



Connections

Christ United Methodist Church

Weekly Newsletter

January 18, 2012

We are about relationships. . .
with Christ,
with one another,
and with God's hurting world.

The new year is in full swing, and things are hopping at Christ UMC! We've got exciting plans for worship, we're signing folks up for new dinner groups, we're going strong with Room in the Inn and other outreach ministries, we're preparing for the second annual Women's Retreat, and we're even launching a new website. In addition to all this, on Saturday new committee chairs, team leaders and Administrative Council members will be gathering for our annual leadership retreat, so please be in prayer as we gather for prayer, goal-setting and training.



As we begin our new year together as a church family, I thought it was important to let you know how we are doing financially. The Finance Committee met on January 8, and we are glad to bring you a positive report!

Because of your generous giving, we finished 2011 right on target. No deficit! That in itself is something to celebrate. (Cue the confetti and the balloon drop!) But wait, there's more! The Outreach Committee wants you to know that you gave over \$150,000 to outreach ministries in 2011. Most of our missions and outreach giving does not run through the operational budget, so it didn't show up in some of the graphs that you saw during our pledge campaign. So, almost 15% of our giving in 2011 went directly to help the poor, the marginalized and the needy.

But wait! There's even more! Because of the hard work of our Finance Committee and, most especially, because of your faithful giving to the Rock Solid Capital Campaign, we were in a good position to renegotiate the terms of our mortgage loan. We are able to get our interest rate lowered to a level that will save us more than \$40,000 a year.

Looking ahead to 2012, our pledges as of Sunday, January 15, have reached \$912,000, which means we can move ahead with our 2012 budget as planned. The Administrative Council and the ministry teams of the church have lots of plans for an exciting year, plans that will move us further into ministry and deeper in our relationships with God, with each other and with the world.

As I reflect on all of this good news, I am so astounded at the goodness of God. Last fall, I must confess, I was a bit anxious about our finances. I worried that we would finish 2011 with a deficit and that the pledges for 2012 wouldn't come in like we'd budgeted.

But, once again, God has hit me over the head and reminded me that worry has no place in the kingdom of God. Of course, we're human and we can't help ourselves sometimes, but worry is a sign that we're not trusting God. I thank God for reminding me that God is faithful, and, no matter what, God can and will work through the church to spread God's love in the world. For my part, I'm grateful to be alongside all of you all in that work. Thank you, and thanks be to God!

Carol

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 am Riverbend Max. Security
Institution-Communion Service
8:30 & 11:00 am Worship Services
9:45 am Sunday School



Go to www.christum.net
for information on our church
and to hear past sermons.

WITH CHRIST

Please call or e-mail the church office with additions or changes to the prayer list. Names will appear for four weeks, unless you request they remain longer.

Prayer Concerns

The church prayer list cannot be included on our website due to privacy issues. You can find the list in the church bulletin or in the emailed newsletter.

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email please contact the church office at 790-2112

A more detailed prayer list is found in the Prayer Room (room 202)

Worship This Sunday

January 22, 2012

Scriptures:

Mark 1:16-20

Mark 3: 31-35

Attendance

January 15, 2012

Worship: 480

Sunday School: 244

Sunday, January 22, Scripture

Mark 1:16-20

16. As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen.
17. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.”
18. And immediately they left their nets and followed him.
19. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets.
20. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Mark 3:31-35

31. Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him.
32. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.”
33. And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?”
34. And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!
35. Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”



This Week at Christ UMC

Sunday, January 22

9:45 am Inquirer's Class
 9:45 am Confirmation Class
 12:00 Lunch Bunch
 4:30 pm Youth Choir
 5:30 pm ORBIT Youth
 5:30 pm BANANA Club

Monday, January 23

10:00 am Watercolor Class
 6:00 pm Staff Parish Meeting

Tuesday, January 24

3:15 pm ORBIT Outreach

Wednesday, January 25

6:30 am Men's Dialogue
 5:15 pm Wednesday Night Together
 6:30 pm Celebration Singers

Thursday, January 26

6:00 pm Room In The Inn
 7:00 pm Ensemble

Friday, January 27

8:00 am Latecomers Men's group
 10:00 am Women's Bible Study
 Young Adult Fourth Friday Fun

Saturday, January 28

8:30 am Stephen Ministry Training
 8:30 am Women Coming Together
 3:30 pm Confirmation Class



Regular Events:

Jan. 22—Lunch Bunch

Jan. 27—Fourth Friday Fun

For information on the young adult ministry contact John Hill at 615.790.2112 or jhill@christum.net

Children & Families

Safe Sanctuaries Training: Saturday, January 21, 9-11 am

All adults who work with children and youth are invited and encouraged to attend this Safe Sanctuary training, led by Marcus Stamps, director of the Williamson County Child Advocacy Center. Our Safe Sanctuaries policy requires that each volunteer participate in training every 3 years - this is a great opportunity to get your training! Childcare is available with a reservation.

Confirmation class meets THIS Sunday at 9:45! Please make sure you have marked your calendars for NEXT Saturday's trip to 61st Ave, beginning at 3:30.

Youth Activities

Dinner Theatre for TWO Please

On Saturday night, February 18th, the youth group will be serving dinner & dessert while Mark Price orchestrates another memorable script. A date night full of laughs, delicious fare, and more.

Your donations will benefit our youth summer trips. Reserve your tickets or a whole table of eight by calling Robin, 790-2112. Child care will be available.



Church Wide Activities

Room In The Inn

Room in the Inn is in need of your help, **in Jan. and Feb.!** Sign ups are in the Narthex.

Congregational Care Ministry Needs You!

In case you did not know, we have a dedicated team of lay persons who plan, oversee, and implement an array of caring ministries among our congregation. They send out birthday cards each month, take communion to homebound members, provide meals after a funeral, knit and distribute prayer shawls, among other things. This team is our Congregational Care Committee and it is looking for others to join in its many ministries. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Mark Price (mark@christum.net) for details. The committee's next meeting is Wednesday, March 14 at 5:30 -- feel free to join us to find out if this is a place where you might serve.

New Year, New Site!

New Year, New Site! Just one more week and Christ United Methodist's new website will be live! Be sure and check out calendars of events, classes, activities, ministries, sermons, blogs and so many other ways you can easily 'plug in' to what's going on at Christ UMC!

Christ UMC Women Coming Together – A Time of Fellowship and Inspiration

Please join us on Saturday, January 28, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm here at Christ UMC for a day of *Resting in who we are instead of Wrestling with who we are not*. Childcare will be available. A registration table is in the Narthex on January, 22nd. Payment of \$30.00 is due at time of registration. No refunds if you cancel after January 15. Brochures may also be picked up in the church office in the

basket marked Brenda Malone. Contact Marné Price at 828-2005 or Brenda Malone at 268-8808 for more information.

Was Reading More Books Your New Year's Resolution?

Join for Christ UMC Book Club this year! We meet once a month, at Panera in Cool Springs, to discuss a particular book chosen by someone in the group. This month, we will meet on Sunday, January 22nd, at 4:00 pm to discuss *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson. Everyone is welcome! If you have questions, call Jan Phelps (Sparkman) or Paula Hoos.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Meets Thursday, January 26th, at 12:30 in the library. Please bring your lunch and join us as we catch up.

Gifts and Talents Retreat

The Spiritual Formation Committee invites you to learn more about yourself and others by attending this year's Gifts and Talents Retreat, March 2 - 4 at St. Mary's Retreat Center in Monteagle, TN. You will discover gifts in yourself through small group sharing and identifying gifts in others. This is an affirming, uplifting and freeing experience, not an underhanded way to recruit you for service or guilt you into volunteering. Sign-ups will begin Feb. 5th. Call Jan Phelps (Sparkman) or Kathy Cavanaugh for more information.

Wednesday Night Together

January 25, 2012

MENU: Taco Salad Bar

Adults: \$6 Children: \$4

Family Max: \$20

Please sign up for dinner on the worship pad on Sunday morning, call the church office at 790-2112, Ext. 31, or register online by **noon Monday**. If you would like to be on the standing reservations list, please let the cashier know or call the church office. Thank you!

Activities

Adults: Bible Study with Rev. Carol Cavin-Dillon (6:30 pm); Commons Women's Bible Study (6:15)

Youth: Youth Fellowship; Room 209

Children: 6:15-6:45—Mustard Seed Choir 3—preK; Angel Choir K—2; Spirit Singers 3—6 grade.

Childcare for ages 2-under
(6:15-8:00 pm); Room 122



Nonprofit Organization

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Return Service Requested

WITH GOD'S HURTING WORLD

Flower Calendar

A flower calendar for 2012 is found on the bulletin board outside the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to give flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, please sign your name on the calendar at the appropriate week and we will send you a reminder and more information when the date draws near.

Nicaragua Project Presentation

Join us next Sunday January 22nd, at 9:45 am in the old sanctuary. Watch a video and hear the stories, see for yourself what happened to the 24 people who went to Nicaragua on December 26th.

A new outreach ministry, Raise the Roof, for Christ UMC

At Raise the Roof they believe that education provides the highest return of any social investment in rural Africa. Nearly one-sixth of the world's population over the age of 15 cannot read or write. Raise the Roof works in villages where hundreds of children are not attending school. Many of these children face barriers to their education, such as conflict and emergencies, living in remote areas, the effects of the HIV and AIDS pandemic, child labor, extreme poverty, and discrimination. Although these barriers have an impact on all children, girls are disproportionately affected. Of the children who do not attend school, 54 percent are girls. Before the schools are started, hundreds of children are found working crops and doing laborious village chores. The schools they are building will make learning possible and enable bright futures for boys and girls who do not have access to education in their villages.

A permanent village school in partnership with their Sponsor a Child Program gives orphaned and at-risk children a place to call home, a family to belong, and a hopeful future. These permanent village schools call attention to far-removed villages and serve as multipurpose centers for the larger community.

On Sunday, February 5, the communion rail offering will go to help in the establishment of permanent village schools and to the Sponsor a Child program. For more information contact David or Marlene Ssebulime at 615-942-6301.