

Good Morning everyone my name is Jacob Maher. Before I start this speech I just want to tell you that I kissed the blarney stone in Ireland over spring break, which is supposed to make you an eloquent speaker. It worked for Winston Churchill, so I really hope it will work for me today.

I have so many great memories here at Christ Church, dating back to worship center, sitting on the circular green carpet playing in the sand pit. I have memories of scrambling around on the floor trying to pick up the most dollar bills while people danced at the Hafliis. I remember starting off as a sheep in the Christmas pageant, graduating to Shepard, then inn keeper, then king & finally Joseph... "look Mary, there are the lights of David's city..." I have a different kind of memory from playing hide and seek in the basement during our J2A lock-in, because it made me believe that some of the ghost stories about Christ Church were true! I remember Aunt Cathy wrangling all the acolytes in the back of church every Sunday & remember all of you clapping the first time I was a crucifer.

In Sunday School, Lamar Richardson taught me valuable lessons on money management when we would play bible trivia, with each correct answer getting a quarter. It was always nice coming home from church with an extra 2 or 3 dollars in my pocket. A side benefit was also learning quite a bit about the Bible. The one thing that always comes back is how much this Church and the people here have given me throughout my life. All of the opportunities and experiences I have been provided because of all of you. I think of Lamar, Laura and Susan who gave up 10 days of their summer to take 7 teenagers to Italy. I'm still not sure what was going through their heads when they volunteered to lead us, but I think they enjoyed it most of the time. Those 10 days in Italy, sharing some of the best memories I have with a group of friends, were because of your support. I think of Genet and all the help she gave me planning my Eagle Scout luncheon. I think of all of you who came out to support my Eagle Scout project, helping me raise nearly \$4,000. Your support and generosity blew away all of my expectations and I cannot thank you enough. I am happy to report that 3 months ago I officially received my Eagle Scout Rank and it would not have been possible without you. I think of the many fish dinners my family made with the Watts family during shelter week, even though we all smelled like fried fish for the next week. And finally, I think of the countless memories I have shared with my aunts, uncles, cousins and my wonderful Situ who have all made our weekly family reunions so special.

Last fall while all of my friends were struggling to find something/ anything to write about for their college essays, I was struggling to pick just one thing to write about. Between reading camps, my J2A pilgrimage, shelter weeks and countless other moments here at Christ Church it was impossible to pick just one thing to focus on. If I had been given enough space, I could have just written about all of you.

My attendance here will drop over the next couple years while I am away at Miami University studying Engineering. But as I look into a future full of unknowns I know one thing. That I can always come back here to be loved and supported by all of you. Thank you