



Dear Christ Church,

As we continue to fervently pray for Christine's complete healing, and for Cliff and the children, we also want to take the opportunity to share some celebratory news in the life of Christ Church.

First, our Children's Ministry Director, Heather Summers, gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Lennon Elisabeth, on April 11th. Congratulations, Heather and Michael! Heather will be on maternity leave until July 9th. If you have any questions about our Children's Ministry, you may contact Matt Dampier (matt@christchurchofaustin.org). Thank you to all the volunteers who are helping coordinate our Children's Ministry these next few months!



We want to invite you to also celebrate next week's ordination of Sarah Smith as deacon in the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA). We had the privilege of having Sarah on staff at Christ Church from 2014 to just this past fall, before the birth of her third child. Sarah, along with the whole Smith family, is deeply embedded in our community, and she serves Christ Church wholeheartedly and lovingly.

After several years of consideration, prayer, training, and formation, including the completion of her Master of Divinity at Fuller Theological Seminary, and meeting last fall with our Parish Discernment Committee to listen to the Lord together, Sarah will be ordained as a transitional deacon on Wednesday, April 25th by Bishop Todd Hunter in Atlanta. Ordination as a transitional deacon will begin a period of service and preparation for ordination into the priesthood. We are overjoyed to see our Bishop and church affirm this calling in her life.

Sorrow and joy. Corporately as a body, and individually in our own lives, we've all tasted various sorrows and joys recently. Both are reflective of the rhythm of death and resurrection that God invites us to participate in, growing us into the likeness of Christ. In the chapter entitled "Spiritual Formation" that Christine contributed for [Spirituality in Mission: Embracing the Lifelong Journey](#), she writes,

"This rhythm involves mystery and grace and obedience, and takes place on the one hand, in large and dramatic ways such as processing pain and suffering with patient endurance and tenacious hope, allowing God to accompany and transform us through trial. On the other hand, the work of death and resurrection occurs in quiet and small ways such as the choice to avoid name dropping which might get us noticed, the practice of serving in invisible ways, releasing our agenda of productivity for the sake of relationship, and even fighting for hope while struggling with depression. We are likewise shaped as we practice resurrection joy, embrace a Sabbath lifestyle, and reap the rewards of authentic spiritual friendships and community."

Death and resurrection: we're invited into both, shaped by both. May we be granted patient endurance and tenacious hope to participate in Christ's death, and also have eyes to see the immensity of God's goodness and love, participating in His resurrection.

Under His Mercy,
The Christ Church Staff and Vestry

A NOTE FROM CLIFF

Dear friends,

I continue to be overwhelmed by your outpouring of prayer and support for Christine, me, and our kids. Notes to the care@christchurchofaustin.org address have come in not only from our parish community, but from friends in every place we've ever lived, every community we've been part of, and beyond. I have treasured every single one of them, a balm and source of hope during moments when Christine is resting and the nurses are gone (which is rare). By the way, I have a whole new respect and affection for all of you health care providers. God bless you and your ministry! You have the power to be a true difference maker with the people you serve, not only caring for their bodies, but also their mind and soul. We've had some great ones looking after Christine. Her trajectory continues to be in the right direction, though we are still in ICU. Many of the notes have been addressed to me, or to Christine and me, or to all six of us. As we hope and pray that Christine might soon be able to have some of these notes read to her, I would like to especially read aloud your words addressed specifically to her. What do you love about

her? What memories of her blessing you? What dreams or visions have you had about her? How did the news of her accident impact you? What stories of how you've seen the Lord through this tragedy? You might have something to share now, and something more to share in the weeks to come. I am certain these notes will lift her heart, as they have mine. Thank you again, dear saints, for your humbling expressions of genuine care and your continued intercession.

Peace, Cliff

UPDATES ON CHRISTINE AND WARNER FAMILY CARE

Providing coordinated, practical care to the Warner family is a labor of love and they need us. We've found, in consultation with the family, that the most pressing need right now is our ability to respond to unique requests as they happen in real-time. To facilitate this well we are looking for many of you who can say "Here are times I can be available, just tell me what the family needs." Please send an email to NOSA@christchurchofaustin.org and tell us specific times you are available for the remainder of April and May. For example, "I am available on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from Xam-Ypm." **Emailing us will also include you on a mailing list where we will begin sending out spontaneous requests for assistance.**

Along with your availability, please include in your email:

- Your name, email, phone number and area of town in which you live
- Specific services or items you have to give (when the need arises, we'll know who to call!)

We are so thankful for how generous this community is being. We will continue to be responsive to the Warners' needs as we walk along with them, so the way we care for them will evolve over the coming weeks, so stay tuned. We are so thankful to see how you all are serving!

In consideration for the Warners, we kindly ask that there be no hospital visitations.

Visit www.christchurchofaustin.org/christine for regularly posted updates and prayer requests. If you'd like to be notified of these updates, we recommend <https://blogtrottr.com>.

To contribute to the financial needs that arise in a crisis like this, visit [The Warner Family Care Fund](#).

Great American Cookout

APRIL 20 | 8:00 PM

Young Adults! Get this beautiful spring started off right with a backyard cookout! The party starts at 8pm, Friday April 20 at 3205 Garden Villa Ln. Don't miss a chance to meet new folks, be with friends, and hear about some fun things planned for the summer. Talk to Matt (matt@christchurchofaustin.org) for all the details.

Gathering at Lazarus

APRIL 22 | 5:00 PM

Meet up with fellow Christ Churchers at a local eastside joint, Lazarus Brewing Company (1902 E 6th St.), and enjoy some local fare! This casual gathering will be on Sunday April 22, beginning at 5pm. Stop by if you can and get to know each other and the neighborhood a little more. We'll be on the outdoor patio at picnic tables, so the whole family is welcome. Contact Erika Kraus (erikagael@mac.com) for more info.

Job Opening: Youth Pastor

Christ Church youth group is growing! There's a momentum among our youth as they seek the Lordship of Christ. Christ Church is hiring a full-time pastor to walk with middle and high schoolers, encouraging them in their discipleship and helping to build a thriving community. This leader will be generative, fun-loving and hard-working and full of care for our youth. For more information visit the "[About](#)" tab on the Christ Church website. Questions? Contact Matt Dampier (matt@christchurchofaustin.org).



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