

#### **GOODBYE SUMMER!**

CCKids wrapped up the summer with a fun skating party at Castle Skateland! Kids and caregivers enjoyed lots of laughs, a few tumbles, skating contests, and of course—pizza.

The next CCKids event is coming up on **Friday, September 26:** the *Stuffed Animal Sleepover!* Kids will enjoy cookies and milk, story time, crafts, and games—then tuck in their favorite stuffed animal for a special overnight at the church building. On Sunday morning, children will reunite with their "stuffie" and receive a keepsake showing the fun their furry friend had while they were away. **Click here** for details and to register!

CCStudents closed out their summer with a week of serving others. They kicked things off by making over 100 sandwiches for Our Daily Bread Soup and Social Center in Over-the-Rhine, adding handwritten notes of encouragement for those in need. Bryce and a group of students delivered the sandwiches the next morning. Later in the week, students also pitched in to help tidy up the church basement. Huge thanks to all the teens who gave their time and energy to make a difference!

#### "BEAR" ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE

By Norman Coleman III, Chaplain

Imagine walking into a room to visit someone struggling with memory loss, difficulty with language, confusion with time or place, and the challenge of completing familiar tasks. You introduce yourself, set down the sack you've carried in, and with a smile offer both your company and a choice of a "comfort bear."

My name is Norman. I am a retired pastor and now a full-time hospice chaplain. I have the honor of distributing comfort bears, lovingly crafted by Christ's Church Bear Ministry over the past year. Here's one story...

To protect her privacy, I'll call her Susan. She was living in a memory care facility here in Cincinnati and has since passed on. When I entered her room, I introduced myself with a smile. Though she struggled to engage, she was able to respond with simple answers. I shared that I had something special for her and began pulling bears from my bag—actually, all the bears I had brought—and let her choose. After surveying them, she picked one and received it with a smile. I also made her a flower from a balloon, then prayed with her and reminded her of God's love, promising to return if she was comfortable with that.

Later that afternoon, I received this text from her nurse: "I just wanted to let you know how much our new admit at Saint Margaret loves her bear. She wasn't very engaged during the visit, but when I pointed out that you must have brought it, she lit up and had a huge smile. She even showed me her balloon flower. I think she was quite satisfied with your visit."

Often, it's not our words that matter most, but the simple acts of love we share. This ministry is a powerful witness for the Lord to people of every age and circumstance. May God continue to bless those who give of their heart and time to bring love and light to so many. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being part of it.







Congratulations to Marcia Higashi, who was baptized following the August 24th service! May this moment mark the beginning of many more steps of faith ahead.

# DIFFERENCE Maker MOMENTS!



Pat Smith, an avid handyman and faithful Difference Maker at Christ's Church, generously served this month by changing several air filters. We're so thankful for his hands-on service! If you'd like to be part of projects like this—helping with practical needs around the church grounds on an as-needed basis—click here for more info.

#### **SERVING TOGETHER AT MATTHEW 25 MINISTRIES**

Ann Andrews began a volunteer group at Matthew 25 Ministries a few months ago. We recently caught up with Ann to hear how things are going. This month, nine people served together, with some even enjoying lunch afterward at McAlister's. Their project involved unpacking boxes of shirts—removing plastic wrap, hangers, and price tags—then sorting everything into bins to be recycled or sent to those in need.

In past months, the group has helped with all kinds of projects, from sorting adult diapers to sealing lotion bottles to organizing shoes. This time, they also served alongside a large group of teens who traveled from Michigan for a week of volunteering.

The volunteer group always enjoy this time together while making a real difference. If you'd like to join in on this monthly serving opportunity, we'd love to have you! <u>Click here</u> for more info or to register.

#### IMPACTING TOMORROW OPENS DOORS IN MILFORD

This month, Impacting Tomorrow celebrated the opening of a first-of-its-kind, 45,000-square-foot facility in Milford. Under one roof, families will now find access to food, clothing, medical and dental care, pediatric therapy, and other wraparound services. Their mission is to help bridge the gap for families during difficult seasons, and we are grateful to partner with such an impactful ministry.





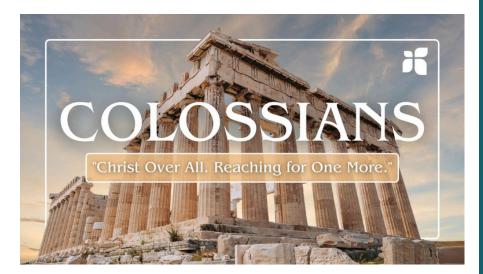


#### SEPTEMBER SERMON SERIES: COLOSSIANS

This fall we're going on a 10-week journey through the New Testament book of Colossians, discovering what it means to be all in with Christ. The apostle Paul reminds us that when we go all in with Jesus, changes must take place in every part of our lives—including our prayers, our relationships, even our everyday choices. Colossians reveals how we can practically live fully surrendered so that we can be Difference Makers and reach our One Mores. Join us each Sunday as we dig deep into this amazing book and discover what it really means to be All In with Christ.

September 7 – The Gospel That Grows September 14 – Shaped by Prayer September 21 – Christ Over All September 28 – Glory in Suffering

Weeks 5-10 continue in October and November.



### **ATTENDANCE & GIVING**

AUG 3	<b>521</b>	\$53,883
AUG 10	551	\$51,858
AUG 17	<b>531</b>	\$36,352
AUG 24	539	

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