



*Thank you for your work. I care even more for your hearts. Thank you. I love who we are as Christ Church, our scrappy sweet selves. I've kept thinking of the imagery of the little boy offering his loaves and fish, and imagining all of us standing before the Lord with our offerings this week as our scrappy sweet selves.*

*-Christine Warner to Christ Church, February 2016*

Dear Christ Church,

When Christine wrote this to us in 2016, she was thanking and encouraging our community following the Matthew 25 Gathering that we had the privilege to host. This Gathering welcomed ministry leaders and practitioners from across the Anglican Church in North America who serve in ministries of justice and mercy among the vulnerable, the marginalized, and under-resourced populations.

Through Christine's wisdom and loving guidance as coordinator of this Gathering, Christ Church hosted practitioners from all over the nation in two humble ways: 1) by exercising each of our unique gifts to serve our brothers and sisters and 2) to encounter the brokenness of our world together.

### **Christ Church, now we receive that invitation again.**

We have asked your offering this week to be prayer and intercession. Keep at it, and do not cease! We've had an amazing vantage point of the Body of Christ operating in the beautiful design our Triune God intended. Christine would be overjoyed! Much like how we were dispersed in service by Christine's leading for the Matthew 25 Gathering, now is our time to bring our offering of 'loaves and fish' on behalf of Christine, Cliff, Brendan, Cormac, Skye and Bronwyn. Here are specific ways you can do that:

### **Ways to Serve**

Jonathan and Rebecca Sempstrott are our Practical Care Coordinators. In order to ensure good organization to resource the Warners' needs, please contact [NOSA@christchurchofaustin.org](mailto:NOSA@christchurchofaustin.org), (that's short for No One Stands Alone) to let them know if you have:

- A specific service or item you can give or share to match a need.

- Availability of time to be matched with something that needs to be done like household care, errands, meals, groceries or lawn care.

In your email to Jonathan and Rebecca, it would be extremely helpful to provide the following information:

- Name, email, phone number, area of town you live, as well as either the specific times you're available, the service/item you're offering.

\*Please note that we are still assessing the Warners' needs and gathering what the community has to offer. It will take some time to match these so we ask for your trust and confidence.

### **A Way to Give**

To help meet the Warners' financial needs that arise during a time of crisis, a Go Fund Me has been set up to [benefit the Warner Family](#). We ask you to consider if this is a way that God would have you love them.

### **A Way to Care**

Keep sending your messages to the Warners at [care@christchurchofausting.org](mailto:care@christchurchofausting.org). This has been such an encouragement to Cliff!

### **A Way to Love**

Serve each other; pastor each other; pray for each other; be attentive to one another. We are in this together, and we need each other. Look for ways to bless and encourage each other, to make offerings of service for each other.

In her guest post for *CliffNotes* in February 2016, Christine wrote this as she invited us to participate in the Matthew 25 Gathering:

*God has a thing about broken places, broken people, broken societies. It is where He especially likes to hang out and where He is especially encountered. I would argue, based on Matthew 25, that there is a sacramental element to staying close to the poor, the widow, the orphan, the stranger, the outsider, the broken in body and spirit and soul, the vulnerable, the marginalized, the under-resourced. I stay close to these places, because I taste, see, hear, feel, and know Jesus in a special way every time. There I become a student, and the most broken become my teachers.*

*I encounter my own brokenness when I encounter the other's brokenness and the world's brokenness, and there I have a chance to know my belovedness and the beauty of His presence. It is a privilege to tuck in so close to God's heart.*

Christine is broken. Our beloved, beautiful sister is tucked closer to God's heart and his presence than we can imagine. She is suffering, and we are suffering alongside her. Do

not be afraid, for He is with us. Jesus is near and will comfort us who mourn. Choose to stay close to this place of brokenness; let it be the servant of your joy. There we meet Christ.

Under His Mercy,

The Christ Church Staff & Vestry

**As we start a new week together, we invite you to keep apprised of Christine's health conditions at this blog site: [www.christchurchofaustin.org/christine](http://www.christchurchofaustin.org/christine). More frequent and detailed updates will be provided, along with ongoing prayer requests.**

Please direct general questions to [meghan@christchurchofaustin.org](mailto:meghan@christchurchofaustin.org). For pastoral concerns, please reach out to [matt@christchurchofaustin.org](mailto:matt@christchurchofaustin.org).



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