



# THE BULLETIN

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
An Episcopal Community in the Heart of Houston, Texas

JANUARY 2024  
CHRISTCHURCHCATHEDRAL.ORG

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## Reflections on the Cathedral

Last spring, when the Rev. Kathy Pfister called me to ask if I'd be interested in helping out at the Cathedral during a time of transition, I was happily retired, with no intention of returning to work. But Kathy persisted, and I'm glad she did.

Although six months is not very long, it's long enough to have some first impressions, all of which are favorable. Your clergy and staff are faithful, skillful, and fun to be around. The Altar Guild is the most welcoming and helpful I've ever known. There is a sense here that everyone is important, no matter what job they do. The Cathedral Bookstore is a delightful temptation to which I have often succumbed. And I love being able to worship surrounded by your outstanding choir.

If I had to use one word to describe the culture here, I would say "kind." To quote Roald Dahl: "I think probably kindness is my number one attribute in a human being. I'll put it before any of the things like courage or bravery or generosity or anything else ... Kindness — that simple word — it covers everything, to my mind."

So, as my time among you comes to a close, please know how much I have appreciated your kindness. It's been an honor to worship and serve alongside all of you, and, since Dean Katz has kindly said I will always have a place to hang my stole here, you will probably see me again. Until then, may God bless and keep you all.



THE REV.  
ELIZABETH  
PARKER

## — 2023 COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP PERSONAL ACCOUNT — Love goes Day 6

JAYLAH QUINTANILLA

This year, I returned to Costa Rica for the second time. This time, I came with my friends Valeria and Zahara. As this week goes on we have little moments in our room where we dance, play and sleep until it's almost time to get on the bus.

Yesterday, we got to go to Centro Educativo San Marcos and from a mile away you could see all the bright colors and decorations for their Art Festival. We were welcomed by all the amazing staff and students. As we were waiting for the festival to start we were handed water



and patti (also known as Jamaican Beef Patties). They were equally as fresh and delicious!

As the festival was starting, the teachers introduced themselves and the music teacher introduced us. A group of kids started to do traditional dances which was fun to watch. Little kids had "Pelo Loco Day" (Crazy Hair Day) and they presented their lovely, crazy, creative hair and

**COSTA RICA, page 8**



## New year, new books!

The Cathedral Book Club met in December to discuss the history of the Church of England, determine that 900 pages is too much to ask a book club member to read in one month, and vote on books for the upcoming months. The ballots have been counted, and from February through April, we'll be reading a spiritual title, a National-Book-award-winning novel, and a double biography, all highly touted by one or more of our members. If you're looking to read and discuss books with a good group of folks, please mark your calendars for first Wednesdays: February 7, March 6, and April 3, and get reading!

Books are available at the Cathedral Bookstore at a discounted price (10% off paperbacks, 20% off hardcovers). We meet in McGehee Conference Room from 6:30 p.m. til 8 p.m., and you can Zoom in if you can't make it in-person. At our April meeting, we'll select books for the next three months, so if you discover any great reads you think the group would enjoy, please suggest them at that time.

**CATHEDRAL BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS, page 6**

### *We celebrate with*

- ✠ new members: **Tom & Mitzi Barker.**
- ✠ **Josh Dove** who was baptized on December 10, 2023.
- ✠ those confirmed on December 10, 2023: **Josh Dove, Ginger Hanning, Ahiezer Herrera, Crystal McGowen, Justin Wingard, Robert Parker, Adam Jackson, AJ Jeyaraj, Kelly Gupton.**
- ✠ those reaffirmed on December 10, 2023: **Gwen Dove, Stephen Craig Kennedy, Susan Hoffius.**

### *We extend heartfelt sympathy*

- ✠ to the family of member **Jennifer Hungate** who passed away on November 11, 2023. Jennifer is daughter to members **Cindy and Michael Hungate**, mother to **Ryder Brown** and sister to **Michael Hungate**.
- ✠ to the family of member **Carol Gee** who passed away on November 16, 2023. Carol is mother to **Sheppard Gee**.
- ✠ to the family of member **Bob Cossum** who passed away on November 19, 2023. Bob is father to sons **Bobby, John and David Cossum**.

### *The flowers on the Cathedral Altar*

- ✠ on Sunday, January 7 are given to the glory of God in loving memory of **Scott Cawley** by his family.
- ✠ on January 14 are given to the glory of God in honor of **Andrew Sanchez, Gil and Margaret Greenwood**, and **Elise and Lucy Sargent** for their birthdays by **Kristy Greenwood**.
- ✠ on January 21 are given to the glory of God in honor of the **Rev. John Pitts** by the **Pearson** family.
- ✠ on January 28 are given to the glory of God in loving memory of her parents **Mary John and Ralph Spence** by **Judy Tate**.

### *Poinsettias on the Rood Screen*

- ✠ were given to the glory of God in loving memory of **Peter Hafner Squire** by his mother **Jane Hafner Squire**.

# Meet our 2024 vestry nominees

To be voted on at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 21  
Nominated for three-year terms



**LESLI CUMMINGS** and her husband, Robert Cummings, joined the Cathedral in 2015 when looking for a church home for their growing family that offered equal parts grace and tradition. Lesli has served on the Children and Family Ministry Council since 2023 and the Cathedral House Episcopal School (CHES) Board since 2021. She has also been teaching Sunday school since 2022. Lesli and Robert have two children, Reid (8) and Chloe (7), who were both baptized at the Cathedral as babies and attended CHES through pre-K. You can find the Cummings family at the 9 a.m. service, in 10 a.m. Sunday School, or out on the playground. Outside of church and family, Lesli spends her days working at CenterPoint Energy.



**BOB RICHTER**, like many Episcopalians, began attending Christ Church Cathedral in 1985 having been a life-long Baptist; and became a member in 1987, when, as then Dean Pitman McGehee said, "We love to get you Baptist boys because you come pre-trained." Since that time, Bob has served as Usher Chairman for three years, on Altar Guild for many years and twice as Chairperson; Lay Eucharist Visitor Chairperson for many years, AIDS Ministry, and Every Member Canvass Chair; Daily Office reader for many years, Lay Eucharistic Minister Chair, three year term as Vestryman serving as Junior Warden, Diocesan Council Delegate, Pastoral Care Council, Adult Education Council, and Mentor at Rusk Elementary School. He has traveled with Cathedral delegations to Mexico City as a Diocesan Support member, Honduras on a Medical Missionary tour, and Cuba, on a Diocesan visit with Bishop Doyle, as well as creating a six-session course of Lessons in Eco-Theology.



**WICK ROWLAND** has been a member of the Cathedral since 2000. She is a former Junior Warden and chair of the Vestry's Mission and Ministry Committee. Wick is a twenty-three year member of the Cathedral Choir and has chaired seven Choir Cabarets. She is a former member of the Mission Outreach and Religion and Arts Councils, a founding member of the Beacon Board of Directors and was President of the Beacon Board in 2017 and 2018. She and her husband Rob are past EMC co-chairs. Wick presently serves on the Stewardship Council. She and Rob have two daughters, Emily and Julia, and six perfect grandchildren.



**NORA RYCROFT** and husband, Paul, have been members of the Cathedral for the last six years. She regularly serves as a lay eucharistic minister, a worship leader and usher during 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. services. Nora has been very much involved with Kids Hope as a mentor during this time as well. One of her most memorable occasions at the Cathedral was being a member of the pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by Rev. Genevieve Razim. Nora is a retired lawyer who practiced in Texas and Ontario, Canada. Prior to moving to Houston she was very active in the Diocese of West Texas, having served as a vestry and school board member, and as a founding member of Habitat for Humanity in her community. Nora has three daughters and one son. Her two youngest granddaughters were baptized at the Cathedral.



**DAVE WALLACE** joined Christ Church Cathedral with his wife Sarah Lake-Wallace in 2006. They have served on the Children's Ministry Council. Their daughter Meagan was confirmed last year and is an acolyte. In the Cathedral, he has accrued unofficial titles including "Angel Wrangler" for the Christmas pageant and "Sunday School Bouncer" during the pandemic. Dave is a pharmacist and faculty member at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy. He has served as the pharmacy preceptor at the HOMES Clinic for over 20 years and can be found most Sundays across the street at The Beacon helping provide care for persons experiencing homelessness.



# Classes & Bible Studies



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THESE BIBLE STUDIES OR OTHER FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES, CONTACT REV. CANON BRADLEY VARNELL.

**TUESDAY, 7-8 A.M., ZOOM**

## **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

Runs Jan. 16–May 14

A weekly, Zoom-based Bible study open to all who are curious! Led by the Rev. Dr. Brett McCleneghan.

**TUESDAY, 7-8 P.M., JEFFERS CONFERENCE ROOM**

## **20s & 30s Tuesday Evening Bible Study**

Runs Jan. 16–Feb. 6

Every Sunday around the world Christians stand and say, “We believe in one God.” Over four-weeks, we’ll focus on moments in Scripture that help us better understand the identity, personality, and character of this God we believe in.

**TUESDAYS, 9:30 A.M. TO 12 P.M. OR 6:30–9 P.M.**

## **Education for Ministry**

Education for Ministry is a transformational exploration of the Christian faith. To learn more or to get on next year’s roster, please contact Lucy Wagner.

**WEDNESDAY, 7-8 A.M., ZOOM**

## **Men’s Morning Bible Study**

Resumes January 17

The Men’s Bible study meets every Wednesday morning at 7:00 a.m. on Zoom. No prior Bible study is required to participate. If interested in participating, please email Louise Langford for the link at [llangford@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:llangford@christchurchcathedral.org)

**WEDNESDAY, 9:30–11 A.M., JEFFERS CONFERENCE ROOM & ZOOM**

## **Women’s Morning Bible Study**

Resumes January 10

A friendly and welcoming group of women gather to read and discuss the Scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday. Led by Flo Ray.

**THURSDAY, 12-1 P.M., ZOOM**

## **Thursday Noon Bible Study**

Runs Jan. 25–May 2 (skip March 28)

Dive into 1 Samuel this spring with the Thursday noon Bible study and discover Scripture’s own Game of Thrones. Led by the Rev. Bradley Varnell.

**2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, 2 P.M.**

## **St. Theresa’s Short Story Book Group of Christ Church Cathedral**

through May

Join Cathedral parishioners in this long-running short-story book club held in parishioners’ homes. For more information, please contact Valerie Meisel at [vhmteas@gmail.com](mailto:vhmteas@gmail.com)



CHRIST  
CHURCH  
CATHEDRAL



# Sunday School

Each Sunday we gather together as a community and grow in our faith through teaching and discussion. Sunday School resumes on January 21.

## **Children’s Sunday School**

10–11 a.m., Jones 201–208, 3 years–5th grade

## **Youth Sunday School**

10–11 a.m., The Treehouse, grades 6–12

## **Latino Ministry Sunday School**

1–2:30 p.m., Jones 201–208, 3 years–5th grade

## **Latino Youth Sunday School**

1–2:30 p.m., The Treehouse, grades 6–12

For registration and additional information, please visit [www.christchurchcathedral.org/sundayschool](http://www.christchurchcathedral.org/sundayschool)



Confirmation, Gran Posada, Christmas at the Cathedral, Youth Retreat, and more

# IN PICTURES

Below: Cathedral Youth enjoy a festive F



Above: Piñata fun at the Christmas at the Cathedral event.



Above: Bishop Doyle stands with the newly baptized, confirmed, and reaffirmed following the 11 a.m. service on Dec. 10.





Right: The Treble Choir of Houston participate in a Christmas concert at Villa de Matel.  
 Fall Retreat in Galveston the first weekend in December.

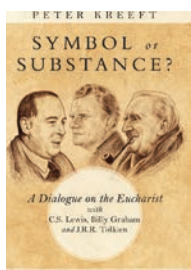


Left, above: : Many journeyed together around the Cathedral grounds, in search of safe refuge for Mary and Joseph for the birth of Jesus at the Gran Posada and Sancocho Supper on Dec. 17.



## Cathedral Book Club selections

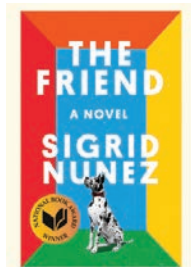
A different book is discussed the first Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome to attend and join the discussion from 6:30–8 p.m. Please order books from the Cathedral Bookstore. Sessions will be in-person, with Zoom options available. Contact Louise Langford at: [llangford@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:llangford@christchurchcathedral.org) to learn how to participate.



### Wednesday, February 7

#### **Symbol or Substance: A Dialogue on the Eucharist with C. S. Lewis, Billy Graham and J. R. R. Tolkien by Peter Kreeft**

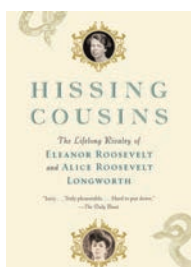
An engaging fictional conversation which gives credible voices to C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and Billy Graham as they discuss one of the most contentious questions in the history of Christianity: Is Jesus symbolically or substantially present in the Eucharist? These men represent three important Western theological traditions: evangelical Protestantism, the Church of England and Roman Catholicism. The author faithfully presents the views of each of these influential Christians. “Rarely have I learned so much while being so entertained. Perhaps this book’s greatest achievements lie in Kreeft’s tender analysis of what unites the different churches, his gift of charitable listening, and his singular ability to illuminate.” — Sally Read, Author, *Night’s Bright Darkness: A Modern Conversion Story*



### Wednesday, March 6

#### **The Friend by Sigrid Nunez**

A moving story of love, friendship, grief, healing, and the magical bond between a woman and her dog. When a woman unexpectedly loses her lifelong best friend and mentor, she finds herself burdened with his Great Dane. Her own battle against grief is intensified by the mute suffering of the dog, traumatized by the inexplicable disappearance of its master, and by the threat of eviction from her apartment. The woman refuses to be separated from the dog except for brief periods of time. Isolated from the rest of the world, increasingly obsessed with the dog’s care, determined to read its mind and fathom its heart, she comes close to unraveling. But while troubles abound, rich and surprising rewards lie in store for both of them. *The Friend* is both a meditation on loss and a celebration of human-canine devotion.



### Wednesday, April 3

#### **Hissing Cousins: The Lifelong Rivalry of Eleanor Roosevelt and Alice Roosevelt Longworth by Marc Peyser**

When Theodore Roosevelt became president in 1901, his beautiful and flamboyant daughter was transformed into “Princess Alice,” arguably the century’s first global celebrity. Thirty-two years later, Alice’s first cousin Eleanor became First Lady. The two women spent their childhoods together and were far more alike than most historians acknowledge. But their politics and personalities couldn’t have been more distinct. Democratic icon Eleanor was committed to social justice and hated the limelight; Republican Alice was an opponent of big government who gained notoriety for her cutting remarks. The cousins liked to play up their rivalry—writing opposing syndicated newspaper columns and making competing nationwide speaking tours. This double biography provides a sweeping look at the twentieth century in America.



## Caregiver Gatherings

As the Body of Christ, we need each other. Many of us will have seasons when we need to receive care, and seasons when we are focused on giving care. This is part of the beauty and complexity and messiness of living in community.

Many of us will have seasons where we are providing substantial care for a loved one due to injury, physical or mental health challenges, or mobility limitations. We can feel lucky to be able to give care for someone we love, while still feeling the weight and uncertainty and exhaustion of it. How will everyone get their needs met? How will I know the right next step? How will I be able to accept the way things are?

Everyone’s experience with caregiving is unique, and responsibilities may ebb and flow; but caregiving stress is a unique load of love and like all hard things, can be eased if you can share the experiences and frustrations, setbacks and successes, with others who are in the same arena.

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frustrations, setbacks and successes, with others who are in the same arena. Recognizing our own loads of care can be an important step in increasing the grace we have for acknowledging our own limits and the limits of our loved ones.

If you find yourself in a caregiving role, we invite you to reach out for support. Whether you join the Cathedral’s Caregivers Gathering once a month, talk with clergy or staff about your challenges, or find another supportive community, please know you do not have to do it alone!

The Cathedral’s monthly Caregivers Gathering meets at 12:30 p.m. in person and virtually on the third Thursday of the month. This gathering is open to all types of caregivers, at whatever stage they find themselves.

The Alzheimer Caregivers’ Support Group, in conjunction with the Alzheimer’s Association, meets on the second Thursday of the Month on Zoom at 11:30 a.m. Register on the Cathedral website under the “Care” tab; look for the “Alzheimer & Dementia Support” section.

For more information on resources in the community or at the Cathedral, please contact Minister for Pastoral Care Claire Soard at [csoard@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:csoard@christchurchcathedral.org).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit [christchurchcathedral.org/events](http://christchurchcathedral.org/events) or call **713-222-2593** to learn more about these and other events at the Cathedral.

● Registration recommended ▲ Registration required ✕ Registration closed ★ Childcare available (3 mo. to 12 yrs.)

### JANUARY

**JAN 1** MON

**Happy New Year!**  
Cathedral offices closed.

**JAN 5** FRI

**Bridge/Rummikub Game Night**  
6:30 –9:30 p.m. McGehee Conf. Room. Join the group for a game or a hand, and bring a dish to share. This group meets monthly on the first Friday.

**JAN 6** SAT

**Celebrando el Día de los Reyes Magos**  
6 p.m., Reynolds Hall.

**JAN 7** SUN

**Starry Night Express with HMNS** ▲  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Reynolds Hall. To register your family, visit [christchurchcathedral.org/starrynight](http://christchurchcathedral.org/starrynight)



**JAN 7** SUN

**Epiphany Evensong & Organ Recital**  
4:15 p.m. Organ recital; 5 p.m. Evensong, Cathedral. Featuring the Cathedral Choir with reception to follow.

**JAN 8** MON

**Pastoral Care Circle**  
6 p.m., Mellinger Room. Fellowship and skill building in the ministries of Pastoral Care. Contact Claire Soard for more info: [csoard@christchurchcathedral.org](mailto:csoard@christchurchcathedral.org)

**JAN 11** THU

**Alzheimer & Dementia Support Group** ▲  
11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Zoom. Second Thursday of the month. Community and fellowship for those with loved ones with dementia.



**JAN 12-14** FRI-SUN

**Annual Parish Retreat** ▲  
Camp Allen. A weekend of fun with the parish in the piney woods. Register at: [christchurchcathedral.org/parishretreat](http://christchurchcathedral.org/parishretreat)

**JAN 12** FRI

**Costa Rica Mission Trip Applications Due**  
The mission trip takes place July 2–10. Adults, high school youth, and eighth graders in confirmation class are able to register.

**JAN 14** SUN

**Houston Marathon Sunday**  
Check routes before heading to church in the a.m.

**JAN 14 CONT.** SUN

**Dean's Hour: Secondhand Religion**  
10 a.m., Reynolds Hall

**JAN 15** MON

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**  
Cathedral offices closed.

**JAN 18** THU

**Caregivers Gathering**  
12:30–1:30 p.m., Jeffers Conf. Room & Zoom. Offering community and fellowship for those in any care giving role.

**JAN 20** SAT

**Foyers Kickoff Brunch** ▲  
10 a.m. to noon., Sanders Hall.



**JAN 21** SUN

**Annual Parish Meeting**  
10–11 a.m., Reynolds Hall. Hear from church leaders an update on the Cathedral and elect new vestry members. Live translation of English to Spanish will be available.

## WEEKLY

**SUNDAYS**

**Children's Sunday School**  
10–11 a.m., Jones 201–208, 3 years to 5th grade. Resumes Jan. 21.

**Youth Sunday School**  
10–11 a.m., The Treehouse. 6th–12th grade. Resumes Jan. 21.

**Cathedral Tours**  
Tours are held every Sunday following the 11 a.m. service. They will also be held the third Sunday of each month following services at 9 a.m. and The Well.

**SUNDAYS CONT.**

**Latino Youth Sunday School**  
1–2:30 p.m. The Treehouse. Resumes Jan. 21.

**Latino Ministry Children's Sunday School**  
1–2:30 p.m., Jones 201–208. Resumes Jan. 21.

**MONDAYS**

**Centering Prayer**  
11:15 a.m., Mellinger Room

**TUESDAYS**

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study**  
7–8 a.m., Zoom.

**20s & 30s Tuesday Bible Study**  
7–8 p.m., Jeffers Conference Room.

**WEDNESDAYS**

**Men's Morning Bible Study**  
7–8 a.m. Zoom.

**Women's Morning Bible Study**  
9:30–11 a.m., Jeffers Conference Room.

**Cathedral Open to All**  
Tour guides are available to welcome you at the bell tower from 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. You may spend your time alone or the guide will share the Cathedral's rich history.

**THURSDAYS**

**Thursday Noon Bible Study**  
12–1 p.m. Zoom.

## UPCOMING

**FEB 13** TUE

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**  
6–8 p.m., Reynolds Hall. Pancakes, then penance. Celebrate one last feast before Easter with fellowship and festivities.

**FEB 14** WED

**Ash Wednesday**  
Services available throughout the day as well as distribution of ashes.

### In the Cloister Gallery: Deepspace Communication—Sounds in the Firmament

Local artist Kevin Cromwell explores the connections between us and the beyond. In series inspired by the Cathedral windows, the show speaks to the architecture and how people relate to it. Runs through January 23.



## Weekday Services

**Morning Prayer**  
7:30 a.m., Monday–Friday on Zoom

**Evening Prayer**  
6 p.m., Monday– Friday on Zoom

**Centering Prayer**  
11:15 a.m., Mondays, Mellinger Room

**Holy Eucharist**  
Noon, Wednesdays, Golding Chapel

More information at: [www.christchurchcathedral.org/weekdayservices](http://www.christchurchcathedral.org/weekdayservices)





# CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

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## Starry Night Express

Join with your whole Cathedral family in this intergenerational offering of "Starry Night Express" in Houston Museum of Natural Science's Discovery Dome, on Sunday, January 7, beginning at 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Reynolds Hall.

Enjoy the LIVE show for stargazers of all ages. Practice finding constellations, planets, the Moon, meteor showers, and the Milky Way band — everything you might see on the next starry night under the darkest skies on Earth. This guided tour will be offered in both English and Spanish.

Each showing lasts approximately 20 minutes and pre-registration is encouraged. There will be the ability to register the day of the event, as well. To sign up or learn more visit: [www.christchurchcathedral.org/starrynight](http://www.christchurchcathedral.org/starrynight)



### STARRY NIGHT EXPRESS

Sunday, January 7

### COSTA RICA, from cover

did a mini fashion show. Some kids dressed up as a character. My favorite was a little girl dressed up as Snow White. A teacher talked to us about the history of Costa Rica and, when it was time to head to the worksite, the principal thanked us for being there.

We headed to the worksite to end our last day of work. We worked for awhile then had an AMAZING lunch. We then finished plastering the walls. As we were walking out, a man was walking down the street. He expressed his gratitude towards us for all the work we had been doing.

### 2024 COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP

July 2-10

One thing that stuck with me was when he said, "Even though it's hard and long work, y'all still push through." It meant a lot to hear someone acknowledge our work and take joy and pride in it.

Afterwards, we went to Limón Downtown to do some souvenir shopping. I got a shirt and a sticker. From there we went to Pops, an AMAZING ice cream place. One of my favorites! My choice is the Dulce de Leche with Coco. We got back to the hotel exhausted, but eager to eat dinner. It was chicken nuggets and fries.

We ended the day with Compline and the question of the day was, "What keeps you going through life when things are hard?" My friends and family are my huge supporters and I'm glad to be in Costa Rica again.

To read more blog entries from the 2023 Costa Rica Mission Trip visit [www.christchurchcathedral.org/costaricablog](http://www.christchurchcathedral.org/costaricablog)

Join us on the 2024 Costa Rica Mission Trip! This summer, we are headed back to the city of Limón from July 2-10 to lead a Vacation Bible School for children. The Costa Rica Mission Trip is open to adults, high schoolers, and 8th graders currently in the confirmation class. The deadline to apply is January 12, [www.christchurchcathedral.org/youthcostarica](http://www.christchurchcathedral.org/youthcostarica)