

the COURIER

Established
1866

The Newsletter of Christ Episcopal Church
Dearborn, Michigan

NOVEMBER 2019
VOLUME 53.09

The Partnership In Faith Begins

Christ Episcopal Church in Dearborn, and Mother of the Savior (MotS), an Arabic speaking Episcopal-Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, are entering into a Partnership in Faith. As a new church plant for the Episcopal Church, MotS will share the same building and property as Christ Church. Christ Church members are predominantly white European English-speaking, as well as African Americans and Liberians. Members of MotS are immigrants from Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, and Iran with roots in several Orthodox Christian traditions. It is anticipated that Mother of the Savior will begin worshipping in the same building as Christ Church on Nov. 17, 2019. Sometime after we begin worshipping in the same building we will have a special blessing of the space, to honor our intention of sharing and partnering in faith.



Each congregation will retain its own identity and worship, while living together in one building. We will offer bi-lingual and intercultural worship services on major feast days. We will learn from one another and have the opportunity to deepen our faith. We will share the building and its maintenance. We will share social time, fellowship, relationship building, and meals. We will not require English speaking people to learn Arabic nor Arabic speaking people to learn English. We will not require that we worship in the same way. We will not require each congregation to hold the same values and beliefs except for our common belief as Christians in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. We will strive to live as witnesses to God's love in the world.

This partnership in faith is possible because of the ministry of The Rev.'s Terri C. Pilarski and Halim Shukair. Halim is the Curate at Christ Church and the part time priest in charge of Mother of the Savior.



Halim and Terri have worked together, and with each congregation, to lay the foundation for this partnership. This included taking Eric Law's course, "Diversity in Context" at Bexley-Seabury in January 2019. Terri continued training with Eric Law and the Kaleidoscope Institute and is now an Accredited Facilitator. She has participated in other formational opportunities in order to be an effective mentor and guide. These included a year of formation with Faithwalking.us, a faith based leadership formation organization that utilizes principles from Murray Bowen's Family Systems Theory, research and teaching from Brene Brown and Ron Heifetz (Harvard) on leadership. Terri is also a Qualified Administrator with IDI, the Intercultural Development Inventory. The IDI tool provides insight into one's self, and or into a group, and a map for growing one's capacity to adapt to different people and cultures. She is also trained in the Life Around the Table's framework for conversation called, "Eating Together Faithfully (EtF)". EtF meals will be the cornerstone of growing this Partnership in Faith by providing real opportunities to get to know one another individually, and our different cultures, while sharing a meal and reflecting on scripture.

*In Peace,
Pastor Terri*

THANKSGIVING MEALS PLANNED FOR FOOD PANTRY FAMILIES

By Erin Biggs

Once again our plan is to offer the families using our food pantry extra food for the holidays. In addition to the usual pantry basics that we offer, we're planning to provide turkeys, side dishes and dessert; essentially everything needed for a complete Thanksgiving meal. Last year our food pantry provided Thanksgiving meals for 46 families.

This year we will be able to order the turkeys, along with some side dishes, through our account with Gleaners Community Food Bank. However, in order to complete the meals, there are other foods that we would like to offer and we would appreciate donations from the congregation. Please see the "shopping list" for the items that we need. You can drop off the food items at the office or in the first floor kitchen until November 17th. Monetary donations are also helpful; checks should be made out to Christ Church with Thanksgiving Pantry in the memo line. Kroger cards in \$10 increments are also much appreciated by food pantry users.

We will start distributing the Thanksgiving meals to food pantry families after the Giving Thanks Dinner on Nov. 24th and continue distribution on Nov. 25 and 26 from 9am-2pm. If you are able to volunteer to help out for an hour or two either of those weekdays, please contact Erin in the office at (313) 565-8450 or office@christchurchdearborn.org.

Thanksgiving Food Pantry Shopping List

Butter

Eggs

Milk

French Fried Onions

(such as French's Crispy Fried Onions)

Pumpkin Pie Ingredients

Instant Mashed Potatoes (box)

Kroger cards in \$10 increments

VESTRY REFLECTION

By Jean Angel

This is my month to write a reflection as a member of Christ Episcopal's Vestry. When I signed on to join the Vestry I was nervous. I imagined endless meetings with many strong opinions and lots of contentious problems. I was partially wrong. Strong opinions abound in our group but voicing them is not very contentious. Vestry is a productive group with people committed to keeping the church on track, working together as a team. Not only does the Vestry support the church, but the members of many important committees do likewise such as Property, Finance, Stewardship, Baptized for Life and many others. Did you know there will be openings for Vestry soon? You should consider joining and speak to a Vestry member or Reverend Terri if you are interested.

The Stewardship Committee's Holy Currency program with Eric Law is very interesting and is a nice model to talk about the flow of talents in our Church and enhance our church and community. I really think our church is quite amazing at providing worship experiences to praise God, learn about God and to improve our community. Our church is home to Blessings in a Backpack, the food pantry, Scout Troop 1147, Alcoholics Anonymous, League of Women Voters, Martial Arts, Stretching, Yoga, and Chapel Day Preschool to name a few marvelous programs. Our church is a wonderful place to enjoy the currencies of others and to bring your own talents to give back to the community.

I am very excited about Father Halim returning for both our church life and for the life of Mother of the Savior Congregation. It will be wonderful to grow our talents together as partner churches and have Reverend Terri and Reverend Halim leading the way. I look forward to thinking about the Holy Currency program this year and following it's outline to develop respectful relationships, volunteer, form connections, tell the truth, make healthy choices and support the church with money and to encourage others in these pursuits. To that end I'd like to invite everyone to participate in upcoming activities at church, there are many exciting ones to improve and nurture the community.

One upcoming activity stems from our family winning the drawing for a Dearborn High School band performance. The DHS Jazz band is full of talented students with a dedicated director, Jim Walters. The currency these kids have is their energy and talent. The kids are donating their musical abilities to support Blessings in a Backpack coordinated out of our church by Chris Burkhalter with the support of many community partners. Blessings in a Backpack increases the health of our community children by giving nutrition and food security to Dearborn Public School children. Come lend your energy, donate, and enjoy some jazz on 11/12. Good things happen in this building when we share our blessings with each other and I am thankful for you all.

HOLY CURRENCIES BOOK STUDY BEGINS NOVEMBER 17, TWO OPPORTUNITIES 8:45AM AND 11:30AM

In the Bible we learn that God created the earth from a swirling mass of chaos, and from the earth God then created every living creature. Regardless of the precision with which one believes the Christian creation story, we believe that the source of our being is found in God. After the death and resurrection of Jesus, his followers regrouped and through the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit the church was born. This passage from the seventeenth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles reminds us that:

The God who made the world and everything in it, God who is Lord of heaven and earth....gives to all mortals life and breath and all things... (and thus) 'In God we live and move and have our being'

We are just beginning to talk about the blessings we have through the lens of a concept called "Holy Currencies." This is based on a book written by Eric Law, an Episcopal priest who has spent over twenty years developing material on diversity and inclusion. Holy Currencies is grounded in the theology that all that we have and all that we are is a gift from God and we are to share these gifts as generously as God has blessed us. Now this does not mean that life is not difficult, it means that even in the challenges of life, we center ourselves on the reality that God is with us. God sustains us with God's presence, with God's care, and with God's abiding love. The love of God abides in us so that we have the capacity to live as God desires, to live with gracious hearts and generous spirits. This then creates a "flow" of currencies from God, through us, and into the world. These currencies are called Holy Blessings because they create the foundation for sustainable ministries



that are vibrant and whole. And, they create the capacity for living lives that are vibrant and whole, even within the challenges of every day life. The currencies are: Gracious Leadership, Relationship, Wellness, Truth, Time and Place, and Money. Each of these are intertwined with the others, as one is strengthened the others are as well. As we grow in our capacity to offer gracious leadership by creating spaces that are just challenging enough that we are given opportunities to grow but not so challenging that we shut down, spaces

where trust can thrive. Trust can thrive when each person is provided the space to speak while others listen. Trust can thrive when we respect one another, when we do not feel the need to argue or debate who is right or wrong, but recognize that there are many points of view that create to a fuller, more honest version, of who we are. From this we build deeper relationships, we enable truth to be told about the lives we are living and the disparities of the world, and wellness begins to form. We honor time and place, the various ways each of

us contributes to the whole, and we honor the places we live, work, and worship. We recognize how money is a part of all that we do, providing the currency that enables each of the other currencies a vital means for sustainability. Money is not the only means for sustainability, but it is a vital one.

We have copies of the book in the office, or you can purchase a digital version on Amazon. Join us as we dive into the book and cultivate its wisdom to help guide us in deepening the flow of our holy currencies.

CLOTHING DRIVE

By Ron Juergens

Again this year Christ Church will be having a clothing drive for warm clothes, however this year will be a little different. Instead of just asking for men's clothing, we will be taking donations of any warm clothes. So as you are breaking out your winter wardrobe, check to see if there is anything that you might want to do-

nate. Also we will be accepting donations of new socks and underwear, as these are two of the most needed items. Donations can be dropped off at the Church office through November 24th. Thanks for your support.

A WORD FROM OUR CURATE

By Curate Halim

Thank You to a lot of good people these last few months who have prayed and checked on me while I was away in Beirut. Giving thanks and being appreciative of the blessings in our lives is a good frame of mind and a good thing to do.

With that thought in mind, I would like to thank Rev. Terri Pilarski in the way she stepped in and connected me to you during the Holy Eucharist through Zoom. I was able to engage with you all, although I'm a thousand miles away. I would like also to thank Erin Biggs our office manager for her wonderful help in sending all the materials related to worship so I can be up-to-date. I want you to know how much I appreciate the great help of Rev. Dana Runestad, Interim Pastor at Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Dearborn Heights, for leading worship for Mother of the Savior Congregation during my absent. Also, I would like to thank the pa-

rishioners of Mother of the Savior for their willingness to assume greater roles and responsibilities during the last three months.

Let me close by thanking you all in advance for your continued support for me and my ministry among you. I'm grateful, that we will start a new partnership in faith with Christ Church and Mother of the Savior, as we know it will take all of us as two congregations to plenty of work of adapting and creativity awaiting us in the weeks and months ahead. It takes all of us to be the complete Body of Christ.

I'm excited to see how the Holy Spirit will lead us as we continue this journey together. I hope you are as well, and I look forward to our continued relationship.

MUSIC UPDATE

By Ally Barone

Working with and getting to know the choir is an exciting adventure! We've been enjoying rehearsing before services every week and after service every other week. This month we're excited to present two pieces before Thanksgiving, two pieces in Advent, and music on Christmas Eve. If anyone is interested in giving choir a try or learning more, we would love to have you join us at any of our 9am rehearsals before service!

SCHUBERT'S MASS IN G

By Carolyn Haury

On Sunday, November 17 at 2:30 pm, a performance of Schubert's Mass in G will be presented at St. Paul Lutheran Church (21915 Beech St, Dearborn.) Singers will include the St. Paul Singers, and guests from other area churches and community choirs. The mass will be accompanied by the organ and a 12-piece string orchestra. The solos will be sung by area professionals. This performance is part of St. Paul's 150th anniversary celebration, and also celebrates Carolyn and John Haury's 20 years of music ministry at St. Paul Church. Admission is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the concert.

CATHEDRAL ANNUAL VETERANS' SERVICE Nov. 10, 4PM CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, DETROIT

This service, featuring bagpipes and organ, will be a very moving service that honors both our military and first responders. Our speaker will be our Bishop-elect, The Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry, who is the daughter of a Marine Corps Lt. Colonel. A reception with light refreshments will follow. Free lighted parking is available via the Cathedral Lane entrance. All are welcome at this special service, and it is a wonderful opportunity to be part of this historic event in this historic setting. In addition to bringing your Vets to honor them, we are hoping that you will encourage members of your congregation to join us.



THE STEWARDSHIP 365 STORY AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Stewardship Commission, composed of Leah and Chris Ventura, Lynn Becker, Bob Denman, and Pastor Terri, is reading **“Holy Currencies: 6 Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries.”** and participating in six webinars with Eric Law to provide us with material to help Christ Church embrace stewardship as a practice that grows disciples.

Stewardship 365 uses the concept of flow, of a cycle of blessings, that enable congregations to hold up areas of strengths and ways to grow other areas into strengths. These areas are known as currencies - because when they are utilized intentionally they create a flow from one to another and enhance each other. These currencies are: Gracious Leadership, Relationship, Time and

Place, Truth, Wellness, and Money. Here are some of the ways we see these currencies already flowing through us:

Currency of Gracious Leadership is an intentional practice of creating and modeling the skills, tools, and process to create gracious environments. By this we mean creating the context in which mutually respectful relationships listen intentionally to one another without the need to criticize, argue or debate who is right or wrong. Thus there is the capacity to discern “truth” across differences between existing members and also with non-members.

Currency of Time and Place includes the volunteer and staff time to sustain this building and its property as well as the various ministries that church offers. It includes our capacity to share the building with many groups and soon to know this building as the home to both Christ Church and Mother of the Savior congregations. This mutual sharing of time and place enlivens the building and enables us to be a true reflection of the neighborhood we live in.

Currency of Relationship considers our internal and external networks of mutually respectful connections between leaders and members of the church and its ministries, as well as the groups that use this building. It also includes relationships with people and groups outside of the building.

Currency of Truth is our ability to articulate individually and corporately the global wholistic truth of the experiences of different individuals and groups that share this building as well as the experiences of individuals and groups in the community, the nation, and the world. This currency invites us to be aware of the systems of oppression and suppression that exist, how they reside in each of us in unconscious ways, and how we can become more aware of their impact on our thoughts, words, and actions.

Currency of Wellness is the state of being healthy physically, socially, economically, ecologically, and spiritually within a congregation, town, nation, and the world. Sustainability is dependent upon a healthy flow of resources.

Currency of Money is our generally accepted medium of exchange, and is used as a means to pay for the some of the necessary resources to sustain other currencies.

Stewardship 365 and our Stewardship Commission will guide us into recognizing how these currencies are already at flow within Christ Church, our mission to be a community centered church that feeds people in mind, body, and spirit, and the subsequent ministries we aim to sustain. Between September 29 and November 10, 2019, we will explore several of the currencies. Other currencies will be explored in 2020 as we engage in a practice of thinking of how our care for this-church community, the building and property, and our relationships with others-occurs every day of the year. We hope to have some fun along the way even as we consider some serious concepts of sustainable mission and ministry.

Faithfully,

Pastor Terri, Lynn Becker, Bob Denman, Leah and Chris Ventura, The Stewardship Commission



Currency on Time & Place

- Clergy & Staff
- Vestry
- Baptized for Life
- Prayer Room
- Children's Pageant
- Adult Forum & Bible Study
- Mother of The Savior
- Centering Prayer
- Chapel Day Pre-School
- Library
- Men's Group
- Dearborn Area Interfaith Network (DAIN)
- Ushers
- Food pantry
- Winter Warm Clothing
- Finance
- Parish Life
- Listening Group
- Marital Arts
- Stretching
- New Beginnings Quilt Group
- Yoga

Currency of Gracious Leadership

- Blessings in a Backpack
- United Thank Offering (UTO)
- Card Ministry
- St Mary of Bethany Prayer Group
- Community Garden
- Building Usage
- Plaza Care
- Stewardship
- Acolytes
- Altar Guild
- Lectors and LEMs (Lay Eucharist Ministers)
- LEVs (Lay Eucharist Visitors)
- Labyrinth, Memorial Garden, Pet Memorial Garden
- Worship Planning
- Choir
- Visiting Musicians
- Plaza Music Series

Currency of Relationship

Currency of Wellness

Currency of Truth



NOT TOO MUCH TO REPORT RE FINANCES

By Kevin Green, Treasurer

As predicted, income was slightly better and expenses increased in September. See the accompanying table for details. We're in the homestretch and need to follow our usual pattern of finishing the year strong by fulfilling our pledges. Pledge statements (through the end of September) should be sent out soon.

9/30/2019	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	2019 BUDGET
INCOME	\$186,903.52	\$201,480.97	\$286,513.00
EXPENSE	\$224,883.16	\$241,278.46	\$318,879.00
NET	(\$37,979.64)	(\$39,797.49)	(\$32,366.00)

SHARING OUR STORY...STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY

By Jeanne Martens

The 'Sharing Our Story' project is a way to help us connect with the Christ Church story by listening to the wealth of experiences of our long-standing members; learning from their wisdom; and capturing a piece of our own history. We recognize we are inheritors of a remarkable legacy and appreciate the contribution of those who have given to Christ Church in so many ways.

We have 10 Nonagenarian and Centenarian volunteers to be Story Tellers. That is 10 folks who are either in their 90's or 100's!! And we have 6 volunteers to be Story Gatherers. We can still accept additional volunteers for Story Gatherers. If you think you would like to be on a team to visit one of our Story Tellers, please contact Jeanne Martens or the Office, (313) 565-8450

or office@christchurchdearborn.org as soon as possible.

We had our training session in October. For any new volunteers one of our team members from Strengthening Community Relations team will meet with you to go over the guidelines and expectations. So far three of the visits have been scheduled and we are working to schedule the rest, with the goal to complete all visits before the end of November.

On Sunday, December 15, during forum time, stories will be shared with the whole parish. We also hope to publish individual stories in upcoming Couriers .

GIVING THANKS COMMUNITY DINNER

On November 24th Christ Church and Chapel Day Preschool will host a Giving Thanks Community Dinner from 2:30-4:30pm.

RSVP to the office by November 20th.

We will be preparing the food on both Saturday, November 23rd and Sunday November 24th. If you would like to help prepare the food, set up, or clean up contact the office at (313) 565-8450 or office@christchurchdearborn.org or Chapel Day Preschool at chapeldaypreschool@gmail.com.



Dinner + Dearborn High Jazz

Benefit for Blessings in a Backpack

Donations accepted for Blessings in a Backpack providing food security for children at 6 Dearborn public schools.

11/12/2019 at Christ Episcopal

Located at Cherry Hill and Military

6:00 pm Pizza and Salad Dinner

7:00 pm Jazz

R.S.V.P for dinner to Erin 313-565-8450 by 11/11



Or R.S.V.P to office@christchurchdearborn.org

**BLESSINGS IN A
BACKPACK**



LWVDDH Book Group!!

Members of the LWVDDH (and friends) will be meeting on:

Thursday, November 14th from 3-5 pm

In the Lounge of Christ Episcopal Church

120 N. Military, Dearborn, MI 48124.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Peggy Kearney at:
peggy.kearney@yahoo.com/248-882-1254 (cell)

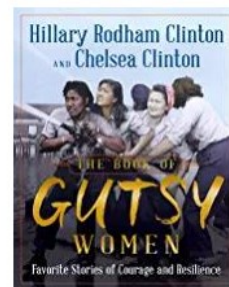
This time we will be discussing **Hillary and Chelsea Clinton's** book:

The Book of Gutsy Women:

Favorite Stories of Courage and Resilience

COFFEE HOUR SIGN UP

Sign up to host a coffee hour. Our goal is to offer hospitality, coffee and simple refreshments. Please sign up for a Sunday. A more elaborate Coffee Hour for a birthday or anniversary is welcome.



Hope to see you there!!

Calendar Highlights

FELLOWSHIP

COFFEE HOUR

Sunday, 11:15am

Refreshments in Fellowship Hall following the 10 am service. The sign-up sheet is downstairs if you would like to host a Sunday.

YOUNG PEOPLE

CHILDREN'S PRAYER ROOM

Sunday at 10:05am for 3-9 year olds during the 10am service. The children leave the church together and meet in the Prayer Room for a child friendly service with stories and crafts, then return to church for communion. Please contact the church office at 313-565-8450 or office@christchurchdearborn.org.

HEALTH

MARTIAL ARTS

Adult Classes

Wednesday 7pm

Sunday 2pm

STRETCHING CLASS

Meets the 2nd and 4th Saturday monthly at 10:30am. Michael Mroczyk, leader of our Martial Arts Group, is offering coaching in a method of effective, dynamic, facilitated stretching for all interested persons. The sessions are open. The greatest benefit will be for those whose range of motion has atrophied. Come dressed comfortably. The sessions are free of charge. Donations to Christ Church are welcome.

YOGA

Tuesdays, 7:15-8:15pm, Room 213

This is a beginner level hatha class. Hatha links movement with breath. If you have a yoga mat, please bring it. The sessions are free of charge.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Nov 2 League of Women Voters 10am
Nov 3 Stewardship Forum
Nov 3 Choir Rehearsal 11:20am
Nov 4 Listening Group 7pm
Nov 4 Scout Leaders 7pm
Nov 5 Scout PLC Meeting 6:30pm
Nov 5 AAUW Meeting 7:30pm
Nov 7 Baptized for Life 6pm
Nov 10 Stewardship Ingathering
Nov 12 Pizza & Jazz Fundraiser 6pm
Nov 13 Chapel Day Board 6:30pm
Nov 14 League of Women Voters 3pm
Nov 14 Building Use Group 7pm
Nov 16 AAUW 1pm
Nov 17 Vestry 12:15pm
Nov 18 Listening Group 7pm
Nov 20 CHI Healing 6:30pm
Nov 21 Baptized for Life 6pm
Nov 24 Choir Rehearsal 11:20am
Nov 24 Giving Thanks Dinner 2:30pm
Nov 28 Office Closed—Thanksgiving
Nov 29 Office Closed
Nov 30 Baby Shower 1pm

DECEMBER

Dec 1 Adult Forum
Dec 2 Listening Group 7pm
Dec 2 Scout Leaders 7pm
Dec 3 Scout PLC Meeting 6:30pm
Dec 3 AAUW Meeting 7:30pm
Dec 6 Chapel Day Christmas 6:30pm

Dec 7 League of Women Voters 10am
Dec 8 Choir Rehearsal 11:20am
Dec 15 Parish Stories Forum
Dec 15 Vestry 12:30pm
Dec 16 Listening Group 7pm
Dec 19 Sonneman Studio 4:30pm
Dec 21 Lessons & Carols Rehearsal 9am
Dec 21 Sonneman Studio 1pm
Dec 22 Greening of the Church
Dec 22 Lessons & Carols 7pm

JANUARY 2020

Jan 4 League of Women Voters 10am
Jan 6 Listening Group 7pm
Jan 7 Scout Leaders 7pm
Jan 7 Scout PLC Meeting 6:30pm
Jan 7 AAUW Meeting 7:30pm
Jan 12 Sonneman Recital 3pm
Jan 18 Vestry 12:30pm
Jan 20 Listening Group 7pm
Jan 26 Annual Meeting

DECEMBER COURIER SUBMISSIONS

Submit news and articles for the December issue of the Courier by November 25th to office@christchurchdearborn.org. Please add Courier to the subject line.

November Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

Jennifer Patterson
Alex Boyar
Emily Brehob
Collin Kappauf
MeiLing Marzonie
Lisa McCallum
Robert Peterson
Jonathon Quam
Erika Stanis
Patrick Sanderson
Kasia Quam
Myrna Burkhalter

NOV 1
NOV 2
NOV 3
NOV 3
NOV 5
NOV 9
NOV 9
NOV 10
NOV 10
NOV 16
NOV 17
NOV 20

Ellen Chapman NOV 22
Anthony Johnson NOV 22
Marion Bloye NOV 25
Selia Danes NOV 27
Michael Magnan NOV 28
Amy Penk NOV 28
Carmel Price NOV 28

ANNIVERSARIES

Alex & Elizabeth Boyar NOV 5 (25)
Daniel & Kris Hipp NOV 22 (44)
Frederick & Barbara Brandenburg NOV 26 (70)
Jerry & Isabelle Behm NOV 27 (27)



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OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

The Rt. Rev. Wendell Gibbs, Jr., Bishop
The Rev. Terri Pilarski, Rector
Lynn Becker, Jr., Warden
Nick Bell, Sr., Warden
Kevin Green, Treasurer
Matthew Sallman, Clerk

STAFF

Allison Barone, Music Director
Erin Biggs, Office Manager
Tess Dowgiallo, Children's Choir Director
John Jones, Sexton
The Rev. Halim Shukair, Curate

VESTRY

Jean Angel
Lynn Becker
Nick Bell
Barbara Hall
Michael Mroczyk
Stephanie Mulkern
Holly Schanz
James Thornton
Chris Ventura