

Good Seats Still Available...

and That's the Problem

Of all the challenges facing Christ Cathedral today, filling the seats is probably at the top of the list. It's something all churches wrestle with; some successfully, some not so much. Right now, we're in the not-so-much group.

For a while, it seemed like our best bet to increase membership was to hire only young, married priests every six months but that isn't a long-term solution. We have to increase membership from the outside to see real growth. And the problem isn't just getting new people through the doors. If every visitor became a permanent member of this congregation then we'd be busting at the seams by now. But only a few stay. How do we convince the casual visitor that this church – this fellowship community -- is a place worth exploring?

This must be a question that every vestry in every church on the planet has to answer eventually. Your vestry has been batting this question around for a while now, too. Actually, it's not the question that's difficult, it's the answer. Or, rather, putting the answer into practice is tough. I bet that everyone knows the answer, deep down inside. The process is simple: invite someone to church; make an effort to introduce yourself to visitors; keep in touch with visitors or potential visitors so that you and Christ Cathedral stay on their radar. Sounds easy but acting on that instinct is hard for a lot of us, me included.

In this issue of *Chimes* you can read about a program called Invite, Welcome, Connect (IWC for short) that has proved successful in

other churches. Cat Thornton, and Kathleen Crouch are spearheading the investigation into IWC to see how we can implement it in our community. Watch for more on IWC, not only in *Chimes* but in practice at church, too.

Earlier I said that we have to increase membership from the outside by recruiting. That is going to be critical for us. But let's not forget that community-building doesn't only involve visitors. We already are a community. Yet how many members of Christ Cathedral do you know who have drifted to the edges of the campfire? Infirmity keeps some at home. Apathy, anger, or difficult personal problems keep others at bay. They may show up once or twice a year, or never, but they are still willing to call themselves Episcopalians. That means they want to stay connected to our community but they need a little help getting back into the circle. They need to know we haven't forgotten them even though, in fact, we often do. But these folks deserve the same energy we would direct to a stranger who visits one Sunday.

So, that's it. Community-building. Growing from within and without. More members actively participating means more hands and heads and hearts to accomplish the stuff that will keep Christ Cathedral vibrant and -- and this is important – relevant. Relevant means that what we do matters to the larger community around us, like our Feed the Hungry program and youth activities that include families outside our congregation. It all depends on pulling in new members and pulling old members back in.

You can count on hearing more about how we'll accomplish this over the next couple of months.

-Steve Hoffman, Senior Warden

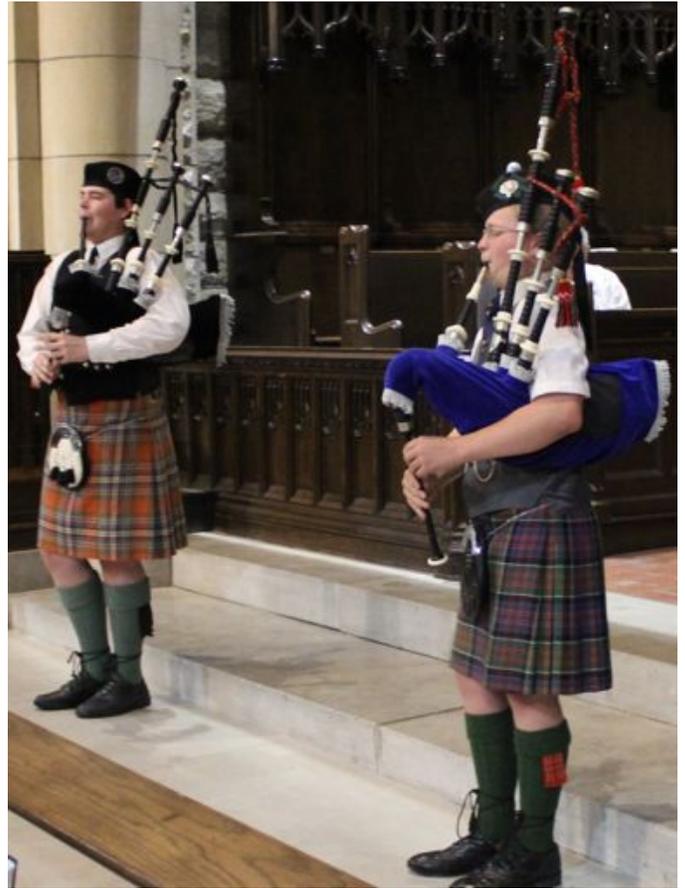
Bring the Little Monsters to Church!

Pajama night had 20 children and youth. Kids enjoyed games, a movie, and popcorn while parents enjoyed an evening out.



Youth and sponsors from Salina First Presbyterian

(right) deliver sack lunches for Feed the Hungry. Many thanks to the Presbyterians for their ongoing support of this community wide outreach.



Balmoral School of Piping and Drumming Concert

The Pittsburgh, Pa.-based school is composed of top piping and drumming instructors from around the world who gather each summer to teach students piping, drumming and marching techniques in weeklong intensives in different cities. The Cathedral hosts their Salina graduation concert each July.



Notes for August

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A BIG RUG

for the Godly Play classroom. If you have a rug that you would like to donate or are interested in purchasing a rug for the children to sit on during Godly Play, please speak with Father Benjamin for details.

Christian Education Potluck Wednesday, August 27 5:30-7:30 pm

Come kick-off our fall Christian Education program with a potluck dinner for all the families of Christ Cathedral. The church will provide meat and beverages. Please bring a dish to share.

Christian Education starts Wednesday, September 3

Join us on Wednesdays this fall for dinner at 5:45, followed by age-appropriate Christian education for children, youth, and adults from 6:15 to 7:00.

From Your Senior Warden

The vestry is making it easier to spot them in a crowd, in case you need to direct a visitor to one of them or ask a question.

From now on vestry members will wear name tags at service and coffee hour and (if they remember) at special events like pancake suppers. All the members are on duty to field your questions and comments. In addition, you can call senior warden Steve Hoffman any time at 827-3462.

Coming, in Concert, Internationally Known Pianist Steven Spooner

On Sunday, September 28th, 2014, at 4:00 PM Christ Cathedral will host another concert by this renowned musician. In the fall of 2012 Dr. Spooner performed one of the best piano concerts Salina, Kansas has ever experienced. Christ Cathedral would like to present again this world known pianist. Tickets are available by calling the church office 785- 827-4440. A donation of \$10.00 is appreciated.

Described as “dazzling” (Washington Post) critics have hailed the powerful performances of Spooner and noted that the “American had everything: polished technique, musical intelligence, innate sensitivity and a personality that reaches across the keyboard.” He has performed around the world and is quickly becoming one of the more noted American pianists of his generation. Get your tickets today.

Stewardship Update:

	Actual	Budget
Pledge Income Year-to-Date	\$97,129.00	\$103,664.00
Plate Income Year-to-Date	\$10,599.00	\$14,583.00

August - 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10 AM - Mass	28	29	30 5 PM - Mass	31	1 All Day Movie Marathon in Parish Hall	2 5 PM - Mass
3 10 AM - Mass	4	5	6 5 PM - Mass	7	8	9 5 PM - Mass
10 10 AM - Mass	11	12	13 5 PM - Mass	14 9 AM Stewardship Meeting	15	16 5 PM - Mass
17 10 AM Mass	18 6:30 PM Vestry Meeting	19	20 5 PM - Mass	21	22	23 5 PM - Mass
24 / 31 10 AM - Mass	25	26	27 5 PM - Mass 5:30 Fall Kick-Off Pot Luck Supper	28	29	30 5 PM - Mass

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU

**TO EVERYONE WHO
HELPED WITH THE
YARD CLEAN UP
ON
JULY 26TH**



Vestry Highlights

Both plate and pledge offerings are up from where they were at this time last year. We have received monetary rewards from our credit card. Repairs and maintenance were higher because of the work needed to remove the bees from the North Transept. However, total expenses are right on target for this time of year. There are new procedures for counting and depositing money from offerings, dinners, fund raisers and any other money related activities. Two rotating Vestry members will be in charge of counting the money each week. The new procedures will go in to effect at the beginning of September.

The Vestry is getting estimates for various plans for the gardens. The gazebo steps have been replaced with other repairs and painting planned for the near future. The Vestry is working on policies for weddings at the Cathedral to eliminate any misunderstandings. A Capital Improvement Schedule has been in the works and should be completed by the next Vestry meeting. The Vestry is also looking at the possibility of doing a photo directory.

There will be a table manned by a Vestry member at coffee hour for members who have questions for the Vestry. Vestry members will also be wearing name tags at the services and coffee hour to make it easier for members of the congregation or visitors to identify them.

These are some highlights from the July Vestry Meeting. If you would like a copy of the complete Vestry minutes, please contact the Cathedral office. *Linda Favre, Vestry Clerk*