

The Grateful Heart

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
April 2011 NEWSLETTER

Holy Week Worship with Christ Church

Saturday & Sunday, April 16 & 17; Palm Sunday Weekend

Blessing of the Palms and the Reading of the Passion
Saturday Worship **5:30 PM** gather outside
Sunday Worship **9:00 AM & 10:45 AM**
Nursery Care available on Saturday evening
Children's Chapel and nursery care at both Sunday services

Wednesday, April 20

7:45 AM Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
A quiet, meditative celebration of the Lord's Supper

Thursday, April 21; Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM Worship; Foot-washing and the Holy Eucharist
Nursery Care available

Friday, April 22; Good Friday

9:00 AM Worship; the Good Friday Liturgy
At the end of this worship service, we will pray for each household of Christ Church by name.
7:00 PM Worship; Stations of the Cross
Gather in the worship space
Nursery Care available

Saturday, April 23; Easter Eve

5:30 PM Worship; Family Easter Celebration
Nursery Care available

Sunday, April 24; Easter Day

6:30 AM Worship; Sunrise Service
An ancient way to begin Easter Day, gathered outside to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection, and ours.
Weather permitting, this service will be held outdoors.
In case of inclement weather, we will gather in the worship space.
Following worship, breakfast is served in the GCC until 8:00 AM

9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Worship; Festive Easter Day worship
Nursery care available at the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM worship services

As well...

Stations of the Cross will be in the worship space beginning the afternoon of Sunday, April 17 for private meditation.

7:45 AM community prayers on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday of Holy Week.
6:00 PM evening prayers on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week.

Dear Friends,

So it finally happened. I'm generally pretty diligent about making sure what happened in worship this weekend doesn't happen; I take steps to prevent it. For example, I generally don't take my cell phone over to the worship space on a Sunday morning; or if I do, remember early on to silence it. But not all the time, so I'm oddly grateful for those people who at a large gathering have their cell phone go off in the middle of a speech. It reminds me to turn my phone off. I never want to be the one who interrupts the speaker—especially at a poignant moment—with an outburst of my sweet saunter of a ring-tone, or the urgent beep-beep-beep announcing that I have received a text message.

Diligence failed me this past weekend. The cause of my distraction is unbeknownst to me; and really, it doesn't matter very much. But this past Sunday at the 9:00 AM service it finally happened. I was in the middle of the message—smack dab in the middle of the best I could offer on Zacchaeus and the Parable of the Pounds—when I heard the familiar “beep beep beep.” A very familiar sound to me; one heard often when one has three children with cell phones. And it was loud. Noticeably loud...noticeable not just to me, I could tell, but to others—at least those sitting near the front. Loud. Loud, in fact, as if it was very close by. Which it was. As close, I quickly realized, as my own pocket.

Now it's one thing to have someone else's cell phone start ringing when one is addressing a large group of people. It happens, and you get used to it, and it's no big deal. The people whose phones start ringing are always more embarrassed that it's happened than those around them are annoyed that it's happened. It's a little bit different, I quickly realized, when your own cell phone starts beeping—LOUDLY—while you, yourself, are speaking. You hope that no one heard it. (That hope was dashed soon after worship.) One's first instinct, of course, is to answer it. Not a good idea. One's second thought is to stop what one is saying and apologize for the interruption. An apology might be appropriate, but in the end would only make the interruption more noticeable.

So in the end, what you do is smile and keep on keeping on. You let flit through your soul the simple prayer “bring me back, Lord.” And in this case, “bring them back.” You get back to it; you don't make a big deal out of something that's not a big deal; you don't worry too much about the past; and you trust that God will make something good happen despite one's own imperfections.

It's a little thing; the embarrassing result of an innocent oversight. No big deal. But maybe sometimes the little things happen to remind us of more important things...

...that there may be things in our past concerning which it is high time to shrug our shoulders, let it drop, and give ourselves a break. After all, God gives breaks; maybe we need to give ourselves one, too. In the words of the Psalmist, we pray to be made clean and right in Lent. We are.

...that our own imperfections and incompleteness—even our own sinfulness—give the Lord space to move into our lives and make his presence known. Humility is a grace by which we are opened up...to God, to one another, and to truthfulness. The next time I “tsk-tsk” someone's phone making itself known at an inappropriate time, may the Lord give me the grace to remember first the log in my own eye and apply the lesson to moments and events in my life a whole lot more significant than inappropriate cell phone management.

...that some things are very serious...homelessness, hunger, violence towards one another, an imperiled environment. What's happening in Japan and Libya. Some things in our own lives, they're pretty serious, too. And we hear about serious things happening in other people's lives all the time. But some things we think are serious aren't very serious at all. There is more grace than we sometimes think in being able to laugh at ourselves and our own foibles.

...that confession is good for the soul, as the old saying goes. It is also another way our own imperfections are brought to light...the awareness of which is the only way, really, we can make amends and take steps to live differently. I will certainly pay more attention to my cell phone's status during worship services. May it also remind me to pay more attention to the status of my relationships with God and others; and that maybe there are a few other changes in my life the God who changes and makes new is working on...

...and finally, that maybe God is inviting me to the Lenten practice of mindfulness; of paying attention; of slowing down. Distractedness often is a symptom of hurriedness; and hurriedness is sometimes a symptom of thinking we're too much in charge. When the truth is God is in charge, and all will be well.

And also...I think this Sunday morning (and Saturday evening) I'll leave my cell phone in my office.

Blessings

Paul

Dear Friends,

In May of 2010, following the devastating earthquake, Christ Church traveled to Haiti, for the second time, to initiate a partnership with the Episcopal Church of Haiti. While there we learned of the total destruction of St. Marc Episcopal Church and agreed to join in a partnership with St. Marc to help them rebuild.

We're reversing our mission effort this spring. Instead of sending a team to Haiti, we've invited our new friend, rector of St. Marc, Lilavois, The Rev. Henry Fritz Valdema and his wife Carmel, to be with Christ Church, **April 26-May 2**, to begin our partnership.

Christ Church is excited to formally begin its official partnership with St. Marc, one of six churches under the leadership of Pere Val, three of which have been destroyed by the earthquake. With the exodus of people leaving Port-au-Prince following the earthquake, Lilavois is now saturated with people seeking a church home. Churches, as you know, in Haiti often have serve in multiple roles, as schools, clinics, and safe havens for folks to flock. Our partnership with Pere Val and St. Marc will help our brothers and sisters in Christ find a safe, secure home for worship, a tasty meal, sound teaching, and clean shelter from the horrors and long term effects of the earthquake.

Church is people, serving and caring for one another. This is the heart of mission work. Building relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ, near and far. Our mission with Pere Val, and St. Marc, over the years, is to rebuild the wall surrounding the now rubble strewn property of St. Marc; and to rebuild the church building itself. But, we all know, Church is not just a building. In Haiti, our friends need us to help them be the Church. When Jesus commissioned his disciples to make disciples of all nations, he meant, connect one to another, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, forming lasting loving relationships in the faith. Our mission work with our new found friends in Haiti is essential and two sided: building long lasting foundations with one another in relationship as well as the very buildings that house the Church.

Should you feel called to host Pere Val and Carmel, have them for dinner, show them the sights of greater Richmond, give them a taste of the gracious and warm hospitality of Christ Church, please, contact Susan Bruce (273-1977) and she'll be glad to connect you to ways to entertain Pere Val and Carmel.

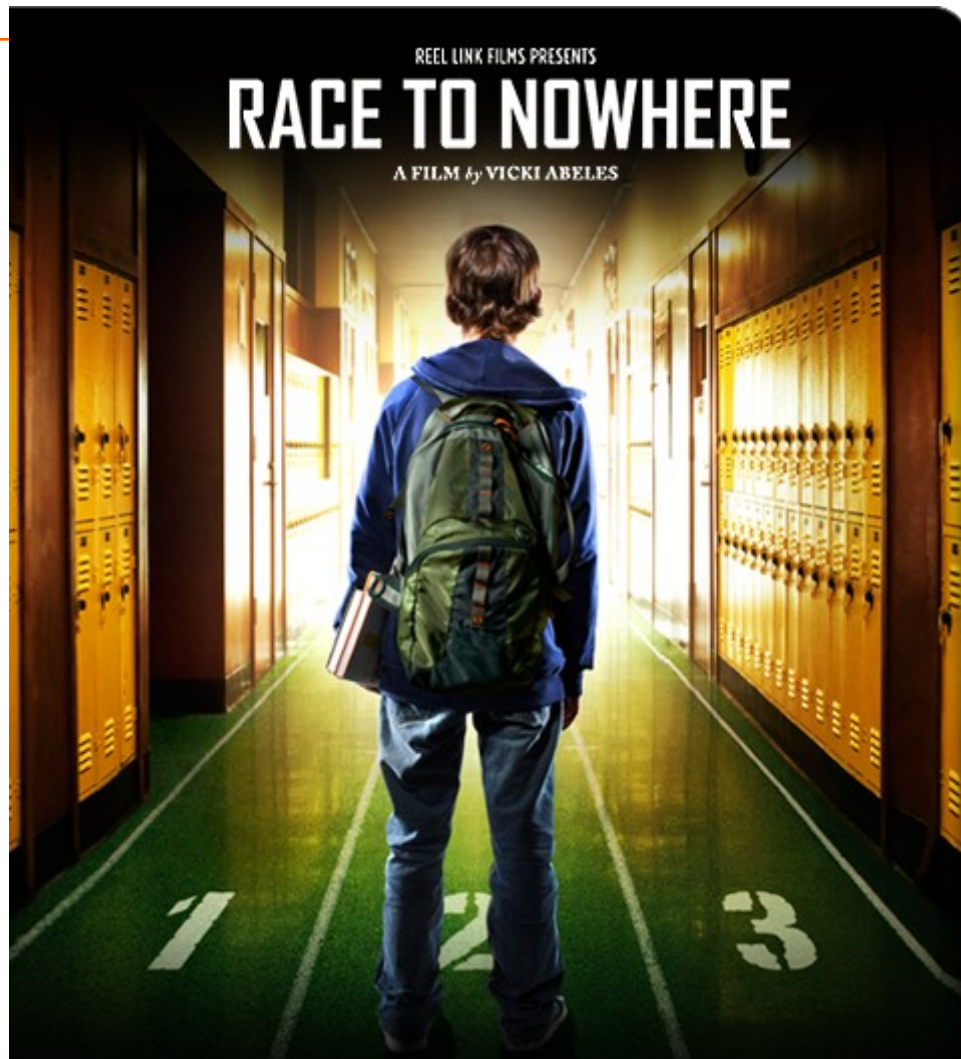
Pere Val and Carmel, will be with just after Easter, April 26-May 2. We're excited for Pere Val to preach Saturday April 30 and Sunday, May 1 at each service. He's looking forward to sharing his mission message for St. Marc and our role in the partnership.

This is a different kind of mission, flipping the visit, inviting our friends from Haiti to join us here, in Short Pump, at Christ Church. But, the truth is, not all are able to travel on mission. Pere Val's visit brings all of Christ Church to St. Marc and is certain to inform and equip many for further trips to Haiti. Our next trip is scheduled for July 10th. Please, plan to be present to meet Pere Val, and Carmel, who runs a medical clinic just outside of Port-au-Prince, during their visit April 26-May 2.

We're all called to serve. May you find this reverse mission, flipping the mission, a call to stretch and grow in God's call to serve with our new friends of St. Marc, Lilavois, Haiti. You will be an exceptional gift to them.

Blessings,
Hillary

showing
@ Christ Church
May 1, 6:30 pm



Race to Nowhere is a call to action for families, educators, and policy makersto challenge current assumptions on how to best prepare the youth of America to become healthy, bright, contributing and leading citizens.

Purchase tickets at <http://rtchristchurchva.eventbrite.com/>

Help! My child is going to 6th grade !

Nervous about your child going into middle school? You are not alone. Fortunately, we have some helpful information to share with you about easing the transition from children's ministry to youth ministry. Here are some common questions we hear from parents like you.

Why is this transition important?

There are a few times in the course of a faith journey when people commonly stop being actively involved in building their relationship with Christ. The transition between 5th and 6th grade is one of those times. In 6th grade, youth begin to find their niche and decide what their extracurricular priorities will be. It's easier to start with your peers when they are also new to youth group than to realize it's important in 8th grade.

How is youth ministry different than children's ministry?

One of the major surface differences is our meeting times. Middle school youth meet from 3:30 to 5:30 on Sundays and have small groups that meet at various times during the week. This means that you will have to make an extra effort to make sure your child is involved. Another major difference is the content. A typical Sunday youth group looks like this: active games, a worship band, a message given by Joe or Jenna, and occasionally discussion group time. Finally, youth have more events and trips than children.

What are some important dates and times for me to know?

- Moving on up picnic: May 15th at 12:30
- First youth group that rising 6th graders can attend: June 26th
- Volunteer or participate at Vacation Bible School (July 11-15)

How can I help my child get acclimated to the youth ministry?

- Come to youth group. Talk to your youth about coming to youth group and decide to try it at least three times before you even come.
- Join a small group. Small groups will start in the fall. This is a time when youth will be with peers closest to their age and have the opportunity to make friends in a more intimate (and possibly less intimidating) way.
- Meet with Joe and Jenna. You can come by yourself or bring your youth. This will help us to know you better and help you and/or your youth to feel more comfortable. You can also share with us any concerns and alert us to things that might be helpful to know about your youth.
- Plan to send your youth on the Fall Retreat. This is a great time for youth to develop deeper relationships with one another, their leaders, and God. Although many parents are nervous and unsure about whether their child is ready to be away from home, it's only a two-night event and your child will not be far away. Additionally, it's a critical time for them to get connected.

How can I get connected for information?

- Join the parent e-mail list. Contact Joe or Jenna to get signed up.
- Visit our website: www.ccgauge.org.
- Check the church bulletin and email blast for announcements.
- Talk to Joe or Jenna. Jenna works most closely with the middle school youth, but you can talk to either of us.

How can I help with youth ministry?

- Be a greeter and check students in. This only requires that you come for the first 30 minutes.
- Participate with Service Saturday monthly.
- Come with us on retreats and other trips.
- Be a part of our Youth Ministry Team.
- Look out for easy ways to help in the email blast.

Hopefully, these things will be helpful as you begin to help your child transition from children's ministry to youth ministry. Please feel free to contact either of us with any questions or concerns that you might have, and remember to come to the picnic at 12:30 on May 15th!

Grace and Peace,
[Jenna Vinci](#)
Associate Youth Minister

(804)364-0394 x16 (church)
(843)685-9832 (cell)

[Rebecca Guzman](#)
Children's Minister

(804)364-0394 x13 (church)
(843)727-5900 (cell)

Rebuilding Together Richmond



Do you like to help people? Do like to work with your hands? I have just the opportunity for you. It's called Rebuilding Together. This is a fun one-day activity where you get to make a difference in someone's life right here in Richmond.

**Christ Church will be repairing two houses
Saturday, April 30th from 8am to 5pm.**

Rebuilding Together is a volunteer-based program that repairs and rehabilitates homes and non-profit community facilities. We help low income, elderly, and disabled people who own their homes but are unable to maintain them. The program is centered around a one-day "blitz", held the last Saturday in April, when over 1500 volunteers each year make both major and minor repairs to qualified homes. Our focus is to provide warmth, safety, and independence to the elderly and disabled. We are rebuilding homes, and rebuilding lives.

Repairs include interior and exterior painting, hand rail repair and installation, bathroom repairs and energy efficiency improvements. Opportunities are available to those who are not 'handy'.

Who can participate? anyone 14 years old and older and willing to work !

Can you help? Contact [Jay Theado](mailto:jtheado@comcast.net) jtheado@comcast.net

Youth, age 14 and older are invited to participate.

Sign up on the Garage website at:

<http://www.ccgaraage.org/index.cfm/PageID/829/index.html>

Altar Flower Dedications

If you would like to make a dedication for Altar Flowers on a particular weekend, please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway off the Milling Area(near the restrooms...on the way to the parlor).

Suggested donation for a dedication is \$40.

(The church office will call you to get the wording for your dedication.)

Easter Flower Dedications

You may dedicate flower/s for the services on Easter week-end.

A dedication form can be found in the Milling Area. Cost is \$15.

Deadline for submitting your flower dedication is SUNDAY< APRIL 17.

Haiti Mission Trip

A mission trip is scheduled for July 11-18

Everyone interested, please contact Susan Bruce
(273-1977 shornsbybruce@verizon.net)

Vacation Bible School



July 11-15
9:00 am—Noon

Register online at:

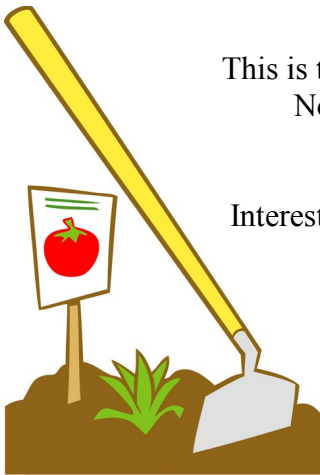
<http://www.christchurchrichmond.com/vbs>

Mustard Seed Garden

The Mustard Seed Garden returns!

This is the second year of our community garden.
No experience is necessary
...even if you've never gardened before, we'll help you learn.

Interested?



TEN 4 x 4 plots remain.
Each participant is asked to make a donation (\$10 minimum per plot) that will help cover expenses of water, sprinklers, and some community tools.

Interested in reserving a plot?
Contact Barry Hayes (314-1998)

Mustard Seed Garden

The season officially begins on Sunday April 10.
There will be a Mustard Seed Garden workday
from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. We'll be doing clean-up and prep
for the planting season. Hope to see you at the garden!

Youth Ministry

Youth Ministers want to know...

If your son or daughter has a sports schedule, a recital, concert or performance coming up they want to know about it! We would love to come out and support him or her. The sooner we know the better. Send an email to Joe or Jenna.

Middle School Summer Trip Meeting

Wednesday, April 13 7:00 pm

There will be a Middle School Mission Summer Trip Meeting in the GCC. This is for everyone attending the mission trip in June. Here you will receive trip information, what to bring, the necessary forms and some information about our pre-trip service day. See you there!

High School Retreat

May 13-15 Join us as we explore what it means to live a life of love that Jesus call us to, Also experience the love of one on the tallest and longest zip lines on the East Coast as well as a pretty sweet log cabin. The cost is \$125 / person and includes food and lodging. We will leave from Christ Church at 3:30 PM on Friday and return sometime on Sunday . Let me know if you have any questions. j.torrence@christchurchrichmond.com
Register [HERE](#) Cost is \$125. . Make checks payable to Christ Church, there are scholarships available.

Youth Group Schedule

April 17

3:30 Middle School Youth Group
5:30 Youth Choir
6:30 Senior High Youth Group

April 24

No Youth Groups (Easter Sunday)

May 1

6:30 pm Showing of Race to Nowhere
Everyone invited including parents, neighbors
and friends

YOUTH: Rebuilding Richmond Together

Sign up now for Rebuilding Together on Saturday April 30 from 8:30 Am -4 PM. This will be our April and May Service Saturday .
<http://www.ccgaraage.org/index.cfm/PageID/829/index.html>

Womens Bible Study

Wednesday morning women's bible study is finishing up the school year by starting a new study. We will be spending our last 8 weeks studying

“No Other Gods: Confronting Our Modern Day Idols”

by Kelly Minter.

We will look at the things in our lives that stand between us and our relationship with God. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, April 13, going through June 8. (Excludes April 20 for Spring Break.) Group meets 9:30 - 11:30.

If you would like to join us (or have any questions) please contact Becky Hansell (270-1395) Childcare is provided.



Flowers are blooming and so are our preschoolers! It's hard to believe we only have eight weeks remaining with our children! The year has passed quickly, and it's been delightful to watch the preschoolers learn and grow. A day never passes when they do not teach us something new! Each school day is filled with surprises, making it a joy to teach and nurture these young children.

Our month is filled with many opportunities for the children to learn through play and exploration. We're growing gardens, keeping our Earth beautiful by recycling, learning about animal habitats, and spring. Mary Jo Whimple, better known as the "Anti-Litter Lady" will visit our PreK children and teach them about recycling. Super Songbird will visit and take our children on an adventure in search of the missing rainbow colors. The 4's and PreK will pack their bags, complete with their passports, and will pretend travel to India, Sweden, and Guatemala to learn about different customs and cultures in the world. They will experience new games, toys, currency, and sample foods from each country. In addition, our children attend Chapel on a weekly basis with Miss Hillary. They are nourished each week with an age-appropriate Bible story/verse and feel and share God's unconditional love during their song and prayer time.

Don't let me forget our annual Bike-A-Thon! Children will bring their bikes, tricycles, helmets, and ride the bike course until their legs can no longer pedal! Each year we ride for a local organization and help other children in the greater Richmond area through donations the children have collected. This year we have chosen The Circle Preschool as our recipient. The Circle Preschool works in collaboration with SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) and serves children who demonstrate significant social and emotional difficulties stemming from trauma. Our Bike-A-Thon will also invite special guests to join us for this eventful morning. Officer DeShayzo will discuss bike safety while Jeanine Harper from The Circle Preschool will talk with our children about helping others. Christ Church Preschool will host our fourth annual Bike-A-thon on Wednesday, April 27 with a rain date of Thursday, April 28. Bring your bike and helmet, and come join us for a fun-filled morning!

We continue to register new students each week. We currently have a few openings remaining. For more information, please contact me at cheri@christchurchpreschool.com, or by phone at 364-5905. You can also visit our website at www.christchurchpreschool.com to learn more about our program. As always, "Let your Light Shine!"

Cheri Erk
Executive Director

The 8th Annual
HOPE FOR HUMANITY'S

WALK FOR SUDAN

REGISTRATION AT 1:30 PM

WALK BEGINS AT 2:00 PM

Sunday, May 1, 2011

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL,
5000 POUNCEY TRACT RD.
GLEN ALLEN, VIRGINIA 23059



The Walk for Sudan is a "fun walk" to raise funds for the Hope and Resurrection Secondary School in South Sudan. This year, we will graduate our first class! Come and join us in educating the future leaders of the world's soon to be newest nation.

We seek individuals or teams to raise money and walk! Individuals are encouraged to bring friends or family and are asked to collect donations, (of any amount, not per mile) and bring their contribution to the event where they can walk and enjoy live music and fun-filled activities.

Contributors of \$150 or more will receive an exclusive *Walk for Sudan* tee-shirt as an additional thank you!

Hope for Humanity Inc., PO Box 29117,
Richmond, VA 23242 (804) 784-3830

For additional information, please visit us at
www.hopeforhumanityinc.org



Get your sponsor form at the Christ Church website:

<http://www.christchurchrichmond.com/walkforsudan>

Money Sanity Solutions

...*linking money and meaning* a three week small group study opportunity.

Author Nathan Dungan has visited Christ Church on two occasions and many of us have benefited from his teaching on money matters.

His newest book is "Money Sanity Solutions" and he's asked Christ Church to preview this book and provide feedback.

A small group plans to meet for 3 weeks (Thursdays: April 28, May 5, May 12) (8:00 – 9:00 am.) If you would like to participate or have any questions, please contact Becky Hansell (270-1395)

There is no fee for the class. (Books will be provided by Nathan Dungan.)

Reading or participating in previous classes: (Share, Save, Spend or the "Financial Sanity" series) is not a prerequisite.

AFRECS

American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (AFRECS)

The American Friends of the Episcopal Church of Sudan, founded in 2005, is a network of individuals, churches, dioceses, and other organizations that seeks to focus attention on the needs and priorities of the Episcopal Church of Sudan (ECS) and enable American friends to assist the ECS in meeting the needs of the Sudanese people.

Christ Church is pleased to host the National Conference of AFRECS
June 17-19, 2011

Some people attending the conference may wish to stay at a home rather than a hotel. Would you be willing to open your home to welcome an out of town guest?

Most guests will arrive on Friday, June 17 or Saturday, June 18 (a few may arrive a day earlier: Thursday, June 16).

Host responsibilities would be to provide a room and transportation between your home and Christ Church.

If you would be willing to host a guest or two, or if you have questions, please contact Jennifer Ernst.(784-3830)

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AFRECS National Conference



Easter

*If you would prefer to receive the monthly newsletter electronically,
please send an email to Josie, at j.sicheri@christchurchrichmond.com*

www.christchurchrichmond.com



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