

# NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

## Great Idea!



### A word from the project director...

One of the workshops I attended at this year's gathering of all Lilly grantees in the initiatives regarding children was about the power of storytelling. Through this workshop, I realized that I had never shared my personal story of why this topic of children in worship is so important to me. So here is a brief version:

When I was five-years-old my father died suddenly from a heart attack. The church we were attending at the time did not do a good job of supporting my mother in this difficult time, so she stopped going. But for me the image of God as Father was very powerful and important for my healing, so my mother found a church that was closer to our home that I could walk to. The DCE of this church took me under her wing and I credit her not only for the healing of that time, but the inspiration to find my vocation in Christian education.

This is a piece of my story. I'd love to hear what inspired your interest in engaging children more fully in worship and the church. If you are willing to tell us a piece of your story, that we can share in future issues of the newsletter, please email at [wow@ctsnet.edu](mailto:wow@ctsnet.edu).

Kathy Dawson, WoW Project Director



## Montreat Regional Gathering

We spent three glorious days in Montreat with sixteen participants exploring the topic of Neurodiversity and Worship. It was a little rainy, but the discussions and connections were warm and wonderful. We all learned a lot from each other and came away with plans for next steps for our various ministries.

The recorded interviews that made up some of our content for these regional gatherings will soon be available on the Wonder of Worship website for all to view. We'll let you know via email when that happens. Again we're grateful for the partnership of Big Faith Resources on this topic and materials that they provided for both fall gatherings.

## Annual Indianapolis Gathering of Grantees

Every year Lilly Endowment and Indiana Wesleyan University gather all the grantees within the two child-related initiatives (ours on children in worship and the other one on Christian parenting). Each year Lilly Endowment has continued to give out millions of dollars in these two initiatives. This year's gathering hosted 240 different grants with two representatives each present. It is a time of making connections and attending helpful workshops for our common work. We'll continue to connect you to some of these newer grants via this newsletter as we work together for the children in our ministries.



## Resource Recommendation

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A  
SITE FOR FIELD-TESTING?



The Presbyterian Association of Musicians was also recently awarded a grant within our initiative, called Child of Blessing. They are recruiting sites for field testing the materials they are producing. Check out their sample Advent resources [here](#)

# Spotlight: The Gospel in Glass

**WOW!**  
Wonder of Worship  
November 2025  
Quicksheet 2.4



One of my goals for my 2022 sabbatical was to research the subject of “clergy wellbeing and burnout.” It helped me realize I needed a creative practice and hobby. Thanks to [The Arts, Recreation, and Worship](#) conference at Montreat, I began doing stained glass art. I even found a stained glass studio just 10 minutes from my home. If they were open and I was in town, I could be found there, churning out one project after another. I had found my special practice.

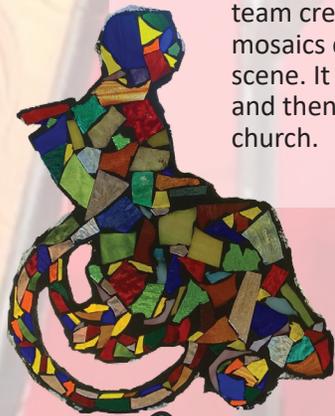


As our Pentecost Team began to plan the upcoming summer, we settled on a Mr. Rogers theme – “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood.” I envisioned a simple ‘neighborhood’ of stained glass lining the sanctuary windows. A year to the day after my sabbatical began, I installed the art in preparation for our season. The team created another four glass mosaics depicting a neighborhood scene. It stayed up through the summer and fall, and then found a new home elsewhere in the church.



The following year we purchased a thematic bundle from A Sanctified Art, <https://sanctifiedart.org> that followed a quilting theme. For each week’s scripture there was a matching quilt square design. I took those designs and made them into stained glass squares for church windows. For Lent and Easter, a second Sanctified Art bundle paired two seemingly opposite words for each week. It sent me back to the studio to create a three-dimensional ampersand candleholder. It adorned our table until Pentecost.

On Pentecost, this Mom’s favorite piece of all replaced the ampersand. My then eightyear-old had tried his hand at stained glass the previous summer. He drew a design, and together we made a beautiful “fire crystal.” When he finished it, I asked where he wanted to hang it, and he said, “We should save it for the communion table for that special church day... Pentecost!” It was a beautiful sign of his full inclusion in the worshiping life of the church.



**Rev. Stephanie Sorge** is the Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Harrisonburg, VA, where she lives with her kids. Her other continuing sabbatical hobby is improv!

