



CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY
OF MONTEREY BAY
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION



Greetings!



Our Five Year Anniversary celebration has officially begun.

Last month board member (and Shower of Love Co-Chair) Sarah Hills and I attended the National Christ Child Society Conference in Potomac, MD,

where ***NCCS presented us with a certificate honoring our five years as a Christ Child chapter. It was great!***

The NCCS Conference was great in many regards. For me, it was so happy to connect with friends from chapters all across the country, including those who've participated in NCCS leadership. But even more, I so value the ideas we get and the thinking that gets started when you hear from a communications expert or the leader of a really impactful chapter program who gives you nuggets you can bring home to discuss with the board and other chapter leaders.

At Mass on Saturday night, we were given a charge by the President of Catholic Charities of Washington D.C., Monsignor John Enzler that touched me deeply. Monsignor Enzler noted that because of our mission and love-fueled deeds, we, the Christ Child chapters, are among the best of the church and critical to engaging people in loving one another as Jesus taught us. He said that as the Church continues to struggle with past issues and relevance in our secular society, ***our power to attract others to our Mission is of greater importance than ever.*** Quite a responsibility!

Learn more about the conference from Sarah Hill's article immediately below. We are so fortunate now that four of our nine board members have been able to go to the NCCS annual meetings, and we have received scholarships to defray the costs from the national organization every year. This makes us more aware of opportunities to grow and have impact and gives us friends across the country whom we can get advice and learn from.

In other news, Betsy Messman, one of our knitters (who also works at St. Angela's) heard from a friend of hers on the board of ***Nancy's Project*** that two farmworker families were in need of our bundles. So we stepped up and delivered two bundles as requested, and are ***hopeful we will be expanding our work to another bundles partner*** who can make sure our beautiful and useful bundles get into the hands of those who need them most.

On the literacy front, please read below about our book drive as part of the NCCS National Day of Service. All online on Amazon, the books we need for our preschool and bundles programs are listed, and we are inviting you and anyone else you think would be interested to buy a book, which we will then

deliver through our programs across the peninsula and county.

And, of course ***check out the many volunteering and social opportunities below.*** Besides the normal, please consider serving on the Shower of Love Committee--we are putting together a great in-person event, and we need your help! ***Just click at the very bottom of this email that we can "Count You In"*** to help--which is always a lot of fun.

Enjoy peace and beauty of fall . . .

Blessings,

Anne Kelley, President

Images from the National Christ Child Society Conference, September 17-18





Notes from the NCCS Conference Sarah Hills, Board Member



It was indeed an honor to attend this year's National Christ Child Society (NCCS) conference in Potomac, Maryland. To be amidst dedicated women who have spent years, some part of multi-generations, to Mary Virginia Merrick's cause is humbling. Thanks to the chapter--and National Christ Child scholarship--for sending me to be a part of this – it was inspiring.

The conference focused on telling your chapter story, how communications grow your chapter, and the use of media tools. We were given a great tool kit which we can apply to our local chapter here in Monterey Bay. We learned that NCCS will start using Tradewing, a platform-based software to communicate with its chapters. I believe this platform will be helpful to us as a tool, to ask questions and exchange ideas with other NCCS chapters, and it can also be used for hosting webinars.

Some takeaways from the presentations as we think about our own membership: *where is our chapter now, what are our*

goals, and how can we achieve them? There was some discussion about how to attract new members and volunteers, including fine-tuning our elevator pitch (keeping it to two minutes and under) to help us continue attracting new members and volunteers while spreading our mission and receiving donations.

Overall, this conference reinforced my belief that our chapter is on the right track in many areas. There was even a reference to our chapter website and the excellent infant baby photo as something to emulate. ***We should be proud of what we have been able to accomplish during these past five years. It was really wonderful to be able to receive the five-year anniversary certificate with Anne. And just a lot of fun to meet members from different chapters—and to get to know them over meals and drinks outside the programmed discussions . . .***

Sarah Hills

Join Us in a Local Book Drive as Part of the

**2020♥NE
Christ Child Society
National Day of Service**

Every year, the National Christ Child Society in October brings all of its 45 chapters together in a National Day of Service. This year, across the country each chapter is doing a book drive to support childhood literacy in their communities.

We have decided to do a very simple book drive on Amazon.com which will help us support our 2022 baby bundle and preschool literacy programs (we will be needing nearly 1,000 books during the year!). Please support us by selecting a book or books to purchase, purchase on Amazon, and it/they will be sent directly to the chapter and put to use in our programs. It's so easy.

[JUST CLICK HERE](#) to purchase a board book for an infant or a book used in our preschool programs . . . Thanks for being a part of a national effort to improve childhood literacy--and tell a friend!

VOLUNTER & SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

**Yarns & Stitches Meets Wednesdays
October 20 & November 3 at 10:30 a.m.**



As usual, we'll meet at the St. Angela Library in PG! [Let Joan know](#) if you have any questions--



OR if you would like to learn how to knit one of the beautiful bears that accompany our baby bundles, mainly knitted to date by our own Jay Asling. There are easy instructions and Jay can coach at an upcoming meeting just as she did on Wednesday! Just [let Joan know](#) your interest!

Help Pack or Deliver our Baby Bundles this October



We will pack our bundles on
Wednesday October 13 in the Christ Child Room at the Victorian at St. Angela's between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.

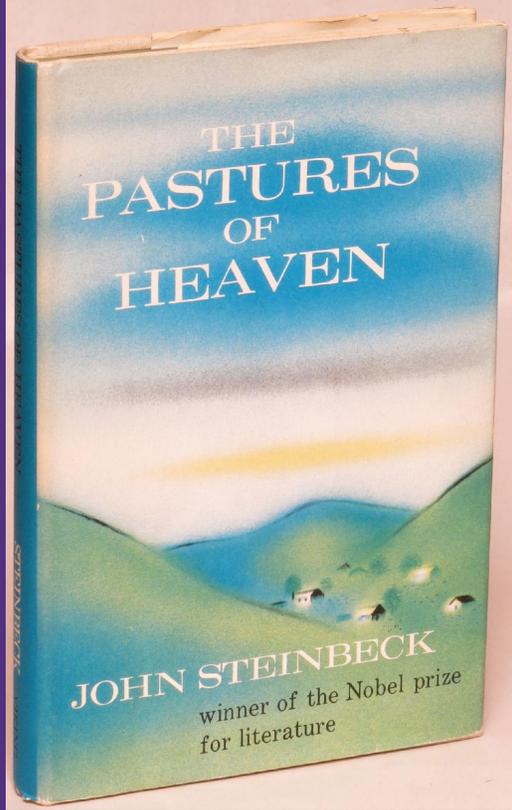


We need one additional driver to deliver our bundles to Natividad Hospital in Salinas on **Tuesday October 25**, leaving the Christ Child Room at 9 a.m.

LET RITA KNOW if you are interested in packing or delivering on these days!

The Book Club Is Keeping It Local on October 26!
Steinbeck's *Pastures of Heaven* at 5:00 p.m.

After our first in person meeting in September, which was tons of fun,



this month the Book Club will explore this short (200 pages) group of 12 short stories by John Steinbeck about the founding of the Coral de Tierra neighborhood in Salinas. **We are meeting for discussion and dinner at El Torito**, adjacent Steinbeck's beloved Cannery Row, because of its prices and easy parking. **Join us!**

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

Walking Group Outing Palo Corona Loop, Saturday Oct. 23 at 10 a.m.



The **Christ Child Walking Group** will meet at the Palo Corona parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Saturday October 23, and then do the 3-mile loop to the barn and back. There will be an optional lunch immediately following at Carmel Chopstix.

[RSVP HERE](#)

October Birthdays



Anne Kelley (10/7)

Mary Cary Coughlan (10/19)

**Shower of Love -- Save the Date !
December 4, 10 am-12 p.m**

The Shower of Love Committee is looking for volunteers to help plan our main event of the year, which this year also marks the 5th anniversary of our chapter!

Let us know if we can COUNT YOU IN to help Event Co-Chairs Marilyn Morgadinho, Nanci Hubby and Sarah Hills make this event fun and meaningful . . .



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