

CASL

Communicator

We Are *Gathered and Sent*

That Great Cloud of Witnesses



Hebrews 12:1-2 ¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

We rest on the shoulders of greatness. From the days of the resurrection up to today, there have been people of faith who have lived in the light of God's love and grace. Our lives are a witness to the faithful who have come and gone in the hope of the promises of God.

November is the time we celebrate and remember those who have taught us, nurtured us, and filled us with the shining example of what a faithful life looks like. Each of us know someone

like that in our lives. For me, it was my grandmother. Although I didn't live as a person of faith in my youth, I remember noticing how my grandmother always took the time to meet the needs of others, and always spoke of her faith in small ways.

I know that, at the time, it didn't move me to an active faith; but it did move me to care for and do for others. This was the beginning of faith for me, I think. And for many of us, similar stories emerge of those who formed our understanding of the world in ways we didn't understand at the time.

Jesus is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith; and that faith is perpetuated, by the power of the Holy Spirit, through the generations as we hear and teach of the love of Jesus, and as we live lives of faith that will influence the next generation. May we remember our ancestors and our descendants as we live those lives. Be blessed.

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Synod News

Pastor Lucille 'CeCee' Mills has been called to Assistant to the Bishop for Call Process and Shared Ministry by the NC Synod Council.

Pastor CeCee was installed on October 27 via Zoom. Speaking for justice and peace, Pastor CeCee is known in the NC Synod as a leader in many roles, urging others to follow the Cross of Christ faithfully. We are honored that Pastor CeCee spent a part of her early ministry years as a former vicar of CASL (Church of the Abiding Savior Lutheran).



Worship News

All Saints Sunday will be celebrated on November 7, 2021. On that day we remember with thanksgiving those who have lived and died in the faith. It is also a time when we are reminded to make an offering toward the Mary Holeman Fund. This fund is used to provide assistance to those who are terminally or chronically ill or who are identified with special needs related to acute illness.

Outreach News

The produce grown in the Small Community Garden has been shared and eaten by many this summer. This first year of full season's harvest has proven quite plentiful. In spite of the laborers being few in number, blessings abounded in the community. Now that Fall has arrived, we have the opportunity to welcome students from NCCU who took a summer break and are returning as well as new students who are interested in the growth and sustainability of healthy food and community connections. To help out, come by Mon, Thurs, Sat from 8-10 am.

Youth and Faith Formation

"The Luther Seal" designed by Martin Luther centuries ago and other topics were discussed as the Mighty Disciples met via Zoom for a Saturday morning Reformation activity. October 30th, Pastor Myers led the youth in learning the familiar Reformation hymn written by Luther "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" and other interesting details of Lutheran history.

In-reach/Stewardship

The Coming Revolution in Church Economics by Mark Deymaz and Harry Li presented the readers with a new array of strategic ideas to finance church ministries as the modern world economy evolves.

The book is a useful source of information and provides distinct perspectives on the practice of stewardship, supporting the church's financial foundation through gifts and offerings.

Dates to Remember

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| November 1 | All Saints Day |
| November 7 | Day Light Savings Ends |
| November 11 | Veteran's Day |
| November 13 | World Kindness Day |
| November 14 | Fall Congregational Meeting |
| November 17 | World Peace Day |
| November 26 | Thanksgiving |

Mary A. Watkins
521 Martha St.
Durham, NC 27707
919-688-4162

This true story is about the shock of my “Self” in shambles — damaged like an arm or leg. It happened at age 26 during hospitalization.

It details a sense of the divine throughout my life growing up on a farm with my siblings, then college, first job teaching and marriage that ended when my husband passed away at age 48, leaving me with 2 teenagers and one adult child.

The GREAT
RETURN,
That Unlimited Power



By GOOD EARTH



T.B. Ellis



TB Ellis is the third daughter of the wise, hard-working, Bible - believing parents who were farmers. Her only brother was born about two years after, affectionately, her buddy. They all attended public schools. Later, TB received her bachelor's degree (Cum Laude) from her beloved HBCU, NCCU, and the Master of Arts in teaching from Purdue. TB was a teacher, a librarian and wife of another educator who became a pastor. A grateful mother of three children, and proud granny to many. TB's intentions have always been to see the best in them as God does. He said, "Follow Me".

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Dear Friends, Family, Comrades, Acquaintances, Animals, Plants, Angels, Archangels, and other assorted powers in earth and heaven,

While you may already know our news through the grapevine, we are thrilled to formally announce to you all that our child, Abbie Butscher Nesbitt was born one month ago yesterday—September 21, 2021—at 9:43 pm, after 30 hours of labor on the part of Chrissy, their mother. Abbie’s name comes from three great peace and justice activists: “Abbie” is for Abbie Hoffman, the co-founder of Students for a Democratic Society and the Yippies who was one of the Chicago Seven and also tried, at one point, to organize people to meditate in a circle around the Pentagon in an effort to levitate it away from planet earth; “Butscher” was the maiden name of Mary Grace McCoy, the late great co-founder of our own beloved Rose of Sharon Catholic Worker Community, who passed on June 10, 2019; last but not least, “Nesbitt” is for Abbie’s mom, another co-founder of our community, dedi-

icated math and science teacher, and long time Catholic radical who has spent the better part of the last two decades fighting to abolish torture, nuclear weapons, and the prison industrial complex while doing hospitality and other works of mercy both within and outside of the Catholic Worker movement (n.b.: this bio is by Greg—Chrissy probably wouldn’t brag on herself this much, so he felt the need to do it for her).

From before they were born, Abbie has been surrounded by a heavenly and earthly host who have seen them, and us, through their gestation and birth and into their infancy. We know that, together with Mary, Christ’s mother and ours, our co-redemptrix and Queen of Heaven, with whose blessed and immaculate flesh the Holy Spirit has made the Word of God incarnate, and with the confessors, apostles, ancestors of the people Israel, prophets, saints, and martyrs, the whole host of heaven is interceding for Abbie before the throne of grace; we have faith and confidence that Mary Grace is among them, cheering us on and smiling at the fact that her beloved Chrissy has had the child that they dreamed of together. We dare to hope that Abbie Hoffman, too, is raising a fist in solidarity with us and with all parents who are trying to live, work, and care for children while resisting this filthy rotten capitalist system. Here on earth, we have been showered with a month’s worth of home cooked food (and plenty of Panera and GrubHub on top of that!), with the labor of those who have taken on many of our community and organizing commitments while we take “activist parental leave,” with monetary contributions to our body work fund which has already helped pay for Chrissy and Abbie to get craniosacral therapy and is likely to come in handy again, and with visitors who have cleaned our kitchen, taken care of the Catholic Worker chickens, sent us kind words, and/or simply sat with us. There are too many of you to name in an announcement like this, but you know who you are. Please know that, even though we don’t (yet!) have the time or energy to thank you individually, you are in our hearts and minds. You cannot know how grateful we are to all of you.

There is no easy way to end an announcement like this, since we are overflowing with love and gratitude for all of you. Therefore, it will have to suffice to say that we hope to see all of you soon and that, if you haven’t already, you’ll get to meet Abbie in person. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy the attached photos.

In Solidarity,

Chrissy, Greg, Iris (the dog), Marmalade (the cat), Abbie (the kid), and #AllTheCatholicWorkerChickens

PS: a note about language. You may have noticed that we are using the singular “they” to refer to Abbie rather than “he” or “she.” This is to leave room for Abbie to be creative in exploring and developing their own gender—something the American Association of Pediatrics tells us we can expect them to start doing around the age of two. In the meantime, please support us in affirming Abbie, whatever their gender turns out to be, by joining us in referring to them with gender neutral pronouns.

People in Action!



Thrivent Opportunities



We continue to be blessed by your Thrivent Action Grant dollars. Two grants have been given to allow for the purchase of seedlings and supplies for growing and maintaining our budding Small Community Garden. Your continued use of these grants for our ministries gives us the opportunity to bless others as we have been blessed.

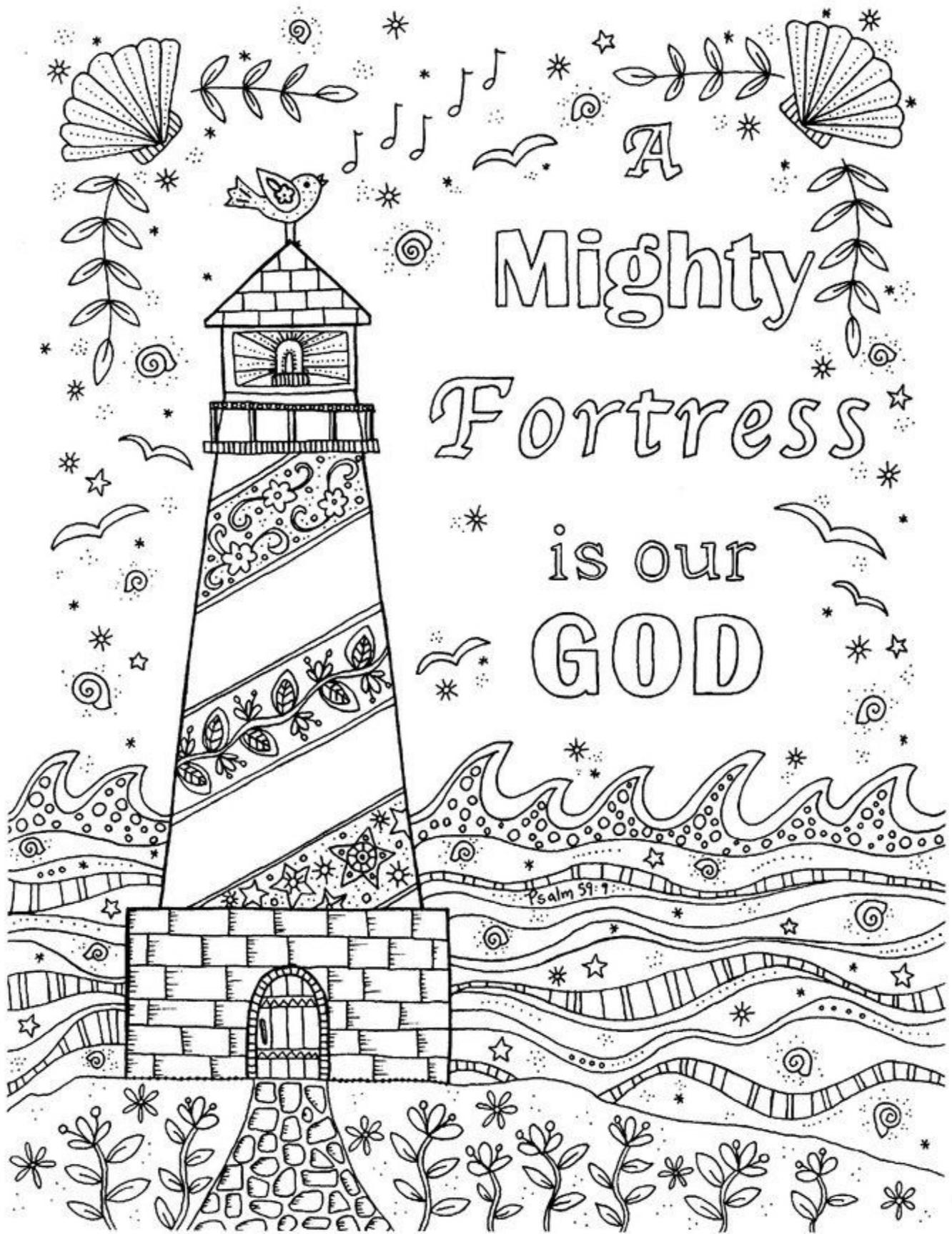
Thrivent Choice Dollars:

Members of Thrivent Financial can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go by directing Choice Dollars. If you are a member, please consider directing your Choice Dollars to Abiding Savior. These Dollars accumulate in your account and are not automatically allocated. Your Choice Dollars can be designated online. If you need help or have questions, please contact Veronica Johnson.

Thrivent Action Grants:

Think about an unmet need in the community and how you can help. Each Thrivent member is eligible to receive up to two \$250 Thrivent Action Team Grants per year. As we begin a new year, we will have new opportunities to access this funding. If you need help writing these grants, or have questions regarding how these funds can be used, please contact Diana Haywood. Using these grants is just good stewardship.

Please use your Grants and Choice dollars!!



A
Mighty
Fortress
is our
GOD

Psalm 59: 7