



From the Rafters

Vol. XI
Issue 1
January
2024

Our Mission

We are a people rooted in worship, branching out into the world.

Dear Church of the Resurrection Family,

One of the biggest blessings of 2023 was the partnership we created with First Presbyterian and our youth groups. It has been a joy to watch these youth bond all in the love of Christ. To be able to separate them into middle school and high school groups, to have lots of youth present for each event, to watch them dig deeper into their relationship with Jesus has been truly amazing. I have felt honored to be a part of this special group. I wanted to share a few photos with you all. Please continue to pray for the youth of our parish and First Presbyterian!



During the Epiphany season, we have three very special happenings! First, in this newsletter you will learn more about the United Thank Offering. This is a great way to make a big impact on our neighbors in need with the change from our pockets!

On January 10th, we will host the movie, “The Philadelphia Eleven,” for the Diocese of Upper

South Carolina. The Philadelphia Eleven were the first women ordained in the Episcopal Church as priests. As you can imagine, this was not an easy experience. You can learn more about the film here: <https://www.philadelphiaelevenfilm.com/>

Finally, our Becoming Beloved Community Committee will host our Adult Forum in the season of Epiphany. This Committee is a group of parishioners who are dedicated to helping our parish live into our baptismal covenant to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being. All parishioners are invited to participate in this study of *Accidental Saints* by the Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber, which was the Anti-Racism Book of the Month in December! A different member of the Committee will facilitate the discussion each week. Please join us at 9:30 on Sunday mornings in Epiphany to learn more!

I am excited about 2024 and what God is calling us to do! In the February *Rafters* and after the Vestry Retreat, I will update you all on the goals the Vestry has set for the year. Please know, your Vestry is here for you and welcomes conversation!!! As always, I love you but most importantly God does!

Love, Mary Balfour+



UTO for Everyone

The United Thank Offering, better known as UTO, is returning to Resurrection after having been absent for several years.



What is UTO?

United Thank Offering is a ministry of The Episcopal Church, which focuses on the spiritual practice of daily gratitude. In 1889, the Women's Auxiliary initiated the United Offering to support mission projects and to assist in sending female missionaries out to serve as teachers and nurses. This project became the United Thank Offering. Through the years, UTO has greatly expanded the mission of The Episcopal Church.

How does it work, and can I take part?

Each person will receive a Blue Box at church on Sunday, January 14. This program is for men, women and children, so YES, you can participate. If you prefer to participate together as a family unit, that works very well also and provides a wonderful lesson in being thankful, by recognizing our many daily blessings.

As you move through your day:

NOTICE the good things that happen.

GIVE thanks to God for those unexpected blessings.

MAKE an offering in the Blue Box for each blessing of that day.

BLESS because your blessings become blessings for others.

Towards the end of the calendar year we will celebrate our many blessings with an ingathering of our Blue Box monies. Each of our pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and dollars collected will be sent to United Thank Offering of The Episcopal Church. UTO will award 100% of these funds as grants to selected applicants from all over the country, and the world.

I strongly recommend visiting the UTO website for good information, and a very clear explanation of the grant program, as well as the

recipients of the 2023 grants – www.unitedthankoffering.com

Each of us has something good happen every day, and we should recognize the good things and be grateful for them. This simple program is an easy way to teach gratitude to our young people. Blessings come in all shapes and sizes - from that college acceptance letter to making the correct turn on a dark road, and often in places where we least expect them – the gas station, the post office, waiting for the train to pass. Blessings come at every age too.

The UTO program will not interfere with other giving opportunities during the different seasons of the church year. Your Blue Box will serve as a visual reminder to notice your blessings daily, and to develop the spiritual practice of gratitude.

I hope you will choose to participate in the return of UTO to Resurrection. As a parish, we can play a part in transforming lives in the United States and the world.

You can pick up your Blue Box at Resurrection on Sunday, January 14.

~ Susu Wallace

A Good Pair of Binoculars

Participants in our Adult Forum just completed a book study of *Finding God in the Waves: How I Lost My Faith and Found It Again Through Science*. Many of us approached the book with the expectation that from it we might learn how the author, Mike McHargue, has reconciled faith and science. After all, he is known as “Science Mike” having hosted two podcasts exploring those topics. Many books have been written in an effort to reconcile faith and science or to establish the dominance of one over the other. McHargue’s book does neither.

Mike McHargue was born and raised in a deeply religious family who practiced an increasingly rare form of authentic Christian discipleship. His parents centered their family life on biblical principles and values. Jesus was McHargue’s friend as he struggled through a childhood of obesity, “nerdery” and loneliness. As he grew older, McHargue fell away from his religious

habits for a brief time, until he met his wife, Jenny. Together, they began raising a family in much the same way he had been raised, centering their lives in Christian faith. McHargue was a happily married family man, a deacon in his church and even taught Sunday school.

It was his parents' divorce that triggered McHargue's confrontation with the paradox of science and faith. His faith taught that divorce was a sin, and McHargue desperately sought to lead his father and mother to repentance and reconciliation through the study of scripture and the guidance of his pastors. He binge-read the bible, looking for just the right verse, parable or story that would convince his father to return to his life of obedience to God's will for marriage.

McHargue's effort accomplished something entirely different. His education and career were in the hard sciences. For the first time, McHargue studied the bible as a scientist might. What was revealed to him was not biblical truth, but contradictions, horrendous injustice and a vengeful, cruel god who demanded blood atonement. Although McHargue had read the bible in pieces, in Sunday School lessons and sermons, this time, McHargue read it start to finish – Genesis to Revelation – all the while keeping tabs on the irreconcilable notions. McHargue's Christian identity was based upon biblical inerrancy, but he could see little that was truly inerrant on this go-round.

McHargue saw no choice but to let go of his strict, literal interpretation of scripture and adopted a more progressive form of Christianity. But his struggle did not end there. The more McHargue read about the different approaches to truth offered by faith and science, the more convinced he became that Christianity was a farce, the bible just one long myth, and Jesus a fictional legend.

McHargue spent the next two years living a lie. To avoid disappointing his wife, or worse, leading her or their children to lose their own faith, McHargue put on a disguise. He continued the same lifestyle and lay ministry, teaching and professing a faith he no longer held. The charade took its toll, not surprisingly, and finally his wife confronted him. McHargue came clean to her

and to his mother. Though hurt and disappointed, they responded with the love, grace and patience that McHargue greatly needed.

Then came the day that McHargue received two fateful invitations – one to visit NASA's then-new Dryden Flight Research Center and the other to attend a conference hosted by Rob Bell, an author and Progressive Christian pastor who had hired McHargue's company to manage his website. The two events were being held near one another and so could be combined into one trip to the coast of California.

McHargue's experience on the coast of California is too beautiful to spoil with this article. I encourage each of you to read it for yourself. If you have ever found it a challenge to justify your belief in one creedal statement or another, you might find a new peace from following McHargue's lead.

McHargue has stopped trying to justify a faith in God or to verify the bible's message with empiricism. Instead, he has accepted this: science and faith cannot be reconciled, but they can be synchronized. As Chuck Gresham wisely analogized, faith and science can be the two lenses placed in a pair of binoculars that together allow a seeker to discover the profound.

The second part of McHargue's book is itself an application of that analogy. He has formulated axioms for faith, God, prayer, sin, the afterlife, salvation, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the church and the bible by a parallel study of each through the lens of faith and the lens of science. He has formed his own theology, as we all should.

Most, if not all, of the participants in this book study were enthralled by McHargue's story. His experience and conclusions affirm our own view on the interplay of faith and science. We see better how we may relate to atheists and the "nones" of American society. We appreciated the axioms, regretting that he stopped before writing an axiom for religion itself and finding his adherence to labeling tiresome. Personally, McHargue's book made me grateful. During Advent and Christmas, I am reminded of the gifts "that don't come from a store." I am grateful for a community with whom I can express my

skepticism without fear of reprisal. Disguises are not needed at Church of the Resurrection. We all have doubts. We are all free to express our doubts to God and to one another. God is honored by our striving to understand.

~ Elizabeth Floyd

Upcoming Events and Opportunities for Ministry



Our monthly service of Holy Eucharist and Healing will be held on Wednesday, January 3, at 12 noon.

WESLEY COMMONS

Our monthly service of Holy Eucharist at Wesley Commons will be held on Tuesday, January 9, at 11:00 am.

The Philadelphia Eleven



This summer is the 50th anniversary of the ordination of the first eleven female priests in the Episcopal Church. "The Philadelphia Eleven" is a documentary film that tells the story of these remarkable women.

Join us for a viewing of the film on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 6 pm in the Gathering Space. Dinner will be served. This is a diocesan event that we are fortunate to host!

christmas
DECORATION TAKE DOWN



Please join us on Wednesday,
January 3, at 6:00 pm.
Many hands make light work!

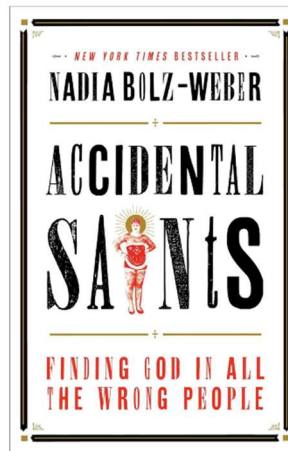


Please join us for a
Primetimers Lunch and Learn
January 18th at 11:30 in
Emmaus Hall with
Justo Chalaire from
The United Way

RSVP to Denise Brown:
864-223-5426 or denise@episcopalgreenwood.org
If you need a ride, please let Denise know.



The Becoming Beloved Community
invites one and all for 5-week study of:



Sunday
mornings at
9:30 in the
Gathering
Space
beginning
January 14th

The author, the Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber shares stories of the people of God, and of the church she pastors, to show how God works in and through the most unlikely characters.

Cursillo

Have you ever wondered, "What is my purpose in life? Are faith and belief the same thing?" Consider attending a Cursillo weekend – from Thursday evening, February 1, to Sunday afternoon, February 4, 2024, at Camp Gravatt.

For more information, contact Mary Balfour or:

·Shannon Berley, Weekend Lay Rector at
sberley444@gmail.com

·Kaye Curtis, Cursillo Council President at
kayecurtis@gmail.com

·Dan Wagner+, Weekend Head Spiritual Director at
frdan@atlanticbbn.net

·Scotty Brock+, Cursillo Council Head Spiritual Director at
sbrock@stdavidscolumbia.org

Learn more about Cursillo on the EDUSC Website,
<https://www.edusc.org/cursillo/>, where applications can be downloaded. Scholarships are available.

Save the Date

Saturday

February 10th

**OYSTER ROAST
AND SILENT
AUCTION**



Altar Arrangements:

January 7 – to the glory of God and in memory of Mary and Edward K. Sanders, James and Julia by Jane and Edward Sanders.

January 14 – to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the marriage of Jon Brooks and Jessica Newlon and also for their parents, Edie and Buster Brooks, on the occasion of their wedding anniversary by Jon and Nancy Newlon.

January 21 – to the glory of God and in memory of H. Hugh Floyd by Ryan and Elizabeth Floyd.

January 21 – to the glory of God and in loving memory of our son Walker Moore III by Walker and Sandy Moore.

January 29 – to the glory of God and in memory of David Lindsey, Crystal Smith, Haskell and Rena Lindsey and Maria and Ernesto Ramos by Mrs. Mirta Lindsey and Mrs. Mary Alice Lindsey Poore.

The Presence Candle in the sanctuary is given in memory for her grandparents, John Morpott


Piercy, Sr. and Anita Dorcey Mason Piercy, John Burl Eskridge and Mary Elizabeth Eskridge by Ms. Jean Shirley.

Parish Connections

Music	Donna Brooks 992-3738 dbrooksgwd@gmail.com
Altar Guild	Beverly Wilson 374-3507 bhallwilson@gmail.com
Acolytes	Mary Balfour Dunlap 615-900-6191 marybalfour@episcopalgreenwood.org
Christian Formation	Elizabeth Floyd 223-5426 elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org
Daughters of the King	Summer Booker (512) 417-5897 summer.b.booker@gmail.com
Readers/ EMs/Ushers	Denise Brown 223-5426 denise@episcopalgreenwood.org
Giving Records	Laurie Smith 223-5426 finance@episcopalgreenwood.org
Columbarium	Dean Faden dfaden@hotmail.com
CO3R Tutoring	Elizabeth Floyd 223-5426 elizabeth@episcopalgreenwood.org
Online Directory	Jo Ann Brewer 941-7199
Youth Group	Diana Carver 993-4665 Mary Balfour Dunlap 615-900-6191

January 2024 Ministry Schedule

If you cannot fill the position assigned, please make arrangements for your replacement, and let the Parish Office know of the change. Thank you!

	January 7 The First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ	January 14 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany	January 21 The Third Sunday after the Epiphany	January 28 The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Vestry of the Month	Diane Carver and Al Merrill			
Altar Guild	Cathy Robertson (Chair), Anne Magruder, Marilyn Gobble, Donna Holtzclaw, Noonie Fennell			
Readings	Genesis 1: 1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19: 1-7 Mark 1: 4-11	1 Samuel 3: 1-10 Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-17 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20 John 1: 43-51	Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 Psalm 62: 6-14 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 Mark 1: 14-20	Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13 Mark 1: 21-28
8:30 Holy Eucharist, Rite I				
1st Lesson and Psalm	Dean Faden	Dick Daffin	Emily Wallace	Deryl McGuire
2nd Lesson and Prayers of the People	Stephen Tucker	Chuck McDonnell	Stephen Tucker	Chuck McDonnell
E.M.	Gerld Normandt	Tom Rohrer	Sarah Contakos	Chuck McDonnell
Usher	Ken Rogers	Walker Moore	Stephen Tucker	Paul Criswell
10:30 Holy Eucharist, Rite II				
1st Lesson	Mary Charles Haigler	Ryan Floyd	Summer Booker	Norm Fawcett
2nd Lesson and Prayers of the People	Celie Mescall	Catie Robertson	Lori Stone	Ashley Woodiwiss
Eucharistic Ministers	Trisha Craven Connie Hammett	Karen Whitfield Adrian Little	Laura Beth Brooks Eddie Barber	Norm Fawcett Beverly Wilson
Crucifer	Cannon Wooten	Julia Donaghy	Rhett Allord	Leslie Juul Merrill
Book Bearer	TBA	Catie Robertson	Morgan Allord	TBA
Torchbearers	William Wooten John Cobb	Maggie Rochester Riley Floyd	Chloe Normandia Michael Floyd	Maggie Rochester Gracey Montage
Ushers	Helen and Jim Nazarro	Michael Whitfield Dan Hobbs	Allen Hughes Dan Hobbs	John Cobb Abney Wallace
Nursery/Volunteer(s)	Hope Scurry Mary Bright	Kim Russell Mary Bright	Marty Cobb Mary Bright	Rebecca Long Mary Bright
Hospitality	Summer Booker	Floyd Family	Beverly and Barry Wilson	TBA
Blessing Box	Dean Faden	Dean Faden	Dean Faden	Dean Faden
Flower Guild	Helen Nazarro	Ginger Long	Marilyn Bennett	Barbara Cameron
Acolyte Leader	Ken Rogers	Adrian Little	Jennifer Little	Adrian Little
Laundry Love	Paul Criswell	Mary Bright	Beverly Wilson	Susie Hinkle

RESURRECTION CELEBRATES WITH YOU

BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES
1 – Wells Anderson	17 – Tony Ball	8 – Jessica & Jon Brooks Newlon
1 – Lorah Perry	17 – Stephen Tucker	11 – Allison & Cannon Wooten
2 – David Higgins	21 – Aly Haigler	13 – Jane & Eddie Sanders
2 – John Russell	23 – Adrian Little	15 – Anne Marie & Troy Glawe
6 – Julie Allord	23 – Lila Putnum	15 – Carmen & Patrick Kinney
9 – Anna Padgett	27 – Delaney Floyd	16 – Elizabeth and Ryan Floyd
11 – Albert Merrill	27 – Leon Payne	16 – Denise & David Brown
11 – Clay Payne	27 – Shirley Walker	
12 – Beth Church	30 – Roger Dean	
12 – Paul Gillespie	31 – Michaela Payne	
12 – Troy Glawe	31 – Barbara Reeves	
12 – Malone Whitehead		
13 – Albert Faden		
13 – Rita Marshall		
14 – Dottie Russell		

Your prayers are asked for these members of our parish and members of our immediate families: Bill Arnold, Paul Criswell, Carol Dean, Steve Driskell, Tony Ernestine, Albert Faden, Joe Ferguson, Jim Gobble, Nan Hines, Diane Lawson, Mirta Lindsey, Rita Marshall, Mary Jane Mobley, Erich Normandía, Bette and Burl Ricker, Domer Ridings, Perrin Roper, Mary Jo Tolbert, Shirley Walker, Carol Wynne, Linda Criswell (Paul Criswell’s sister), Michael Dunlap (Murray Dunlap’s brother), Riley Gillam (Sandy and Chuck Gresham’s niece), Norton Hughes (John Hughes’ brother), Cheri Hutchison (Jo Ann and Bob Brewer’s daughter), Ian Kelso (Karen Bright’s brother), Jeanette Little (Adrian Little’s mom), Tommy Morgan (Robin Landford’s brother), JoAnn Lindsey Myers (Mirta Lindsey’s daughter), Carol Ann Pry (Susie Hinkel’s niece), Wick Scurry (John Scurry’s brother), Charlie Sheets (John & Susie Hinkle’s son-in-law), Mason Shirley, Stacey Spillum (Jo Ann Brewer’s niece), Bruce Stanley (Michael Whitfield’s nephew), and Marion and David Waters (Camilla Cathcart’s and Richard Cathcart’s aunt and uncle).

And for these persons: Lester and Cindy Farmer (Kim Russell’s friends), Vicki Hart (Bob and Jo Ann Brewer’s friend), Melody Johnson (Renee Love’s friend), Nancy May (Cindy Hughes’ friend), Jenny Perkey (Cindy Hughes’ friend), Gary Roper (Tom Stevens’ friend), Robin Ruhf (Robin Lanford’s friend), and Sandy Wilkie (Ross Ann Steifle’s daughter’s father-in-law).

Please send additions/deletions to the prayer list or family news and prayer concerns to Denise at denise@episcopalgreenwood.org or call 223-5426.

	Pledges (Actual)	Pledges (Budgeted)	Unpledged/Plate (Actual)	Unpledged/Plate (Budgeted)	Expenses (Actual)	Expenses (Budgeted)
Month as of 12/21/23	\$25,051	\$37,550	\$3,410	\$1,608	\$28,624	\$41,831
Year as of 12/21/23	\$430,213	\$421,400	\$22,441	\$17,500	\$446,453	\$453,596

We give thanks for your generosity, which makes the ministry of Resurrection possible!



From the Rafters

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Church of the Resurrection

Vestry Members Clergy and Staff

Jim Nazarro, Senior Warden
Eddie Barber
Diana Carver
Salley Cathcart
Mary Charles Haigler
Charlie Long
Deb Maschoff
Dawn Puderbaugh-Hodges
Jean E. Shirley
Stephen Tucker
Kelly Wiseman
Beverly Wilson
Adrian Little, Vestry Clerk
Archie Booker, Treasurer

Mary Balfour Dunlap, Rector
Al Hipp, Deacon
Donna Brooks, Director of Music Ministry
Denise A. Brown, Administrative Assistant
Elizabeth Floyd, Associate Lay Minister for
Families and Outreach
Cox Accounting, Financial Contractor
Mary Bright, Nursery Attendant
Catherine Brooks Sexton, RN, Parish Nurse