

Christ Episcopal Church

Children, Youth, Adult  
and Family Ministries  
2011-2012



Fostering our total personal and  
spiritual development as we nurture  
ourselves in the knowledge and love of  
God.

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# Sacraments



**Baptism** We encourage parents to bring their children to church for baptism. Infant baptism is a sign of God's unconditional love and grace given to us without our having to do anything to earn it.

To arrange for the baptism of your baby, toddler, school-aged child, teen or yourself, please speak to our Rector, Reverend Ernie Ashcroft.

The most appropriate dates for Baptism are:

All Saints Sunday	Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011
The First Sunday of Epiphany	Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012
The Second Sunday of Easter	Sunday, Apr. 15, 2012
Pentecost Sunday	Sunday, May 27, 2012

For very pressing pastoral reasons consideration will be given to doing Baptism on alternative dates.

**Holy Eucharist** We invite all who are baptized to come to God's table and receive the holy and life-giving bread and wine of Jesus Christ. Children may come forward to receive when they and the parents believe that they are ready.

**Confirmation** In this sacrament, a person chooses to affirm their faith as an adult Christian. Following the guidelines of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, teenagers must be at least 16 years old to be presented for Confirmation, and must be baptized. A formal preparation process begins with a required Orientation for both parents and youth on Wed. Sept. 14 from 6:30-8:00 pm. The first session will be held Wed. Sept. 21 from 6:30-8:00 pm. Session dates will be made available at the orientation, but generally the confirmation group meets every other Wednesday evening. Confirmation will be held at St. Mark's Cathedral on Sat. May 12, 2012 at 11:00 am.

# Babies and Toddlers

## Nursery Care

Children from birth through age 5 are welcome to attend worship with their parents, or may stay in our professionally staffed nursery, located downstairs near the lower entrance. Pagers are provided to parents to take with them and will be used to notify parents if they are needed by their children. Our nursery crew is available on Sundays from 8:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.



Our caring nursery staff committed to providing a happy and safe experience for your youngest members. We will ask that you register your children the first time you visit the nursery and then again annually each September. Registration forms are at the nursery door.

We ask that those families who use the nursery consider donation items to support the nursery. Items include:

- Small apple juice boxes

- Crackers (Graham, Gold Fish, Ritz, Vanilla wafers.

- (We cannot accept crackers with filling or frosting.)

- Baby wipes and tissues.

- Disinfectant wipes and paper towels.

## Activity Bags

These bags are provided for the “young and the restless” who attend the worship service with their parents. Crayons and children’s bulletins are available for children to read/color during the service. A book rack near the entrance of the sanctuary provides a “lending library” of books for use during the worship service as well. Let Dana know if you are interested in helping keep this area organized and well stocked. We welcome donations of books as well.

**Godly Play**

# **Sunday School for Children** **Students 4-8 years old**

Sunday, September 18—Sunday, May 20  
9:40 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.

Godly Play is a Montessori-based approach to religious education for children

The Godly Play rooms are sacred, beautiful spaces. Trays of story materials on low shelves surround the circle of children.

Our liturgy gives Godly Play its shape. Welcoming the children by name, we encourage them to enter the room with reverence. We present a biblical story using materials of wood and cloth, sand and stone. Children are invited to enter and find a place in the story, making it their own. The storyteller asks wondering questions, such as: I wonder what part is the most important? I wonder where you are in the story? I wonder what part of the story is about you?

Children have time to respond to the presentation by working with art or story materials. The group gathers back in the circle to share a feast of bread and water. They pray as a group and receive a blessing before they leave.

All of our Children's Programs are held in the lower level of the building.

Godly Play 1: for children, age 4 to age 5  
(potty trained and ready to be a part of a class.)  
This group meets in the Mark Room.

Godly Play 2: for early elementary, ages 6-7-8  
This group meets in the Matthew Room.

\*Groups are led with a rotation for three adults. Please consider joining a team and discover how enjoyable 40 minutes can be with the children. Best yet, it is not an every Sunday commitment.

# Bridging

**Students ages 9-10  
years old**



**Sunday, September 18—Sunday, May 20  
9:40 a.m. to 10:20 a.m.**

Just like is says, this group is a bridging group...that delicate time of moving from childhood into young adolescence. We want to help bridge that time in a young person life as they journey through this time of transition.

Bridging is a time set aside for you. We hope that in this Sunday morning time you will come to know the goodness that can be found in the uniqueness of each young person your age.

On Sunday mornings we will discover other “Extra—ordinary” people who through their own uniqueness, came to bring a wonderful difference to our world.

**When:** Meets every Sunday morning 9:40 am to 10:20 am.

**Where:** The Revelation Room, downstairs at the far end of Fellowship Hall on the right hand side.

Interested in planning fun events or service projects...let Dana know.

Stay tuned for Summer Stretch this summer...the best way to spend Wednesdays through out the summer.



## **Connections Youth Group** **Students ages 11-12 years old**

The two years Connections Sunday School and Wednesday night youth group are fun. We play a lot of games, laugh a lot, and learn a lot. While we do treat matters in a light-hearted way, this does not mean that we avoid dealing with serious matters. A lot of time is devoted to the great stories of Holy Scriptures and their relevance in our day. Among other things, we deal with prayer, with the ways we see and encounter God, with possessions and their importance in our life, and with learning to trust in God on our faith journey together.

Every effort is made to keep the process experiential, with a hands-on and “hearts-on” focus. Perhaps more than anything else, all activities are geared to build this community, to establish trust and safety, to remind young people again and again that this is their church, and that they are safe and welcome within it.

Age: Students 11-12 years old.

When: Sunday Mornings, Sept. 18– May 20 9:40 to 10:20 a.m.

And.... Wednesday Night Youth Groups 6:30 - 8:00 p. m.

Sept. 21	Nov. 2	Dec. 14	Feb. 1	Mar. 7	Apr. 18
Oct. 5	Nov. 16	Jan. 4	Feb. 15	Mar. 21	May 2
Oct. 19	Nov. 30	Jan. 18	Feb. 29	Apr. 11	

Where: Genesis Annex, downstairs in Fellowship Hall



## **Quest Youth Group**

**Students ages 13-14**

The work of knowing one's self and how one relates to society and to God has beginnings in year one. Year two addresses issues of gender roles and spirituality/prayer development.

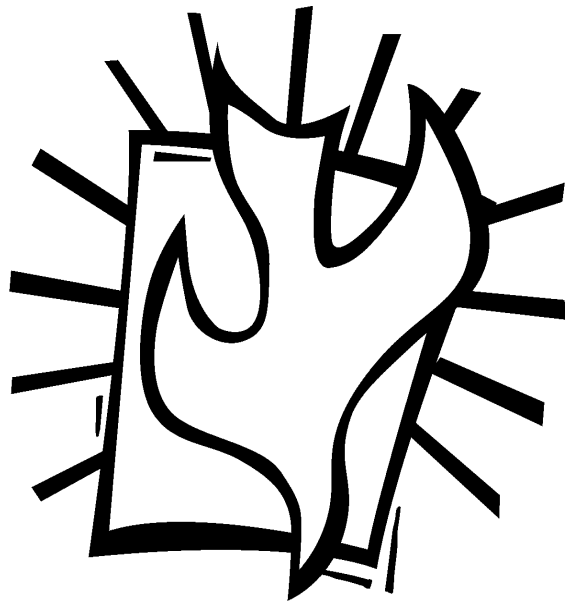
After the completion of the two years, and before entering Confirmation preparation, young people participate in a mission experience. It is part of the program which most closely represents the young person's rite of passage from childhood to young adulthood. This group will prepare for a 7 day mission which will include both service and prayer. Date and location will be determined by the group at student and parent meetings.

**When: Sunday Mornings, Sept. 18– May 20 9:40 to 10:20 a.m.**

**And.... Wednesday Night Youth Groups 6:30 - 8:00 p. m.**

Sept. 21	Nov. 2	Dec. 14	Feb. 1	Mar. 7	Apr. 18
Oct. 5	Nov. 16	Jan. 4	Feb. 15	Mar. 21	May 2
Oct. 19	Nov. 30	Jan. 18	Feb. 29	Apr. 11	

**Where: Genesis Room, downstairs in Fellowship Hall**



# Confirmation Preparation

**Students  
15-17 years old  
Sunday Mornings  
and Wednesday  
evenings.**

In this sacrament, a person chooses to affirm their faith as an adult Christian. Following the guidelines of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, teenagers must be at least 16 years old to be presented for Confirmation, and must be baptized.

A formal preparation process begins with a required Orientation Meeting for both parents and youth on  
**Wed. Sept. 14 from 6:30-8:00 pm.**

The first session will be held Wed. Sept. 21 from 6:30-8:00 pm. Session dates are listed below.

Sept. 21	Nov. 2	Dec. 14	Feb. 1	Mar. 7	Apr. 18
Oct. 5	Nov. 16	Jan. 4	Feb. 15	Mar. 21	May 2
Oct. 19	Nov. 30	Jan. 18	Feb. 29	Apr. 11	

Confirmands will need to bring their mentor with them to  
**Wed. Sept. 21 session from 6:30-8:00 pm.**

Sunday Morning Sessions will be held in the meeting room next to the cry room in the church from 9:40 to 10:20 a.m. Sept. 18–May. 20.

Confirmation will be held at St. Mark's Cathedral on Sat. May 12, 2012 at 11:00 am.

# Youth Ministry Event Registration

Overnight Retreats, Movie Nights, Snow tubing, Summer Stretch, Service Events, Scavenger Hunts, Game Nights, etc...all get planned throughout the year by the Youth Ministry Coordinating Team.

Publicity for these events can be found in the...

Good News Sheet on Sunday Mornings

On the Youth Ministry Bulletin Board

(On the stair case landing on the way downstairs.)

And will be emailed to you if you attend a youth group and you have given us your email address.

To register for such events we must have a Parental Consent form that includes all of the emergency information **completely** filled in, including your parent's signature. We only need to collect this form once a year. Your Sunday School Registration Parental Consent form would suffice.

Once you have turned this form in for the year, and you want to sign up for subsequent events you need to turn in a Permission form. This form states that your parents are giving you permission to attend the event, along with the event fee. This form will be at the bottom of event publicity sheets.

You are always welcome to invite a friend to sign up for a youth event. They must however, also complete an Parental Consent form as well as pay the event fee. To get additional Parental Consent forms for your friends to attend a youth event at church, you can download it at [www.christchurch-woodbury.org](http://www.christchurch-woodbury.org)

Scholarships for youth events are available at the request of the parent.

**Please honor registration deadlines** as they help us to know how many drivers we need to get, how many tickets to buy, how much food to order etc. Please sign up by the date listed as the registration deadline. I hope you can join us for some great events this year.

For more information contact Dana at [dana@christchurch-woodbury.org](mailto:dana@christchurch-woodbury.org)

# Cardboard Box City 2011

## Students in Connections, Quest and Confirmation

**what**

### Residents wanted

Spend one night in a cardboard box (or tent) to raise much needed funds and raise awareness to knock out family homelessness. Pledges raised by Cardboard Box City residents will benefit the families served by Families Moving Forward® of Minneapolis and Saint Paul Area Council of Churches Project Home.

**when**

### Thursday, October 20

(MEA Weekend)

- 4-8pm Check In & Set Up Boxes/Tents
- 5-8pm Soup Kitchen Supper
- 6-10pm Live Entertainment
- 6-8am Tear Down, Clean Up & Depart

**where**

### Youth groups

from congregations, schools, and clubs from across the metro area will create a temporary city at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.



PHOTO BY MARY BETH YOUNG

Rent (pledges) raised by Cardboard Box City residents will benefit the families served by Families Moving Forward® of Minneapolis and Saint Paul Area Council of Churches Project Home.

### SAINT PAUL AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Project Home, a program of the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches, with the help of dozens of area churches synagogues and schools, provides 40 beds of emergency shelter for families in Ramsey County each night. Project Home is a hospitality-oriented shelter, primarily run by volunteers. The majority of shelter guests are children.

[www.spacc.org/projecthome](http://www.spacc.org/projecthome)



Families Moving Forward® is a grassroots, interfaith social service agency providing emergency shelter, affordable housing and supportive services to homeless and low-income families with children. The Families Moving Forward emergency shelter is provided in collaboration with 40 local faith communities.

[familiesmovingforward.org](http://familiesmovingforward.org)

**To Register: Pick up a packet off of the Youth Ministry Bulletin Board or see Dana. Register no later than Wed. Oct. 12.**

Questions:  
Call Dana at 651-983-8750

Start checking appliance stores to get your box.

## Youth Music Band

Calling all youth musicians and singers age 11 to 18 to join our Youth Music Band.

This group leads music for the 10:30 am Worship Service, the third Sunday of each month.

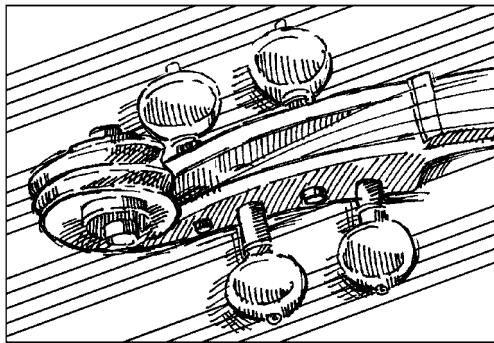
To explore the possibility of joining:

Talk to Mark Olson, our parish musician. See him after one of our Sunday services Or contact him at [mo.keyz@gmail.com](mailto:mo.keyz@gmail.com).

Make a commitment to attend rehearsals, the 2nd Wed. of each month from 7-8:00 p.m. and commit to practice outside of rehearsals as well.



## Church Orchestra



Musicians of all ages.

You are invited to participate in our **Christ Church Orchestra**

Our orchestra often plays for:  
Christmas Eve Services at 4 and 10 pm  
Christmas Morning service at 10 am  
Easter Vigil on Sat. April 7 at 8:00 pm  
And for other special events

To explore the idea of joining:

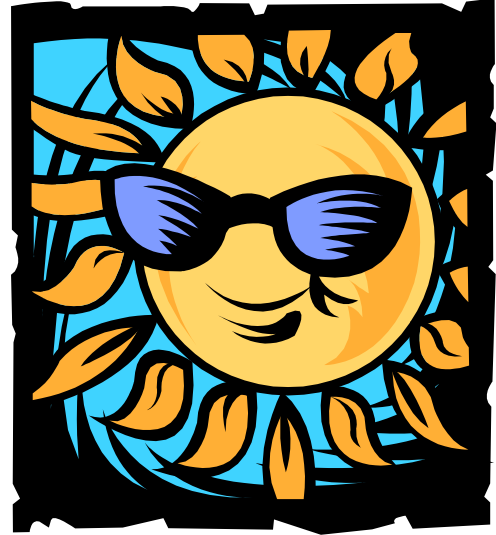
Talk to Mark Olson, our parish musician. You can see him after one of our Sunday services at the piano or contact him at [mo.keyz@gmail.com](mailto:mo.keyz@gmail.com).

Participants must make a commitment to attend rehearsals and practice outside of rehearsals. (Rehearsals TBD based on participants and events.)

# Summer Stretch

Designed for young people  
age 10 and up.

Summer Stretch is a service and recreational program, centered on Gospel values.



For six Thursdays throughout the summer we meet up at church and go off to different service sites to help others. We've helped at Feed My Starving Children preparing meals, sorting food at Second Harvest Food Bank, helping with the grounds at a State park, and doing some work around our own church grounds as well.

We come back for lunch and discuss our service experience. We then spend the afternoon in fellowship with one another. Sometimes we went mini-golfing, bowling, to the beach, etc. Our last day of the program we gather at Valley fair for a big celebration with the other 100 or so churches throughout the Twin Cities who also participate in Summer Stretch.

So if you are looking for a meaningful way to spend one day a week next summer plan on Summer Stretch. The program registration deadline for Summer of 2011 is Sunday, June 3.

## **Important Dates for Summer 2012**

Parent & Youth Orientation Meeting: Mon., June 18 at 6:30 pm.  
Our day has switched from Thursday to Wednesdays...take note!  
June 20, July 11, July 18, July 25, Aug. 1 and we wrap up the year with our Valleyfair Celebration day on Thursday, Aug. 2!

Quest and Sr. High Students needed as teen leaders as well!

# Wednesday Nite Live

## All Parish Dinners

**Tired of cooking for just one person?**

**Tired of cooking for the whole family?**

**Or just want to get know new people or enjoy old friends at Christ Church?**

Take a mid-week break from cooking and gather with us for dinner on various Wednesday evenings of each month. See our schedule below.

Dinner is served at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.  
\$5/adult and \$3 for children.

**Begins Wed. Sept. 21 5:30 p.m.**

Sept. 21	Nov. 2	Dec. 14	Feb. 1	Mar. 7	Apr. 18
Oct. 5	Nov. 16	Jan. 4	Feb. 15	Mar. 21	May 2
Oct. 19	Nov. 30	Jan. 18	Feb. 29	Apr. 11	

- Interested in helping to serve a meal or to help with dishes?  
Just jump right in on a Wednesday night.



# **Sunday Morning**

## **Adult Forums**

At Christ Church we value the continual growth of adult Christian faith. So much of what we have learned as children has new ramifications in our adult experience of the world. Our world challenges us to continue to work at our understanding and practices of our faith. In order for our faith to remain both relevant to our lives and useful to the world we must grapple with the applications of faith in our daily situations. Join us for stimulating topics and discussion.

**Date**

**Subject**

**Sunday Mornings 9:30 am**  
**Between the 8:30 am and 10:30 am Services**  
**Held in the Family Room**

## Women's Faith



## Sharing Group

For women in every stage of life.  
Relax, rejuvenate and  
connect with other women.

Held the 2nd Tuesday  
of every month. 6:30-8:30 pm

**What does the group do?** We gather mainly to support each other, develop friendships, and to share faith. This year we've decided to read a book and share our reflections on one chapter of it a month. The book we are using is...

### **The Magdalene Gospel**

Meeting the Women Who Followed Jesus

By Mary Ellen Ashcroft Augsburg Press

Let us know if you would like us to order a book for you.

**Who comes?** Retired women, stay at home moms, moms with careers, single women... women in every stage of life.

**Is there a cost?** No, just the cost of the book if you want one.

**Childcare:** Childcare is available. We prefer a reservation in advance so we know to plan for enough supervision of the children. Call Dana at 651-983-8750.

### **Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

Oct. 9 Nov. 13

No meeting in December

Jan. 8 Feb. 12 Mar. 11

Apr. 8 May 13 June 10

Come whenever you can!

**Where does the group meet?** At the home of Dana Fath Strande, 69 Dennis Lane North, Maplewood, MN 55119. You can reach her at the office at 651-735-8790 or on her cell phone at 651-983-8750.



Why are we here?  
Does my life have meaning?  
Is there something more?  
Alpha.  
Exploring the questions of life.

Alpha is intended for both church members and those who are presently not involved in any church. In addition to presenting basic Christian truth (feeding the mind), the aim of the course is that individuals experience their lives being transformed as a result of connecting more deeply with God. **Invite a friend and join us!**

The structure of Alpha is that for 11 sessions, participants and team members meet for 2 1/2 hours; we share a meal, hear a talk on some aspect of the Christian faith, and then break into small groups for questions and discussion. The heart of Alpha is the experience of community.

The Alpha course series will be offered three times this year.

Series 1: Opening Celebration Dinner, Sat. Sept. 15  
First to last sessions, Wed. Sept. 19—Wed. Dec. 5  
Begins with 6:00 pm dinner and ends at 8:30 pm.

Series 2: Opening Celebration Dinner, Sat. Jan. 5  
First to last sessions, Thurs. Jan. 17—Thurs. Apr. 3  
Begins with 6:00 pm dinner and ends at 8:30 pm.

Series 3: Opening Celebration Dinner, Sat. May 24  
First to last sessions, Wed. June 4—Wed. Aug. 20  
Begins with 6:00 pm dinner and ends at 8:30 pm.

For more information or to sign up call the parish office.



# All Parish Faith Events

All Parish Events are faith-filled events for folks of all ages to gather in celebration of the seasons.

We encourage you to invite along your friends, neighbors and extended family members as you wish.

More information about each event will be made available in the Sunday Morning Good News sheet and in the Chronicle newsletter.

## Family Pumpkin Carving Event

Sunday, Oct. 28 6:00-8:00 pm



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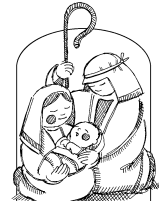


## All Parish Advent Retreat and Dinner

Waiting by Rev. Ernie Ashcroft  
Sunday, Dec. 2 5:00-8:00 pm

## Epiphany Pageant and Recital

Sunday, Dec. 30



## All Parish Lenten Retreat and Dinner

Questioning Faith: The Dark Night of the Soul  
Michael and Dana Strande  
Sunday, Feb. 10 5:00-8:00 pm



## Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 23 9:30 am



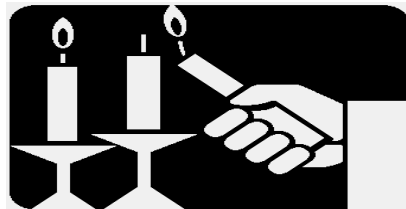
If you would like to help in the planning of any of the above events, please contact Dana Fath Strande at the parish office.

## Involvement in Sunday Worship

**Lectors and Intercessors:** Children who can read clearly and confidently are invited to serve as readers or prayer leaders in the worship service. To learn more about getting involved in this ministry contact the parish office.

**Greeters or Ushers:** Children may serve on the teams that greet worshipers, distribute bulletins, and help collect the Sunday Morning offering. If you are interested in joining this ministry as a young person or as a family unit contact the parish office.

### Acolytes



Children are invited to help lead worship by becoming an acolyte. This involves carrying a cross or torches in procession, helping with the offering, and assisting the priest at the altar. A child's ability to focus on carrying out these tasks is the requirement, rather than a specific age.

To become an acolyte please contact the parish office with your preference to serve at either the 8:30 am or 10:30 am service.

We provide acolyte training and on-going refresher training. We will help you with the fitting of your acolyte robe. The acolyte schedule is set at least one to two months in advance. You may request days not to be scheduled by contacting Dana Fath Strande at the parish office. Once you are scheduled it is your family's responsibility to get a replacement on a day that you cannot attend.

# Christ Episcopal Church Staff

## **Rector**

The Reverend Ernie Ashcroft  
kritter@visi.com  
735-8790 ext. 11

## **Parish Life Minister**

Dana Fath Strande  
dana@christchurch-woodbury.org  
735-8790 ext 12

## **Parish Musician**

Mark Olson  
Mo.keyz@gmail.com

## **Office Administrator**

Marinda Bland  
office@christchurch-woodbury.org  
735-8790 ext. 10

## **Nursery Staff**

Pat Merritt Tasha Kast,  
Lisa Koenke, Lauren Foley

## **Office Hours:**

Mon.-Tues. -Wed. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.  
and by appointment.

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Ph: 651-735-8790  
www.christchurch-woodbury.org