



About the 2015 Christmas Art Walk:

This year's Christmas Art Walk is the second to take place here in Barrington. The event was first conceived in 2013, when Christine Gunn-Danforth, Ph.D., was asked to recreate the Passion Art Walk experience for Christmas.

Christine, a Biblical Studies and Communications expert, and others from the Barrington Church community first identified twelve excerpts from the Bible that, together, tell the story of the first Christmas. She then began asking stores in the Village of Barrington if they would like to participate in a Christmas Art Walk by hosting a piece in their stores for two weeks, and opening their doors to visitors. They answered with a resounding yes. Twelve Artists were then commissioned to create twelve original pieces, each one depicting a different passage from the Biblical Story of Christmas. Each piece tells the story through the actions of the characters at that point in the story, inspiring viewers to connect to and remember the true gift of Christmas.

This year, the Art Walk features artists with backgrounds and languages representing Zulu, African, Korean, Ukrainian, Iranian, Scandinavian and Thai. "The emphasis of this year's Art Walk vision has been on bringing artists together from different national backgrounds and different language groups to work together on the same story," Christine says. "Despite vast differences — and not ever having met each other — all could communicate equally the impact that the Biblical story has had on them and the culture they grew up in. Though translators were necessary to describe the meanings of the artists' work, we discovered that what was established was a common language in pictures for all cultures and all ages."

The Christmas Art Walk will take place from December 12-24, 2015, in downtown Barrington. Artists will be at the stores all day on December 12th for a meet-and-greet. Free guided tours will be available each day at noon, departing from the Barrington Flower Shop. On weekends, there will be a live Crèche, or Nativity, outside of Egg Harbor Restaurant (125 W. Main St., Barrington). Parishioners from area churches will carol through town on various days during the Walk.

About the Jonahre Foundation:

The Jonahre Foundation seeks to bring Biblical storytelling to life through the arts to transform lives. Their mission is to develop, operate and promote charitable and religious programs via the Jonahre model, intended to bring Truth to reality through Biblical storytelling. The Jonahre Foundation is available for consultation in the areas of film, art, curriculum development, and the integration of art and media in church services.

About the Jonahre Foundation's founder, Christine Gunn-Danforth, Ph.D.:

Christine Gunn-Danforth was born in Cape Town, South Africa. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree, Honors degree, and Masters degree - attaining them Cum Laude - and two Ph.D.'s from the University of Johannesburg. She combined a Communications curriculum with a full Biblical Studies curriculum. In Communications, her areas of specialty are advertising, public relations, film and television, with a further major in Industrial Psychology. In 2004, she was awarded a Ph.D. in both Biblical Studies and Communication by an international committee of scholars under the leadership of Professor Johan Coetzee, including renowned Old Testament scholar Professor Walter Brueggemann and Communication expert Professor Quentin Schultze.

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