

Becky Cheatham

10:06:25:03 [Eric Darling]: And Got it. Thank you sir.

10:06:29:11 [Becky Cheatham]: Y'all are so impressive here. Look at all this. Wow. Hmm.

10:06:38:00 [Mickey Youmans]: Happy.

10:06:38:15 [Eric Darling]: Say when you're set, Mickey.

10:06:43:10 [Becky Cheatham]: I wonder if I should have a Kleenex set.

10:06:45:08 [Mickey Youmans]: Ready to go.

10:06:46:07 [Eric Darling]: Okay, Tom, anytime.

10:06:48:22 [Tom Kohler]: Good morning. Becky Cheatham.

10:06:50:15 [Becky Cheatham]: Hello Tom Kohler.

10:06:51:16 [Tom Kohler]: How are you?

10:06:52:11 [Becky Cheatham]: Well enough.

10:06:53:07 [Tom Kohler]: Good. We appreciate you coming in this morning.

10:06:55:23 [Becky Cheatham]: Pleasure.

10:06:56:11 [Tom Kohler]: Well thank you. Well, I'm going to ask you a series of questions today.

10:07:00:10 [Becky Cheatham]: Sure.

10:07:01:07 [Tom Kohler]: And the first question is, if you don't mind your name and if you would spell it as well, your full name and spell it as well.

10:07:07:18 [Becky Cheatham]: Becky, B-E-C-K-Y, Cheatham, C-H-E-A-T-H-A-M.

10:07:13:11 [Tom Kohler]: And could you let us know your preferred pronouns please? Or pronoun.

10:07:19:22 [Becky Cheatham]: I, me, what?

10:07:24:00 [Tom Kohler]: She.

10:07:25:05 [Becky Cheatham]: She. Okay. Sorry. First time I've been asked that.

10:07:29:18 [Tom Kohler]: Now you know

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- 10:07:31:03 [Becky Cheatham]: On the way.
- 10:07:32:22 [Tom Kohler]: And if you don't mind, when and where were you born? And if you're not from Savannah, just a bit about how you got here.
- 10:07:39:19 [Becky Cheatham]: I'm from Sylvester, Georgia. I was born in the hospital, 20 miles from there. Phoebe Putney in Albany, Georgia. I came here after graduate school in May of 1972 to do an internship with a subsequent job following at Savannah Speech and Hearing Center where I was a speech pathologist.
- 10:08:02:04 [Tom Kohler]: And then let me ask, so you've lived in Savannah for a nice long time now?
- 10:08:07:13 [Becky Cheatham]: Ever since 1972.
- 10:08:09:19 [Tom Kohler]: And have you been active in a congregation or a faith-based group?
- 10:08:14:08 [Becky Cheatham]: Yes, I have been a member since the early seventies. I started going to Christ Church Episcopal downtown about the same time and joined a couple of years later and have been involved there ever since.
- 10:08:29:07 [Tom Kohler]: And in broad terms, might you kinda share with us a little bit about how your faith life has influenced your personal, civic and community life?
- 10:08:42:02 [Becky Cheatham]: I look for community involvement, think just quite simply things that are gonna make our community better and things in which I believe in the mission.
- 10:08:50:22 [Tom Kohler]: And then I know that as an active member of Christ Church, you have been kind enough to spend some time and really do some reaching out congregationally to learn about the many different ways that Christ Church has been involved in our larger community. Would you mind just beginning and let's hard to talk about some of that?
- 10:09:11:16 [Becky Cheatham]: Beginning the beginning,
- 10:09:13:13 [Tom Kohler]: Wherever you'd like to begin.
- 10:09:14:07 [Becky Cheatham]: Well, when we first talked about this and you, I think you said that you wanted to know a little bit about some of our outreach projects and I went to a friend of mine, I was trying to get Janet Stone to take this on 'cause she's a historian, knows so much about the church and its history. I said, do you think he wants us this more present day or do we go back to the beginning 300 years ago? Because in 2033 Christ Church will be 300 years old. We will celebrate our tricentennial. Savannah's history is our history. Our history is to some

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- 10:09:46:09 extent Savannah's history and Georgia's history. These all kind of weave together 'cause it started here. And when I immediately began to think about this, just a few things, General Oglethorpe, my understanding is when he founded Savannah, he also founded Christ Church.
- 10:10:02:20 [Becky Cheatham]: Our anniversary of the church founding is February the 12th, 1733. That's why I say we're coming up on 300 years. The tricentennial, we're kind of looking forward to already talking about some places are about activities that are gonna go on. And I should tell you that on Oglethorpe's plot or the grid that he had for this community, when he came here, America's first planned city, there was a trust lot that said "The Church." And that was Christ Church. And we were, as I understand it,
- 10:10:36:23 the first institution here. We were a gathering place. And we have taken that kind of as a mandate going forward to make our building available, not just our sanctuary, but our parish house. And as we begin to talk about some of these projects that we've been involved in, many times we were a partner with another organization or someone at our church started it. And it started somewhat with space either in our parish house or our
- 10:11:07:22 sanctuary. One of the things that first came to mind when I talked thought about the 300 years was Bethesda, though it was not a project of Christ Church, our rector at the time, George Whitefield raised a thousand pounds in England and in, I guess what would've been the colonies at that time. And that had to have been a staggering amount of money and was given \$500,
- 10:11:33:20 500 acres personally to start Bethesda. And he did not start stay in Savannah a long time, but he was our rector. So it did have Bethesda goes back a long time, 17 hundreds and started there. Another thing that I kind of pulled for you, and this is just a very simple crude little piece of paper that stays on my refrigerator because you may know that John Wesley was one of our rectors and he had a statement that has been attributed to
- 10:12:03:17 him, whether it's really his, I don't know, but it's, has his name attached to it.
- 10:12:08:08 [Becky Cheatham]: "Do all the good you can by all the means. You can in all the ways you can and all the places you can at all the times you can to all the people you can as long as ever you can." And I think that has sort of rippled through our congregation for a long time. And I, I have some things I want to talk to you about. I've mentioned to you that if it meets with our mission, many times we allow our space to be used by a
- 10:12:42:02 nonprofit. And there's a long history of that going back in time. One of the first things I remember SCAD doing in this community when they were getting started up, they didn't have space. And they came to us and asked, they gave us a speaker that I will never forget. Wilma Mankiller, the chief of the Navajo Nation, the largest Native American tribe, she spoke at

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- 10:13:09:09 Christ Church. That would've been back in, I guess what the eighties. When did SCAD start up? They've got quite an anniversary. So we, for things of that nature, things that were open to the public, most of it would've been free. But one of the things I thought about, now, sadly this is not ongoing at this time, but it involved a partnership because as you know, a lot of good projects that start up are partnerships and there's shared responsibility. It was called the Inner City Girl Scout Troop. And it was a partnership between
- 10:13:42:14 Christ Church Episcopal, the Junior League and the Girl Scouts. And by the way, we have a long history of a relationship on different levels with the Girl Scouts because it's a little humorous way to say it. But Juliette Gordon Lowe, the founder, was a member of Christ Church and it has been said that she was hatched, matched and dispatched from Christ Church.
- 10:14:05:21 [Becky Cheatham]: She was baptized there, she was married there and she was buried from Christ Church. And I don't know how many of her members initially were members of Christ Church, but I know that there's certainly been a relationship. And one that I'm proud to say is it continues I, I was on the board for a little while and worked with some of their different projects. But Samantha, our, one of our priests, does works with them and often gives the inspirational readings, the prayers for when they have events and interacts, which is a good role model for girls. But
- 10:14:37:15 going back to the startup of the inner city Girl Scout troop, at the time when this started up, probably late eighties, early, I would say late eighties, we had, along with the rest of Georgia and many parts of the South, a serious problem with teenage pregnancy. And if a girl got a teenager got pregnant, she could get her own apartment for herself and a baby, a place to live. And particularly if there was some abuse in any form going on, that might be an attractive way to get out or somewhat of a career path for some of
- 10:15:07:20 these girls. And they didn't have, we knew that girls frequently got pregnant between 3:30 and 5:30 in the afternoon when their mothers were at work and there was no supervision. They, they connected in ways that they shouldn't. And so we needed some activities, meaningful activities that would be positive and enriching for those girls. So we started this troop with a woman by the name of Dot Mays who was just lovely. She was an employee of the Girl Scouts. And this started, I don't know how many troops
- 10:15:36:18 there were, but I know that they started from nine years on up and that it was a model that was picked up across the United States and it won quite a number of awards and a lot of recognition.
- 10:15:49:16 [Becky Cheatham]: It went on, it rocked on for a number of years. It was a very good project. But again, it used when it first started up and maybe continued to, it used the parish house for meeting space for these troops. And we were proud to do it. Another example of an umbrella group, group coming together was we

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knew that we had a developing problem with the homeless back in the eighties. And in June of 1980, some partners came together. One of the leaders on it was First Baptist Church, Tom Austin,

10:16:22:21 who had a heart for the homeless. He was one of the partners. First Presbyterian where we're taping this today who has continued to be a, a wonderful partner on this project. We had Lutheran Ascension initially the Cathedral of St. John's and Christ Church Episcopal. And early on, by the spring of 1982, now they're serving lunch every day. They sort of outgrew the space at First Baptist. And our parish house

10:16:53:19 became the location for lunch and it sort of morphed in 'cause there was, there were other places that were doing lunch. It eventually became breakfast. This program's been ongoing for 42 years. Some of the partners are not as involved now, but certainly First Pres., Christ Church Episcopal. 'cause some of them have their own feeding programs or some other aspect of dealing with the community need. But we, we now provide,

10:17:19:15 we've added showers. They can come and do their laundry. People that come, we feed somewhere between 200 and 250 people breakfast a day. The fir... It starts where people are there from 6:00 AM in the morning until 1:00 AM we shut down. The folks that come through initially, I guess they might be construed as working poor, but they have jobs and they're the first in line to be taken care of.

10:17:47:05 [Becky Cheatham]: They come through, they get a clamshell with their breakfast in it, a cup of coffee and they're off. And then the remaining people that start coming through are seated for breakfast. We have recently added a wonderful clothes closet. I'm ashamed to admit that I have not been up to see it. It's kind of quietly kept off. But on Tuesdays we have a load of volunteers that come in. SCAD is a partner on this. They have organized it from what I understand from the volunteers there. It is so neat. And ev, all the clothes are well arranged because on Wednesdays we

10:18:20:17 distribute and if I come in and I need something, I will say, what is it that I need? I need shirts and a size 10 or slacks, two pairs of slacks and a size 10. Shoes, socks, whatever. And that list goes upstairs and the volunteers pull those items and bring them back down for the person. Again, we have a large number of volunteers and supporters for this program. Repeating again, 42 years, it's been going. One of our biggest

10:18:49:09 needs is paper products and food items. We, we feed approximately or we serve, excuse me, 40,000 hot meals a year. That's an impressive number. I'm sure you'd agree with a staff of three. Only three. So the val, the rest has to be volunteers. And one time when I was down there, one of the people that was working there used to be a person who received services, which is a very good story. We have two fundraisers that we do for this particular

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- 10:19:21:11 program that are open to the public. And if anybody's seeing this sees it, I encourage you to be a part of those two. The first one is called the Empty Bowl in November. And we have all these wonderful soups that are brought in and you have a, you buy a ticket and you've got a choice of two different bowls of soup you can fill and then come back and fill again.
- 10:19:41:12 [Becky Cheatham]: They serve bread, they deserve dessert. It's absolutely wonderful, delicious food. And that some of it is the soup is provided by individuals. Some of it is restaurants in town. Really wonderful choices. And then in December we have a musical program called Carols For A Cause. The wonderful Tim Hall who used to be our organist, who gonna do it for one year to raise money. And guess what it's been going on since then. It's probably a decade now. And it's just practically standing
- 10:20:13:08 room only. It it, the music is so beautiful and we have a variety of presentations, different groups, children's choir and so forth that come in and we, we don't charge for that, but we ask that you give and of course you wanna give generously when you do it for the program. So again, that had a nice umbrella with it. A nice combination. And I'm just gonna go on and touch on, if it's okay with you on a couple of other projects that started up about the same time that the United
- 10:20:44:01 Ministries and Emmaus House started up, there was a project called Project Smile. And we, our diocese is matched with another diocese somewhere and there are hundreds of them around the world. And the one we were matched with, this would've been about the same time that one opened up probably about 40 years ago. Our companion diocese, that's what they call it, the companion diocese, was Belize. And we invited the bishop of Belize to come
- 10:21:17:17 to Savannah to the Girl Scout Park. And we had something like a low country boil I think for them or oyster roast. And then we proceeded to talk to him about what were the needs of their congregation in ways that maybe we could work together.
- 10:21:32:10 [Becky Cheatham]: And he said one of the big needs was dental care for children. And the first year what we concentrated on was getting the equipment down there, dental equipment. And Robbie Harrison, who was a member, is a member of Christ Church, had a shipping company. And that was a wonderful thing for him to do to get the equipment down there, get it set up and so forth. And then yet next year they came back and started working. And my understanding is that it first started with some dental professors
- 10:22:02:23 or dentists from Augusta and we had some other churches in our diocese involved. And then eventually over time that kind of played out a little bit. And two local people, Dr. Steve and his, Acuff, and his wife, Monty Acuff really took it over and have just been stalwarts with it. We go down there, oh wait. And by the way, we were matched for three years. We had a three year match and then we got an extension of three years. But we, even after we were no longer matched with di, the Diocese of Belize, we still have continued that

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- 10:22:35:21 project very successfully. We go down from Sunday to Sunday, take volunteers, I think there are three dentists, but multiple hygienists and other volunteers that go down that help coordinate children and just do other needed projects as it goes on. And I mean a lot of our people from our church go, 'cause it's such a lovely trip down to Belize, a lot of beauty down in that area. But it starts, they get set up on a Sunday and
- 10:23:02:23 then from Monday through Thursday from eight until three, they start seeing children first. And they see about 300 children during those days from pre-K up to eighth grade.
- 10:23:17:22 [Becky Cheatham]: They do cleanings, they do sealants, fluoride. And then the teachers also come in and there are multiple teams that do this. Georgia, Savannah, the Savannah team isn't the only one, though we are a primary. There are also some now that come from Ohio, from West Virginia, from South Georgia. And for a while there, I don't know if we're still doing this, we were doing hearing as well. One of our ENTs from here led folks down there to work on that as well. So it was more of a
- 10:23:52:20 clinic setting. And one of the things that it's, that this project has shaken hands with is another project I'm gonna tell you about in just a minute. And that is the paperback books. We started out thinking, you know, why not give all the children that come to us, give 'em a book of some kind. And we've asked people to contribute new books. I know I've bought quite a number of the little golden books to supply 'em
- 10:24:19:08 with for some of the younger children. Those are near and dear to my heart 'cause I grew up on 'em and so did my children. So we hand those out and that's become now a regular part of the program. If anybody ever wants to contribute books to that, they can. And then at some point we started a school lunch program, Comer Meadows who used to have a kitchen here making Comer's favorite famous cookies, the best cookies you ever put in your mouth. And when she kind of closed that catering kitchen, that equipment
- 10:24:48:17 went down there for a school lunch program shipped down there. Another thing that we've done is to set up a playground down there. I, one of our deacons, Patty Davis, very involved with his program because deacons and at least in the Episcopal church, have to have a project.
- 10:25:05:08 [Becky Cheatham]: And this has been one of hers, not, not the only one. We get grants, I'm told from Colgate, we get toothbrush, we hand out toothbrushes, we have toothpaste available. Flossing, we taught children how at the initial stages, how do you properly brush your teeth. So this is a signature project of Christ Church. One that we're Project Smile, we're kind of pleased with. Now there's some others that started out that are newer and I, one of 'em, I wasn't very familiar with all the

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- 10:25:38:09 particulars, so I, I've got some reading material here I'm gonna kind of read from that. But a woman called Katie Griffith started a program that's now known as Over the Moon. And I knew that our youth at the at Christ Church were involved in it. But I didn't really know, I don't know what all they did and, and what all the program involved. I knew it involved diapers. So I asked her, I said, how'd you get started on this? And she said, after Hurricane Harvey hit Houston in 2017, Lee, her
- 10:26:08:00 husband and I donated a few local to a few local Texas organizations, including the Texas Diaper Bank. We have friends who lived there. So I closely watched that storm. And at the time I thought diaper banks only helped people in times of natural disasters. The Red Cross does not supply diaper items and recovery efforts. And I started looking for a local organization that helped families in need, but there wasn't an organized
- 10:26:35:14 program. Within two hours of Savannah with research, I quickly realized that di, that diaper needs is not just an issue for displaced families who are victims of flooding, hurricanes, et cetera. In 2017, one in three families reported experiencing diaper need, which is just the lack of an adequate supply of diapers for a child.
- 10:27:00:04 [Becky Cheatham]: Katie at the time had a 2-year-old child and it, it really became incumbent on her to visualize what it would be like if she had trouble getting diapers adequate for her child. She said it shook me and motivated me to start planning how to help families in Savannah. After many meetings with non area nonprofits and civic leaders and with guidance and support from the National Diaper Bank Network, I launched Over The Moon and began collecting diapers and really strategizing how to make
- 10:27:30:06 this a sustainable resource for families in our community. In 2019, the following year, COVID happened and diaper need and period poverty issues grew. Today the statistic of families who experienced diaper need in the US is 47% or roughly one in two families with small children through learning about diaper need. I became familiar with period poverty and adult incontinence issues and the lack of supplies available for many. Also, these are taxed items in the state of Georgia. So many Over The Moon
- 10:28:03:19 advocates have the need to have that burden removed too. Because of now this program shakes hands a bit with our a Emmaus House because not all the people that come for a Emmaus House that are poor or homeless are males. Some of them are females and some of them are still women of an age that they're having menstrual cycles. And so they need those products that we are also providing over there. She said this started at the end of around
- 10:28:33:15 2019, January, 2020. And that they've been sharing space at Christ Church 'cause they have to have storage for some of these things. Now we've just gotten some wonderful news in the last 10 days. She found out that they're going to be

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receiving a considerable amount of support and con in the Con Congressional Spending Fund because our two US Senators, Warnock and Ossoff

10:28:59:19 have come on board with this project.

10:29:02:03 [Becky Cheatham]: They're very familiar with what's going on here. And they have put funding into last year's federal budget to expand the diaper distribution. Again, it's for children's di diapers for children, diapers for adults, and for period products. So another really good product project that's now going on and a parallel one that as I keep using the word shaking hands, sometimes things start out, as you've said to me one time when I told you about a project and I said, well it's just

10:29:32:16 small. And you said all good things start out small and that is true. And then sometimes they grow and sometimes they stay small. But Project... Paperback Project, we have a Paperback Project yes, at Christ Church. And it was started by a woman in 2016 named Priscilla Carrington and Priscilla as been real involved with it, but also Claudia South and a lot of volunteers. We collect paperback books and at first we were giving books to

10:30:05:00 Project Smile. I don't know what to what extent we still are. I'm sure they, if they got good ones that would be appropriate for that way they would. But it really started out more for hurricane relief in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands because their libraries got destroyed. And then we found that there was also a tremendous need, believe it or not, for paperbacks for books in the US military. So we send to not only our US personnel, but also veterans. And as of

10:30:38:01 September the ninth, a couple of days ago, we have shipped 18,974 books to different places, diplomatic postings to 110 destinations. 45 of these are bases or installations in some capacity that are statewide. Another 65 are overseas or on ships at sea. They always have what goes into the box. They

10:31:08:04 will always have a wonderful handwritten note with them. And they, you had be surprised at how many letters we get back as thank you notes from commanding officers thanking us for those. Now those are some of the ongoing projects that we have. But I wanted to mention one that sadly has

10:31:33:03 gone by the board but had a long history and made we think a significant difference in this community. And that was the Tour of Homes. Savannah Christ Church had the second tour of homes in the United States that we know of.

10:31:50:04 [Becky Cheatham]: And it started in 1935 when the last time we did it at Christ Church Episcopal. It involved about 1300 volunteers. Now because of that immense number, not all the volunteers by any means came from Christ Church. I can remember being chair of some small aspect of it and I use people from all over the community. So it was a wonderful community project. We did it with

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Historic Savannah as a partner and we both split the takeout of it, which was generous. And over time our funds

- 10:32:25:12 supported about a hundred different organizations. I'm told, and I've got somewhat of a list here that it went, some of the dollars went to fund programs or projects internationally, nationally, also within our diocese and in our local parish and just locally that those hundred organizations read like a who's who of it, it's historical information and what were the
- 10:32:55:16 organizations that were social services that were giving out services in our community in a variety of areas. And I'm gonna read you some of those in just a minute. But unfortunately this has ceased to exist probably about 2010 or 12. And it would not be easy to restart something like that with the number. 'cause again, things start small and they get bigger and bigger. But there's no end to the good,
- 10:33:20:11 not just the dollars that were placed with organizations, but the number of people that it brought to our community to that stayed in hotels, that went out to dinner, that shopped in the stores and bought homes here 'cause to know Savannah's to love us. Right now everybody wants to come live here. We, we certainly know that, that a lot of people have come to live here. But over time, going back to Wesley's ministry, some of the organizations that have received funds for us are Whitefield's Bethesda or... Orphanage.
- 10:33:53:11 That was tops on the list, the Kate Baldwin Free Nursery.
- 10:33:56:20 [Becky Cheatham]: And I'm gonna talk just for a minute on that because that's another one of our projects that served a lot of good function in this community. And unfortunately it's no longer in existence. It kind of morphed out. But Kate Baldwin Nursery was started back in the early 19 hundreds and it was over on Houston Street. You may have known it by a number of different names during the, it was a nursery school that Christ Church helped with, particularly during World War II. It became a free nursery, the Kate Baldwin Free Nursery for Children of Women working
- 10:34:31:17 during World War II, particularly I think on the Liberty Ships here. When I moved here in 1972, it was so it was now known as Savannah Nursery School. And it was a wonderful nursery that I lived downtown and it was recommended to me and my daughter Laura went to it for a year for preschool before going on into elementary school. But it then became the Montessori school. And one of Maria Montessori's
- 10:34:58:06 disciples came here to Savannah when I was on board of Parent and Child to talk to us about, we had two Montessori schools and they were very popular for lower income children because Maria Montessori started the Montessori method for what were known as the street urchins in Italy. And so it followed that model for a very good while. We also sponsored Boy Scout and Girl Scouts troops. I sort of

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mentioned that one of the things that I felt strongly about for a while was we had this darling couple that lived here,

10:35:27:19 Vicky and Ian, and he was into community gardens. Do you remember that? And we gave money toward that, mostly for seed. And Ian and Vicky would find these places around town where there was, maybe there had been a house in the downtown area that burned down or midtown or something.

10:35:44:01 [Becky Cheatham]: And you've got this vacant lot here with trash on it. And I remember one time my daughter was involved in a youth group and we went and cleaned off one of those lots for them to, then the young people picked up the trash that was there and bottles and so forth raked it out. And then they came back and planted a community garden. And anybody that lived in the area, I'm sure they had some flowers too, but it was mostly vegetables and it was open to the people that were there. And one of the things that Christ Church did, in addition to helping to clean up some of these spaces using our free kids to go and do it, we also provided seeds

10:36:17:03 and other whatever was maybe needed to support that. I've already told you a little bit about am Emmaus House. We were involved on some level in the Abrams home, the food bank, Historic Savannah's Foundations. Some of our women were at Christ Church, were startup people. The Royce Reading Center, Chatham Academy. Safe Shelter. Safe Shelter. We were very involved in the startup of that. We were a partner along with the Junior

10:36:44:08 League. A lot of members, women members at Christ Church were Junior Leaguers. And a lot of the Junior Leaguers were members of Christ Church. And so we often spotted a problem in the community that needed addressing and had good leadership traditionally and got that started. Hospice Savannah had the support of Christ Church, the Savannah Symphony, Parents Anonymous, AA - Alcoholics Anonymous for decades. Again, our space has been

10:37:14:04 used for projects with, with that in particular, Project Smile I've already told you about for a while. We had a Christ Church bookstore. I wish we still did the projects. The proceeds from that went to our outreach programs, medical equipment for a good while. We collected used medical equipment and sent it to other diocese.

10:37:39:15 [Becky Cheatham]: Probably sent some down to Belize, but collected it and shipped it to places where that was a need. And there was a literacy project here. Pam McCaslin was involved in that. She was one of the first people I ever heard of back in the nineties. I think that when we started working on literacy addressing that a lot of people can't read. If you can't read, it's hard to keep, get a job or keep a job. So that was one of our projects. And then one of the last thing, one of the things I would mention is also the Girl Scouts hostel space on the fourth floor of our

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- 10:38:13:21 parish house. If see we have a Girl Scout, Girl Scouts come to Savannah. It's part of a badge requirement to come and visit the birthplace, learn and and also attend Christ Church. And so we gave them space up on the fourth, fourth floor because if they're coming from someplace like Kansas, 'cause it came from all over the United States, they would frequently come on spring break and they would come to Savannah and maybe they've made, you
- 10:38:41:05 know, had bake sales and they don't have an awful lot of money. Those that had a little difficulty financially, we would give them space on our fourth floor. They could camp out up there. I guess they brought their sleeping bag sleep on the floor with the understanding that yeah, we'd love to have you up in the balcony on Sunday. And I guess they're all staying at hotels now. But we still see some Girl Scout troops showing up on Sunday, which is lovely on Thursdays. We again sometimes have free organ concerts.
- 10:39:09:23 You should check with our website because we, George Fergus, our wonderful new organist music director, he was, he came to us recently from the Washington Cathedral, very proud of George. And he started all kinds of lovely programs, many of which are open to the public. So just know about those. And something else, when I was announcing this past Sunday at church that I was gonna be giving you this information and I said, I would really
- 10:39:41:11 like to hear from some of you about projects that have gone on during the time that Christ Church has been in existence.
- 10:39:48:12 [Becky Cheatham]: What are some things, I don't wanna forget something that's important. And somebody said Sunday School. And I said, well I don't really think of Sunday School as an outreach program, but let me give it a think. And the Reverend Richard Maxwell, one of our priests at Christ Church wrote me something and I, he circled back to me on it. And I'm really glad he did because Sunday school at Christ Church, we very possibly, we, well of course we think we did have the first Sunday school
- 10:40:23:13 in the United States under John Wesley. And that was, that was unknown at the time. They weren't having Sunday school. And so my friend Max, Richard Maxwell wrote me and he said, when you asked, someone suggested Sunday school, understandably you question whether that was really an outreach, I wouldn't class, I wouldn't classify it as such now. But if you're going all the way back to, to the parish's founding Sunday school
- 10:40:52:17 could indeed be classified as outreach depending on when it started at Christ Church in the 19th century. And until child labor laws were passed, Sunday school was often the only way that poor or working class children could get a rudimentary education. Yes, the Bible and religion were taught, but usually as a means to teach reading and writing. Parents who didn't attend church themselves might

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- 10:41:19:13 insist that their children attend Sunday school for that reason. So anyway, I think that's an interesting thought. I had a conversation with our lovely priest who has just retired, Michael White. And I told him about that, that I was working on this. And one of the things he wanted me to press forward, which I made a point of earlier, was how we view our space as we are generous with it. Unfortunately we have to have one of our staff members there on places, so, so it doesn't always work out as far as timing that we
- 10:41:51:13 can have someone there because we are limited.
- 10:41:53:14 [Becky Cheatham]: But he said that, I should also mention that our church named the first deacons in the diocese that were women. Susan Harrison and then Susan Delaney. And that was a big step out at the time. And then Sierra was our first ordained African-American woman priest in our diocese. And Franklin Traub, the wife of Herb Traub, was the first
- 10:42:25:02 senior warden at Christ Church up until that time it was always men. And that was not questioned if a woman was on the vestry on your on of your church. And, and this wasn't unique to Christ Church, this was in the diocese and other churches as well. If a woman was on it, she was probably ex-officio head of women of the church or a project that the church was doing. She was there to report. So these, it is a form, Michael felt that
- 10:42:54:12 it was a form of outreach placing women in non-traditional church roles. And Max went on to say, while ordination itself is not, quote, outreach, seeing unexpected people in roles may encourage others, even those outside the church to imagine themselves in similar roles. Not long ago I asked a handful of Episcopal priests to tell me their ordination stories, how they decided to become a priest. And all the women mentioned the importance of
- 10:43:26:16 seeing a woman at the altar, at least one woman in one case said that she is now who, who was at the time, not an Episcopalian, but is now ordained, that when she saw another woman celebrating at the altar, that she was thunderstruck. So this again, non-traditional roles when you step out in something and it's different you, Hmm, maybe I could do that. So I hope
- 10:44:01:09 I've covered a lot of things for you. And in closing, kind of some of these comments, just a couple of things came to mind where I think most of, I've mentioned some names, but there are so many names I haven't mentioned of people that have been involved in long-term projects. And one of our church members, Robert, Bobby Demere had a saying on his desk, his office was,
- 10:44:27:23 there is no end to the good that can be accomplished if you don't care who gets the credit. And I think our people wouldn't necessarily want credit for some of the things they have done. And one of their favorite hymns might be one of mine, which is the new music, the servant song. "We are people on a journey, we are travelers on a road. We are here to help each

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- 10:44:54:05 other walk the mile and bear the load."
- 10:45:00:19 [Tom Kohler]: Thank you.
- 10:45:02:23 [Mickey Youmans]: Wow. Well done. Yay.
- 10:45:06:03 [Becky Cheatham]: All done.
- 10:45:06:21 [Tom Kohler]: Yeah.
- 10:45:07:19 [Becky Cheatham]: Okay.
- 10:45:09:16 [Tom Kohler]: Now if the other 20 people have compared like that, no, that was good.
- 10:45:14:12 [Becky Cheatham]: I put a lot of worry into it. And a lot of prayer.
- 10:45:18:20 [Mickey Youmans]: That's amazing.
- 10:45:19:17 [Tom Kohler]: A lot of worry.
- 10:45:20:10 [Mickey Youmans]: That was wonderful.
- 10:45:21:11 [Tom Kohler]: Well, and and a lot of work, too. I mean...
- 10:45:24:11 [Becky Cheatham]: When you ask God to speak through you, he will see there's a mess.
- 10:45:33:09 [Eric Darling]: Got it.
- 10:45:35:02 [Mickey Youmans]: Okay.
- 10:45:43:23 [Eric Darling]: Okay. Any time, Tom.
- 10:45:46:21 [Becky Cheatham]: I don't know if you're aware, but in the past a book was written about Christ Church as Grain Once Scattered by Roger Warwick. And I think it was back in the nineties, but a lot has happened at our church since the nineties. And particularly, I don't know how much it covered in terms of more current outreach. 'cause remember a lot of the things that I've mentioned to you today have happened since the nineties. A new book is under construction now and the writer is our own wonderful Barry. Barry Myrick Scardino Bradley who her family, the Myricks were
- 10:46:21:01 long-term members at Christ Church generationally. And a good bit of what I've shared with you today came from Barry and when she finishes writing it, which I think it's in November of this year, 2024, then the, a lot of her notes and her materials, if they haven't already gone over, will go to the Georgia Historical

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Society. 'cause as I said, a lot of what is happening in Savannah is mentioned in those minutes going back for a long

10:46:48:15 period of time. And they're going into storage and proper storage, which is a good thing.

10:46:54:12 [Tom Kohler]: That's a great thing. Maybe Savannah ar Savannah City archive could get a copy as well

10:46:59:16 [Becky Cheatham]: Of the book. Yeah, I have no doubt.

10:47:01:22 [Tom Kohler]: Just a thought. Alright. Okay, good. Thanks. Okay. Alright.

10:47:05:20 [Becky Cheatham]: Put this all back together.