH

Bible, Faith & Teen Issues

Sundays, 9:00 a.m.

Youth Group meetings

Sundays, 11:30 a.m.

COMMUNITY & SERVICE

5000 Club community suppers

Tuesdays, 5:00 p.m.

Cathedral night at the Drop-Inn Center

Monday, May 10, 6:00 p.m.

MUSIC & THE ARTS

Cathedral Tour

Sunday, May 2, 11:30 a.m.

Music Live at Lunch

Tuesdays, May 4, 11, 18 & 25, 12:10 p.m.

Faburden Concert

Sunday, May 9, 5:00 p.m.

Organ recital

Sunday, May 16, 5:00 p.m.

Author Book Signing

The Butterfly Collector: Stories by Fred McGavran
Sunday, May 23, 11:30 a.m.

Bishop's Visit: Bishop Thomas Breidenthal will preach and celebrate both morning services at the cathedral on May 16. The ten o'clock service will include the sacrament of Confirmation. At 9:00 a.m., he will meet with the confirmands. At 9:30 he will visit the children's classes. After the 10:00 service, he will hold a "Anyone Can Ask Me Anything" forum.

Celebrate Pentecost: Celebrate the Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 23, by making canvas wind socks in the undercroft following the 10:00 a.m. service.

For meeting & rehearsal schedule, members may go to the cathedral intranet site. For access information, contact Mark Priest at mpriest@cccath.