

Working with artist James Bellucci to create a constructed image of a scene from the Book of Tobit. July 29 - 30, 2016.







Cutting out images and textures, creating set pieces, searching around the church for items to use...

Once we were happy with the image, we worked with James on lighting and photographing it.







Tobias and Sarah praying for God to save them and grant them a long life together. In the background, the angel Raphael chases a demon away to Egypt.







We kept the “constructed image” (rather like a large diorama) up for the Evening Church Camp kids to visit, and for people to come see after church on Sunday. Members were very impressed with our work and the product!

We have a print of the final image hanging at church to remind us of the project.



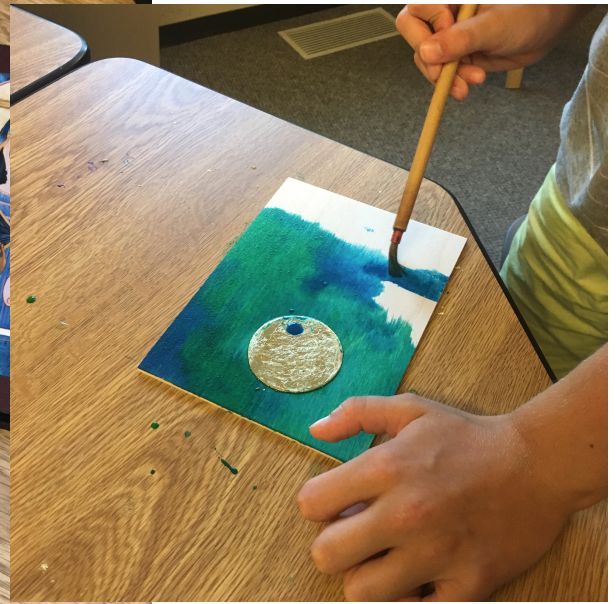
## COMD Development Grant Report, Fall 2016

In the spring of 2016, St. Dunstan's sought and received a grant from the COMD to enhance two of our programs involving artistic and creative endeavors, as part of living more fully into one distinctive and developing part of our parish identity: we are a parish that encourages people to discover themselves as makers - people with the capacity to do creative and productive work, as beings made in the image of our creating God. The events were our Summer Evening Bible & Arts Camp (July 31 - August 4) and our Black Friday Craft-In, which will be the Friday after Thanksgiving. We asked for a grant to cover better-quality art materials and other supplies, to move beyond sticky-foam make-and-takes and make these events a real opportunities to try and learn real crafting and artistic skills; to work with a guest artist for an art workshop for adults, in parallel with the summer kids' Bible and Arts camp; and to help cover child care and advertising costs for both of these events, to invite in the community more broadly and to make it easy for parents of younger children to participate.

The Craft-In is still two months away, but our summer Bible & Arts Camp & Art Workshop, both focused on the Book of Tobit from the Apocrypha, were both terrific! It was tremendously rewarding to spend a chunk of the summer all digging deeply into one Biblical story together, from many angles. A retired Old Testament professor, Father Tom McAlpine, who recently joined our parish led a study group on Tobit, first with the volunteers who would be leading the camp, and, later, with interested adults of the parish. Rev. Miranda and Evy Gildrie-Voyles, a member of our Christian Formation team who has a theater background, wrote a script that tells the story of Tobit, and a team of actors made up of adults and several of our middle school youth prepared and acted out the story over the course of the five evenings of our Arts Camp. We planned art projects, discussion topics, and outdoor activities to tie in with and expand the themes and images of the story. Eight members of the parish also worked with our guest artist James Bellucci to create a "constructed image" of a dramatic scene from Tobit (see photos); that image will remain part of our parish life to remind us of our work together this summer. And in the weeks following camp, Rev. Miranda and Father Tom both preached on Tobit, to draw out some of the meaning and relevance of the book across the centuries.

It was really rewarding to work so intensively on one Biblical book together as a parish, including kids, teens, adults and elders. Tobit is a little-known book, but there's both a lot of fun and a lot of meaning in it. I joked to the congregation that we may now be the most Tobit-literate congregation in the Episcopal Church. This experience of shared, multi-faceted, sustained parish-wide study of a story from Scripture this summer is something we will strive to repeat!





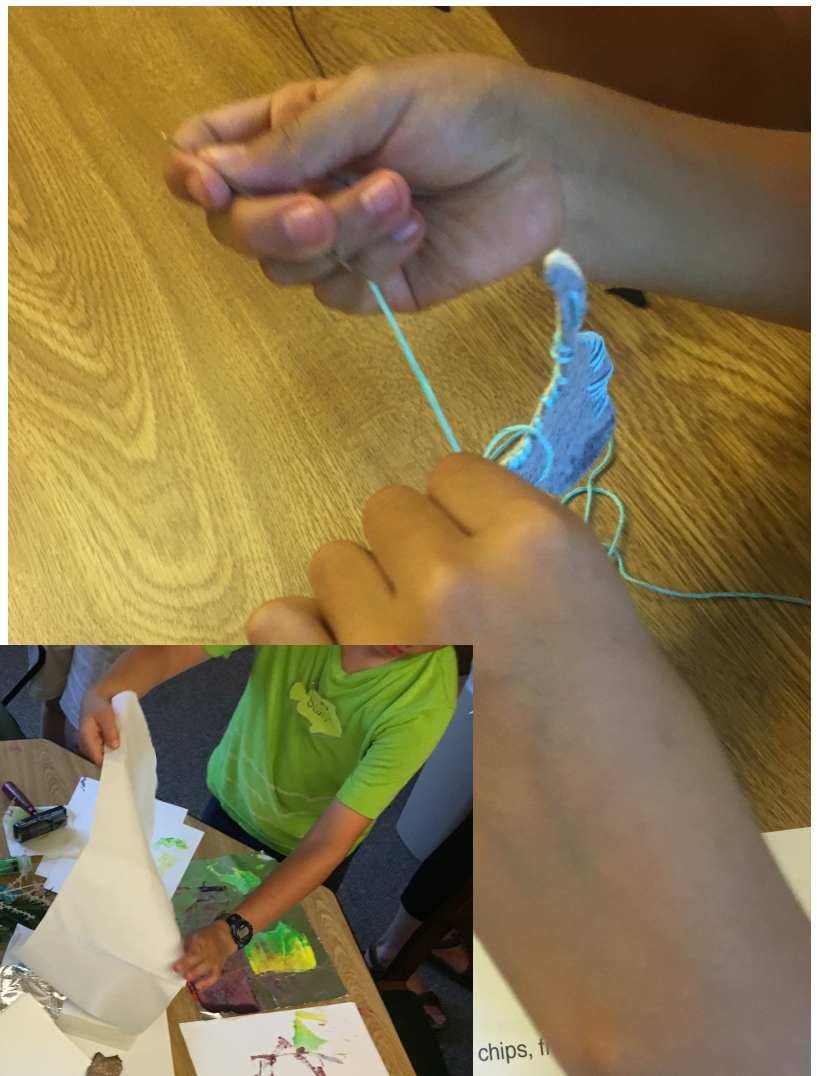
One of our art projects: making icons of Tobias, a main character from the Book of Tobit.

Some kids chose to create icons of Sarah, the young woman in the story, instead. Both young people are models of courage, faithfulness, and resourcefulness.





Other craft projects:  
sewing felt dogs (like the dog  
who accompanied Tobias on his  
journey), and printing with  
natural objects - and drawing  
demons, inspired by the strange  
creatures often found in the  
margins of medieval prayer  
books.







On the last night we blessed the icons on the altar in the nave, with incense (just like we used in the play to drive the demon away)!...