

Good Morning Christ Church,

Let me first add my Father's Day wishes to all Fathers and to the many other adults (male or female) who have done many Fatherly duties in their lives. It is said that a father is someone you look up to even if you are taller than the person, something which I experience firsthand.

I migrated to Detroit about a year ago. Since then Christ Church has been our Family Church. Over the period Christ church has taught me many things.

Firstly, I couldn't imagine learning how to tie and dye or to knit at a church, but I did. Those days on the lawn after Church were fun-filling. Kudos to the organisers. It was my first interaction with Christ Church members. I was fortunate to be introduced to J2A by Lamar and to be invited to join the new group. Since then I have been in the care of my two teachers Kim and Jourdan who made me feel at home both physically and spiritually. The fun activities with my J2A classmates and teachers before church has made me look forward to waking up every Sunday morning, even though I am more of a night person.

Although I was an acolyte at my previous Church, Christ church has showed me how to do it in style, whether it's through the guidance and encouragement of Kathy or when Rev Dieter dressed us in regal green robes. He has made every sermon different and more memorable. They have both removed the pressure from being an acolyte making it an enjoyable experience rather than a nerve-wracking one.

Christ church and its members has introduced me to some very scrumptious meals. Whether it's the meals after service or during the many special arranged activities in Ledyard hall. One memorable event was Halloween which gave me the chance to show a little of my Jamaican culture. How can I forget my first Thanksgiving dinner? Many thanks to Margo and Rollins who gave us a great Detroit welcome at their home, and to this day I still have dreams about the turkey they served.

Last but not least, Christ church has taught me how to serve God by serving others. Some of my favorite events of the year were when I got to be a part of feeding the homeless, even though I'm a terrible cook, and also the various Meals on Wheels programs. The best part was seeing the pure joy on the recipient's faces when they had their meals. Lorraine a member of Christ Church introduced me to Beaumont hospital where initially, it started out as a College requirement, but now I volunteer just for the fun of it. These activities sharpened my altruistic personality, something which I am happy for.

By doing all this Christ church over the last twelve months has welcomed me as a part of their family. For this, I cannot thank you enough for such a memorable year. Those whose names I have not mentioned, forgive me, but I really want to thank you all.

Coming this fall I will be moving to Howard University in Washington DC to take STEM-based courses at their college of arts and sciences. Thank you for listening.