LOOKING TO GET PLUGGED IN OVER THE SUMMER?
JOIN A COMMUNITY GROUP!
CONTACT ADAM BRUCKER IF YOU’RE LOOKING FOR A GROUP OR OTHER WAYS TO GET CONNECTED AT ADAM.BRUCKER@OURCHRISTSCHURCH.COM.

The Explore magazine will be taking a summer break! We are excited to gather summer stories throughout the next three months, and we will see you in September! Contact Jordan Grollmus at: jordan.grollmus@ourchristschurch.com if you have a story you want to share or see in the Explore!

CHECK OUT SOME UPCOMING EVENTS!

MAY

2-Thu.
Build a Marriage That Lasts Group Begins

12-Sun.
Mother’s Day

14-Tue.
Evergreen Ministry: Shipshewana Trip (Through 16th)

15-Wed.
Parent Coalition Book Club

16-Thu.
King’s High School Baccalaureate

19-Sun.
Mental Health Support Group
We just had another successful Build the Walls event here at Christ’s Church. We partner with CrossRoads Missions to build homes to help others achieve affordable home-ownership. These homes will be built, loaded, and transported to a family in need of affordable housing.

Through one serving event, the impact on the lives of individuals is immeasurable. We want to share a story with you about how one simple invitation can change not just one life, but create a domino effect of lives being changed.

As we led up to Easter weekend, we encouraged you to participate in “Pray for 1”. This Pray for 1 card was an intentional way to write the name of someone in our life that we want to see changed by the Gospel and by the church. We joined you in prayer over those “1s” and that their life would be changed by our loving Father. Pray for 1 was not limited to Easter weekend or Easter services. We simply wanted to introduce a way to get in the habit of praying for people in our life. We hope that Pray for 1 will continue and that you will continue to lift up the names on your heart to our Father. We hope that story and I didn’t know that my mom felt about me the way that she does.” Because of this afternoon at The Marmalade Lily, moms and daughters were able to spend intentional time together to focus on their relationship. Because of just a few hours, Bekah was able to find out more about how she became part of the Baumlein family.

Tyler was passionate about this event because he believes in the importance of family relationships and cultivating a healthy one. There will be a Father/Son event offered that strives to do the same thing. We hope that these events will continue and grow, that the family relationship will not be overlooked because of busy lives, school, and work.

Bekah’s final comment was “I love my mom to the moon and back. That’s our favorite quote.”

Be on the lookout for information regarding the Father/Son event. Reach out to Tyler Ash for more information about these events or for ways to be involved at tyler.ash@ourchristschurch.com.
One Saturday in April, Tyler Ash and Shannon Foote organized a Mother’s and Daughter’s Event at The Marmalade Lily. This event was catered towards girls 5th-12th grade and their moms or a female guardian/role model in their life.

At The Marmalade Lily, moms and daughters enjoyed a flower arrangement class from the ML staff and arranged a flower pot together. After the class they were encouraged to take a walk or sit outside and spend some one-on-one time together. The afternoon came to a close in the best way – with a dance party, of course.

Bekah Baumlein and her mom, Tina, attended this event. Bekah describes the event as “amazing” and “would totally recommend 100%.” This day and event was special because “I was able to bond with my mom and we don’t always see eye to eye. I found out more about my adoption through events such as this, Build the Walls, we will continue to offer opportunity to invite that 1 and that they will be met by our Father when they get here. May you continue in prayer for your 1 or your dozens, and may we continue to see lives impacted and changed by the love story of the Gospel.

The timeline on the next page shows the journey of Katie and Wes Davis getting involved at Christ’s Church, which in turn led to Tim Koch joining a Rooted group, which led him to then facilitate Rooted groups. Wes invited Ryan to be a part of Build the Walls, which in turn led him to be a part of our CC LIVE online community and continue to be a part of Build the Walls each year.

We talked to both Wes and Ryan to get their perspective on this series of events that has connected them to each other and the church.

“I had already signed up for Build the Walls and we found out Ryan and his family were going to be visiting us that weekend. We don’t get to see each other that often, so I invited him to join me so we could enjoy some extra guy time doing some manual labor. We had only been living in Mason and attending Christ Church for a few months when I signed up for Build the Walls that year. Katie had already started attending Mom’s Group and through that she met Rachel Healy. Since Rachel was helping with the coordination of Build the Walls, Katie let her know I was signed up and Rachel assigned me to a group with other young dads to ensure I had a chance to meet others my same age and life stage. In that group of guys was Tim. We connected immediately that morning and over the course of a year, that included meeting for coffee and lunch, being in a Rooted group together, and getting
our families together often. Because of that, I’ve developed one of the greatest friendships I’ve ever had.

Build the Walls is my favorite annual event at Christ Church as it was really a jumping off point for me and my family getting involved in community and serving at the church. It’s such a great casual service opportunity for friends and family to enjoy together. Hearing all the hammering, seeing all the words of encouragement and scripture written on the walls, and watching all the volunteers working together is a tangible way to feel God at work in our community.

Through Build the Walls, I was able to make some incredible connections which have fostered the development of a true sense of community. Attending a large church can be very intimidating especially when you don’t know anyone there. By building connections and relationships, one by one, a large church quickly becomes much smaller and really begins to feel like family.

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A lot of different components played a role in this story of the Davis’s, their good friend Ryan, Tim, and the Healy’s. The impact of each role and being obedient to their part in the process, this story has unfolded into a beautiful way that is unifying them to each other and to the church as a whole.

We want to encourage you to continue to pray for someone on your heart and be obedient to the opportunities you have to invite or simply encourage them. Each role is different, but each is necessary! Not only do we gather at Build the Walls to serve the people who will receive the homes, but we gather to serve each other.

With almost 500 volunteers, we were able to build three homes in less than three hours! We couldn’t have done it without each person’s role and their heart to serve. THANK YOU!

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