

## Healing Grace

By Stephanie Convey

Many of us had the privilege of attending the Becoming Whole Conference in October. It was a time of teaching and of receiving ministry, related to the barriers that can keep us from receiving all of God's love for us, and through us. These barriers can be from pains and wounds from infancy (and before), our childhood, patterns in our family of origin, lack of father or mother love, wounds from abuse of any kind, or from our own poor decisions. Based on the conference evaluations, one of the topics that really resonated with our community, was working toward an understanding of dysfunction in our families of origin, and how God can break patterns and lies that took hold and still bring us pain or cause us to sin (knowingly or unknowingly) today. For example, you may have deep disappointments related to your family relationships; you may have been rejected or excluded when you didn't meet up to expectations (spoken or unspoken); you may realize in retrospect that you were expected to maintain an unhealthy communication dynamic in your



Photo: Wendy Dixon

family. The upcoming three monthly healing services on Saturdays will be focused on this topic. There will be a short time of teaching, followed by the opportunity to receive prayer from prayer team members. Facing these dysfunctions can be painful. But here's a spoiler alert: all families are dysfunctional! Thank God we serve a Redeemer. Not only does God heal and save us from ourselves and from darkness, He also redeems it all, even the seemingly unforgivable things I've done or that someone has done to me. That's Amazing Grace!

There are several opportunities at CTR to receive prayer ministry for healing:

- 1) go to the back of the sanctuary for prayer after the 11am service
- 2) tell the church office that you would like to sign up for "in-depth prayer", which means receiving

prayer ministry for a few hours, which allows more time for going deeper  
3) come to the Saturday healing service once a month at the church (new series starts January 21)

4) email one of the priests/ministers and ask if they would be willing to pray with you for confession or other needs.

Prayer needs are always kept private and confidential; the prayer team takes this very seriously. Any situation in which you long to see God's healing touch, can be a reason to ask for healing prayer. Letting other people pray with and for you has a spiritual significance to it. We are instructed to pray for one another, and with one another (James 5:14-16) (Matthew 18:19). It's part of how we become one, just as Jesus prayed that we would (John 17).

I encourage you, yes YOU, to jump in! If you don't need prayer, consider asking for a blessing, and see how God might move in your heart and life. And always feel free to ask for prayer not knowing what you need it for. God knows what you need, and ALWAYS acts in Love. Don't be afraid.

## Today at CTR

**FORUM SERIES:** Today at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall, "The Centrality of Forgiveness." The fifth in our *Keep Calm and Love Your Neighbor* dialogue series.

**THE ANCHOR:** Junior High Youth group today at the Keifer home from 2-4pm. Refreshments, games, and a Bible Study. Contact Fr. Brian for info, [brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org](mailto:brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org).

## This Week at CTR



**WINTER PLAYGROUP:** Kids feeling cooped up this winter? Then come get their sillies out at Winter Playgroup! Caregivers with children from ages 0-5 years old, Tuesday mornings from 9-10:30 a.m., January 17th through March. Contact Rachel Nimon, or emma.acker@ctr-anglican.org.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** The Women's Ministry offers a weekly Bible study for women of all ages. The group meets in the Parish Hall every Thursday, from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. for fellowship, refreshments, Scripture study, discussion, and shared prayer. Led by Carol Powers Sheridan, we will walk in gratitude, unity, and joy as we study the book of Philippians. Contact Kim Ober, kimwober@msn.com, with questions or to request materials.

**WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY** meets in the Sacristy on Tuesdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Contact Richard Thorndike, 978-922-3618, for more information.

**PRAYER FOR CTR'S STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS:** Join us to pray, Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Sacristy.

## Upcoming Events

**CANDLEMAS CHORAL EVENSONG:** Sunday, January 29, 5:00 p.m., in the Church, with incense, to commemorate the Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple (Candlemas). Candles will be blessed, and the congregation will light candles and process if desired in the festal procession while singing hymns to celebrate Christ the Light of the World. Choral Evensong is possibly the most distinctive Anglican service and is noted for its extraordinarily thrilling music. The Choir of Christ the Redeemer will sing music by John Bertalot, Hugh Blair, Gideon Cox, and Charles Wood. Fr. Tim Clayton will officiate; Deacon Adam Gosnell will preach a brief homily. Child care will

be provided; a reception will follow. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Pray to God by candlelight and with glorious music.

**MEN OF CTR:** Saturday, January 21, is our Third Saturday Men's Breakfast. Join us in the Parish Hall, from 8:30-10:30 a.m. for food, fellowship, discussion and prayer. Newcomers always welcome. If you want to bring along a breakfast entrée or accompaniment to share, please contact David Greening, david.greening@ctr-anglican.org.

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** is starting! Confirmation is for those looking to made a post-baptismal profession of faith or to be received from a different church tradition. We will meet weekly, starting January 22nd at 10:00 a.m. in the Baptistry. Contact Dcn Adam for more information, adam.gosnell@ctr-anglican.org.



**WOMEN'S BRUNCH:** Please join us for our Winter Women's Brunch on Saturday, January 28. Learning how to thrive in the "in-between" times. Come hear the stories of two women in our community who began to understand in a deeper way how to linger and listen well to God during times of great change in their lives. RSVP and sign-up for a dish to bring using our SignUpGenius account, [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/409084DADAC2DAAF85-ctwinter](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/409084DADAC2DAAF85-ctwinter) or email Kim Ober, kimwober@msn.com.

**VISITING ARCHBISHOP:** Saturday, February 4, Archbishop Benjamin Kwashi, Diocese of Jos, Nigeria, will be speaking at **10:15 a.m.** and **2:30 p.m.** at All Saints' Anglican Cathedral, Amesbury, as part of SOMA: Mission in New England Conference. For more information or to register please visit <https://adne.webconnex.com/soma-new-england>.

**GO CONFERENCE NEW ENGLAND:** February 17-18, Worcester, MA. Keynote speakers and workshops. Group ticket discount is available. For more information, [www.goconf.org](http://www.goconf.org).

## Cast Your Cares *Healing Wounds of Heart and Mind*

Third Saturday Healing Services

5 p.m. January 21, February 18, March 18

Understanding dysfunction in our families of origin,  
and how God can heal unhealthy patterns.

## Children's Classes

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:** Children of every age are encouraged to participate in the service as well as their age-related classes. Our classes follow the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd curriculum. Further information is available on our church website, [ctrnorthshore.org](http://ctrnorthshore.org).

**Nursery Atrium:** Care is provided for children ages 0-3 throughout the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services.

**9:00 a.m.** — During the sermon, children of all ages are invited to gather in the Baptistry for a time of prayer, scripture, and song.

**10:00 a.m.** — Children's Formation Hour: Children ages 3-5 and 9-12 meet in the Sheepfold, our temporary modular classroom. Children ages 6-8 meet on the Parish Hall stage.

**11:00 a.m.** — At the singing of the Gloria, children depart for Catechesis in procession, following the Cross. Children ages 3-5 go left to the Sheepfold; children ages 6+ go right to the Parish Hall. They return during the Offertory for Holy Communion.

**During all services**, the Retreat Room (in the back of the church) is provided for you to use with a restless child. From there you can see and hear the service.

## Youth Activities

**Junior High** students (grades 6-8) meet for "The Anchor", Bible-study and worship while building relationships with mentors and young-adult leaders from our congregation. Every Sunday afternoon from 2-4 p.m. at the Keifer family home in Danvers, following the lunch after the 11 a.m. service. Contact Fr. Brian for more information, [brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org](mailto:brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org).

**Senior High** students (grades 9-12) have lunch and discussion together with Fr. Brian, following the 11 a.m. service (12:30-1:30 p.m.) every other Sunday. Contact Fr. Brian, [brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org](mailto:brian.barry@ctr-anglican.org).

## College Students

College students meet for lunch after the 11 a.m. service at a designated table in the Parish Hall. Other events are happening throughout the year. Contact Devin, [dmcginis@gordonconwell.edu](mailto:dmcginis@gordonconwell.edu).

## A Letter from Father Tim

Dear CTR Family,

There are two important things I want to address today.

The first is to say a great "Thank you!" to everyone who was able to make a special year-end gift. The response was fantastic; it is deeply heartening to see the love for CTR that so many have, and the acts of faith so many of you practiced. It turns out that December became the single largest month we have ever experienced in terms of giving, and we were able to catch up to where we need to be. I am delighted to call us to give thanks to our Lord Jesus and to mark, yet again, God's faithfulness to us.

I also wanted to share an update on our Strategic Plan, and what's happening there. To give a quick reminder of the story: in September of 2016 the Vestry approved a new Strategic Plan that painted a picture of where the Vestry saw God leading CTR in the coming season and for several years to come. One might say that moment was, in truth, the beginning of the real work, work that has begun now but also that will stretch out for several years.

Since then I have been working with a small steering committee that has continued to meet and plan for implementation. Periodically I will want to share a quick overview of what's happening with all of this:

- First of all, we developed a detailed implementation plan, which means we prioritised the various projects and sort out who is doing what. It's important to remember that while some of the work associated with the Strategic Plan has already begun, some of it will likely not be begun for a few years.

- At the Annual Meeting and in the 10 a.m. hour over a handful Sundays I discussed the plan — our Vision, Mission, and the core six categories which are addressed.

- So far we have begun working in three of those six categories:

*continued overleaf*

*Strategic Plan Update—Continued from page 3*

## Stewardship Strategic Focus Area

- We have launched a Stewardship Committee that will be focusing on how we can deepen our overall thinking about giving as a spiritual discipline, and on how we can communicate better about giving.
- We are working on launching Building and Grounds Team that will work with David Greening to give attention to our overall significant campus needs and physical plant needs (major repairs, capital improvements, etc.), and also will be continuing work to develop options (architectural, financial, missional) for completing the CTR campus — adding space, especially for children’s ministry, but also for youth, for adult formation, and offices.
- We have contracted with an outside consultant who specialises in narrative evaluation technique to continue development of our Rector and for informing discussions between the Rector and the Vestry.
- We hired a communications director and constituted a communications committee to advise on and execute communication strategy.
- We have begun evaluating our organization of staff and responsibilities in the church office, to include beginning process of revising written job descriptions or staff.

## Formation Strategic Objective

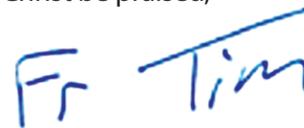
- A Youth Advisory Committee has begun meeting regularly with Fr Brian, in particular to plan for how best to build our high school youth program, as we now have more youth entering that stage of life.
- Coming out of the Becoming Whole Conference in October we have begun a Lay Leadership Development Group with Isaiah 40. This is a small, prototype team going through a discipleship program and our doing this is in part as a test as to how this might help us to build a discipling culture.

## Witness and Cultural Engagement

- A team of folks has begun discerning how the Lord might be calling CTR to engage marginalized groups in our area, particularly whether the Lord may be calling us to care for vulnerable children.
- I have engaged a Gordon Conwell seminary student to identify a core handful of churches in transferable cultural contexts and which have an effective work of witness. He is visiting and interviewing staff and/or lay leaders of the relevant ministries in these churches with an eye toward suggesting and testing creative means of witness here on the North Shore.
- We’ve set up a ride request email process for college students for Sunday mornings.
- CTR hosted a North Shore Gospel Partnership gathering.
- The “Keep Calm and Love your Neighbor” series is rolling along, and we’re working on spreading the word about it through signage and social media . The series is aimed at training us for and encouraging our witness.

Last year’s strategic planning process bore great fruit simply through all that comes from the process of seeking God earnestly. But also be encouraged that there are very practical, urgent, and impactful steps being taken to help us fulfill God’s vision for CTR. You are also invited to join us for prayer on Wednesday evenings at 7 for prayer for CTR and that the Gospel would capture the imagination Boston’s North Shore to the glory of Jesus Christ.

May Jesus Christ be praised,  
Fr Tim



***That The Gospel capture the imagination  
of Boston’s North Shore to the glory of Jesus Christ.***