



# THE VISITOR

*February 2010*

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## ***CHRIST CHURCH: The Vision Forward***

Under the leadership of Consistory, Christ UCC is seeking a vision for the future of this church and our direction for the years just ahead. Small group discussions are underway through February to explore this vision. Everyone is invited to participate in one of these discussions. Available times include: Sunday, Feb. 7, 11:30 a.m. or Sunday, Feb. 28, 7:00 p.m.

Consistory will then appoint a strategy team to work with the responses of the small groups and suggest where that is leading us. This strategy team will meet in late March.

It is hoped that this effort will help our lively congregation be vital and faithful in old and new ways for years to come.

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### ***All-Church Mardi Gras Party***

Sunday, February 14 from 5-7 PM the youth and their mentors are sponsoring a Mardi Gras party at the church. Mardi Gras - Fat Tuesday - but also the time between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday. The feast before the fast. The last opportunity to indulge before the sober weeks of Lent. The official colors of Mardi Gras date to and celebrate the 1872 visit of the Russian Duke Alexis Romanoff. The House of Romanoff colors were purple (justice), green (faith) and gold (power).

How will we celebrate? With food - boiled potatoes, some gumbo or jambalaya, maybe some red beans and rice and chicken. And King Cake. With crafts - make a Mardi Gras mask or decorate a cupcake. With games - pancake relays and a scavenger hunt.

### ***Ash Wednesday February 17***

We will be holding the pancake supper and Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 25. Pancakes with all the trimmings, ham, and beverages will be served at 6:00 p.m. A donation of \$3 per person or \$10 per family will help cover the food expenses. Following the supper, Pastor Gehres will be leading us in our Ash Wednesday service at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

## February Worship

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### February 7

Carol Choir, Chancel Choir  
*Spiritual Gifts* offering  
 Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

### February 14

Bell Choir, Chancel Choir  
 Love offering  
 Gospel: Luke 9:28-36  
 Coffee hour

### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

February 17, 7 p.m.

### February 21

#### *Lent 1*

Carol Choir, Chancel Choir  
 Gospel: Luke 4:1-13  
 Potluck

### February 28

#### *Lent 2*

Chancel Choir  
 Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

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## Memorial Gifts

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*In Memory of Tim Auble*  
 Betty Auble

*In Memory of Jennifer Snyder*  
 John and Shirley Weyrauch

*In Memory of Marion Tschiegg*  
 John and Shirley Weyrauch

*In Memory of Anne Wolf*  
 Jackie Gresser  
 James and Jeanne Tegtmeier  
 John and Shirley Weyrauch

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## Help Wanted:

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Hiring immediately. No limits on age or gender. Fit working hours to your own schedule; work one week in every seven with six weeks vacation between; Congenial associates; fabulous pay – a great feeling and a bunch of stars in your crown. If you have questions, call the office at 683-0715 or contact any present employee of the Intentional Caring Unit.

## Meanderings

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As the church marks time, the season of “Lent” arrives, this year in February. Already? Aren’t you still finding Christmas decorations around the house? Christmas is easy (baby in manger!), Easter is great (flowers, trumpets, life!), but Lent? It is not just a 40 day build up to Easter.

By tradition, Lent is a season for humility and penitence. But penitence has become a foreign language, and many feel they have been humbled more than enough by what life has brought them. It is harder to get a handle on Lent these days. Maybe it would be more helpful to see Lent as a time to take stock: Who are we, and where are we headed? A season for examining ourselves, not in a mirror but in the reflection of Scripture. And asking where we are going, with prayer as our GPS.

By the grace of God, our church is doing just that. The Consistory has launched us on a Lenten visioning quest. This consists of a series of small group meetings leading up to a retreat. I encourage you to participate. The quest is vision – to see clearly who we are as a church, and to catch a vision of where we are being led.

I say “being led” because the church’s vision is not to be just our collective idea, but where God wants to take us. In other words, I am not all that interested in what you think about the church and its future. But what you see in Scripture and what you hear in prayer and what you feel in your heart – what God might be saying to you – now that I want to know. That might lead us to a common vision for our church.

To support our church’s visioning effort, I ask you to pray. Pray for our church, pray for guidance, and for ears that hear. And I invite you to read the Gospel of Luke. “Luke in Lent” let’s call it. Four chapters a week during Lent (see schedule on the church calendar). As you read Luke’s story of God’s love in Christ, look for where in our part of the great Gospel story God is leading us next.

Randy

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## Luke in Lent Bible Study

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Are you taking up the challenge to read the Gospel of Luke during Lent? (See “Meanderings”, also the church calendar for daily readings.) You are invited to meet with the pastor to study the readings of the week and reflect on how they inform our faith vision for the church and our lives. Plus, Luke is a great read, the story like no other. Weekly meetings: Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., from February 24-March 31.

## Christian Education Matters

### CHILDREN AND COMMUNION CLASS

It's been a while since we offered this class for elementary students and their parents. If you are interested, contact the office. Pastor Gehres is willing to hold sessions during Lent for children to take communion on Easter. The class will be scheduled according to who is interested and when they can meet.



### SUMMER CAMP!!

Yes, the snow is flying, but it's time to think about Summer Camp! Some of the most popular events fill up very quickly, so don't dally. Look at your calendar and the great variety of camp events available and choose yours right away. Previous campers should have received a poster in the mail with the summer schedule on the back. Complete information on all the camps is available at <http://www.ocucc.org/OutdoorMin/Summer%20Camp/SummerCampSchedule.htm> There is a registration form that can be printed and mailed or secure online registration will be available soon. **Christ Church offers campership assistance to all campers from our church!** The CE committee will pay half of the basic camp rate, \$199.50, for full week camps, or half of the fee for shorter camps.

### PANCAKE SUPPER - FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>



We will begin observing the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. There is a pancake supper planned for p.m. followed by worship with the

imposition of ashes at 7 p.m. Our flapjack crew has the spatulas ready and there will be a variety of yummy toppings for every pancake preference from maple syrup lovers to the works. Plan to be here!



## Bakeless Bake Sale

The Friends of Chapel Hill are once again holding their annual *Bakeless Bake Sale*. All money helps in supplying the benevolent care for many of their residents. No need bake anything, just write a check and mail it to:

Friends of Chapel Hill  
12200 Strausser St. N.W.  
Canal Fulton, OH 44614

## Relay for Life Tea Party

Christ UCC Relay for Life team has scheduled their annual Tea Party



for Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 PM. Our program this year will be presented by Cherie Graham from Dalton who will be sharing the history of teddy bears. Plan to bring along your favorite teddy bear! Price is \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children ages 2-10, and children under 2 are free.

## Care Ministries Cabinet

The Care Ministries Cabinet (ICU Team Captains, Parish Nurse rep., Merry Cooks, Deaconess Rep.) will meet on February 8, 1:00 p.m. in the conference room.

## Sarah Circle

The Sarah Circle will be meeting on February 11, 1:30 p.m., in the church parlor.



## Youth Corner

### **All-Church Mardi Gras Party**

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How will we celebrate? With food – boiled potatoes, some gumbo or jambalaya, maybe some red beans and rice and chicken. And King Cake. With crafts – make a Mardi Gras mask or decorate a cupcake. With games – pancake relays and a scavenger hunt.

No reservations are necessary! Please join us.

### **Kid's Club**

February 17 is Ash Wednesday. We will join the congregation for pancakes.

Parents – please let Sharon know if you are coming for dinner so that you can sit together as a family.

### **Youth Super Bowl Party**

Sunday, February 7 - Meet at Nelson Arena, 5:58, with your game face on! Colts or Saints? Bring a snack food to share – main dish and beverages are provided. You might want a chair - seating in the arena is limited. Friends invited? Of course, but leave your cell phone, I-pod and X-box at home. Nelson Arena has phone service to use after the game and way more entertainment than you can find in a virtual reality link.

### **Youth Famine**

Youth will take part in a 24-hour famine to learn about world hunger and poverty.

Dates: February 11-12. Please return your permission form by February 7.

### **Youth Sunday Planning Session**

We'll take advantage of the confirmation retreat and join the group at Pilgrim Hills on February 19-20. Return your permission form by February 3. Cost? \$20.

Youth Fellowship will meet on Sunday, February 21 at 6 PM. and join the congregation for a soup dinner and movie (The Human Footprint) sponsored by the Green Team.

If a youth member and parent would like to host the group on Sunday, February 28 or Sunday, March 7 please let Sharon know. It can either be at the church or in your home. Joe, Nancy and Sharon will be on the New Orleans work trip and away both Sundays.

Questions, comments, concerns about the youth ministry program at Christ Church? Please contact Sharon at 330-683-0715 or youth.cucc@zoominternet.net

## *Green Team's Third Annual Soup & a Movie*

How many potatoes does an average American eat in a lifetime of 77.9 years? What would an omelet made from one lifetime's worth of eggs look like? On Super Bowl Sunday how much food is consumed each year? How many swimming pools of water does it take for one person's daily showers? The pasture needed to raise the cows needed to provide all the nation's milk would fill which state?

To get answers to these questions and to begin to understand the size of your footprint come Sunday evening February 21 at 6 p.m. for a free soup supper and the viewing of The Human Footprint. The video, a National Geographic production, vividly and cleverly illustrates what an average American uses in a lifetime from babyhood's disposable diapers and milk, to pairs of blue jeans, cans of pop, to gallons of gas. Green Team members will provide a choice of soups, cheese, homemade bread, beverages and cookies. After watching this movie you'll better understand how with 5% of the world's population, American uses 25% of the world's resources. It might even make you stop and think before you buy one more t-shirt, or go to the store without a recyclable tote.

## *The Love Offering – Sunday, Feb. 14*

We will, appropriately, be collecting the Love Offering on Valentine's Day this year. Viola Startzman Free Clinic, Every Woman's House, and Heifer Project International have been designated as this year's recipients. Each of these organizations show love, compassion and caring to people locally (Viola Startzman Free Clinic & Every Woman's House) and globally (Heifer Project International). Instead of spending money on a card that just gets thrown away or chocolate that gets eaten (and ends up on your thighs), put it in your Love Offering envelope and show the love of Christ to your neighbor in need.

## *Soup Sale*

**Christ UCC Relay for Life team will be having a soup & eggroll sale Sunday, February 7th.** Delicious homemade soups (\$6 quart & \$3 pint) and eggrolls (\$7.50 per half dozen) will be available. We would be happy to take pre-orders so you can get the soup you want. To pre-order, please complete this form and give to any team member, drop it off in the church office, call Joanne Burkey at 683-2666, Linda Combs at 683-2057, or send an e-mail to Diana Huffman at dhuffman5@neo.rr.com. Pre-orders are not required but are helpful.

SW White Chili	___Qt ___Pint	Chicken w/Wild Rice	___Qt ___Pint
Potato	___Qt ___Pint	Broccoli Cheese	___Qt ___Pint
Ham & Bean	___Qt ___Pint	Mushroom Barley	___Qt ___Pint
Cheeseburger	___Qt ___Pint	Hamburg Vegetable	___Qt ___Pint
Eggrolls	___ 1/2 dozen	Chicken Noodle	___Qt ___Pint

In an effort to be green, the Relay for Life team is looking for glass jars or plastic containers for our soup. We need containers that will hold pints and quarts. If you have any available, that don't need to be returned to you, please give them to one of the team members.

## *Thank You*

Dear Deaconesses & ICU Teams,  
Thanks for all your visits last year.

Catherine Miller

A sincere thank you for all the prayers and for Pastor Gehres's caring. Roy's recent stay at Cleveland Clinic was very rewarding. Thank you, also, to the carolers who came out in the snow.

Roy and Lee Wade

Thanks to Randy and the carolers who came and sang Christmas songs to me. I really enjoyed hearing them and appreciated it very much.

In Christian Love,  
Lorraine Zimmerman

Words seem inadequate to express the love and gratitude I feel for my Church family for once again offering comfort, care and prayers in my time of need.

Thank you to Randy for the trips and prayers for me during my surgery and for Zach and Nikki with their continuing life change.

The Merry Cooks and their meals again brought comfort as well as nourishment. The ICU teams cards and prayers seemed to arrive at the right times. So many in church with words and expressions of concern, and offers of service are all greatly appreciated. I am so blessed and thankful for my Church family. God bless you all.

Pat Saurer  
Zach and Nikki Rayburn

## Financial Report

January 1 thru December 31, 2009

	Month of Dec. '09	YTD	Last Year
<b>Current Fund</b>			
Income	\$35,865	\$262,435	\$253,599
Expenses	\$22,605	\$262,435	\$254,119
Net Surplus(Deficit)	\$13,260	\$ -	\$ (520)
<b>Benevolent Fund</b>	\$ 9,258	\$ 48,494	\$ 46,609
Veterans of the Cross	\$ 2,025	\$ 2,055	\$ 1,735
Advent Offering	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,156	\$ 1,233
Pastor's Emergency	\$ 1,848	\$ 9,322	\$ 8,534

\$5,259 was transferred from the Parking Lot Fund to the Current Fund to cover the year end deficit.

\$5,000 was transferred from the Memorial Fund to the Benevolent Fund.

## Offering Envelopes

On the new 2010 offering envelopes: the Renew the Church line is for the roof, wall and organ repairs. The Facility Reserve line is for other major projects in the future. Please mark your envelope accurately so your donation can be recorded accurately. Thank you.

## Christ Church Preschool News

We are now taking applications for the fall 2010-2011 preschool year for all 3 to 5 year olds and pre-kindergarten. Please stop by the classroom to pick up a registration form.

We will be having our annual Sweetheart Party in February. Each student will pick one adult guest to help make a Valentine box, share a healthy snack and observe a valentine memory game.

Tammy Lyons will be coming in to talk to the children about good dental hygiene.



*Averil Haley & Molly Simmavanh taking a time out to read a good book.*

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Church Family Quilt

As a reminder, the 100th Anniversary committee is planning a family quilt which will be hung in the gathering area when complete, as a remembrance of the 100th anniversary of our sanctuary. Each family unit is being asked to submit a quilt block representing their faith. In the gathering area is a display which includes instructions and muslin squares you can take with you. Designs can be made using material, felt, paint, embroidery, cross-stitch, etc. You can also print onto printable fabric. Depending on your design, you do not need to use the muslin. For example, if you decide to cross-stitch you will be using Aida cloth. **Be sure to include your family name on your square.**

We have scheduled a quilt workshop to offer guidance and inspiration. This will be held Saturday, February 6th, from 9:00 AM to noon. You are invited to come and go anytime during those hours. For design ideas you can view the photos at the display in the gathering area and are also welcome to contact any of the Anniversary committee members - Maryalice Roush, Joanne Burkey, Anna Davidson, Cheryl Diehl or Linda Combs. For quilting or fabric questions you can contact Diana Huffman. Please turn in your completed block to any of the above church members no later than March 14<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Applying Bible Principles*** ©Kenneth L. Williams, *Effective Stewardship*, K LW Enterprises, Swansea, IL

One day, as you open the mail, you discover a letter from the credit card company which indicates that because you are such a valued customer, your credit limit is being raised to \$5,000. The next day, because you were late sending in a payment of \$19.25, you receive another letter from the same company. The second letter makes you feel like a terrible person and states rather emphatically that if you don't pay up immediately, the company will take action against you. What a mixed signal that would be!

God never sends mixed signals. He is always consistently clear in providing direction to us, even when His instruction runs counter to our natural tendencies. This is especially true when it comes to our giving. Remember, giving to the Lord's work at Christ United Church of Christ is not to help "poor God" pay His bills. Rather, giving is one of God's ways of growing Christians and of causing us to be more like Christ. That's why God calls us to resist the natural tendency to hoard and to be stingy. That's why God calls us to give, not only out of our abundance, but also when our financial resources are limited.

John Templeton, founder of the Templeton group of mutual funds, concluded a speech to the International Association for Financial Planning by confiding that he had been asked by a financial planner at the convention to mention the name of the "very best opportunity" for investing in the world today. Templeton said, "I told him that the most risk-free investment, the most rewarding investment was . . . giving of your income to your church. In my 46 years of experience, I have never known anyone who regretted that investment. I have never known anyone who has made that investment for ten years without being rewarded with both happiness and prosperity."

John Templeton was only echoing advice that God had given to Solomon centuries earlier. ". . . the one who gives water will get water." As you consider your life and giving, will you be part of God's eternal plan by giving in a refreshing manner to the Christ United Church of Christ ministry today and in the months ahead? Remember this: No one ever went broke trying to outgive God.

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## ***February Birthdays & Anniversaries***

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### ***Birthdays***

2/01 Mark Clark  
 2/02 Linda Smucker  
       Connie Reynolds  
       Judie Pouly  
 2/03 Jim Nelson  
       Lee Wade  
 2/04 Dorothy Hahn  
       Ginny Moser  
 2/05 Emogene Erwin  
 2/06 Sandy Amstutz  
       Brian Orosz  
 2/07 James Hahn  
 2/08 Randy Gehres  
 2/09 Paula Kohler  
 2/10 Corey Midura  
 2/11 Ellen Clark  
 2/12 Richard Jones  
       Traci Williams  
       Jaron Browne  
       Antonio Mangano  
       Logan Boggs

2/13 Russ Davidson  
       Cindy Zimmerman  
 2/14 Mary Woodward  
       Judy Miller  
       Doug Wade  
       Laura Allard  
       Joseph Weeman  
       Lillian Louanglath  
 2/15 Kurtis Sprowls  
 2/16 Kimberly Musser  
 2/17 Gordon Maupin  
       Rosemary Yungen  
       Sally Hershey  
       Joshua Smith  
 2/19 Krista Musser  
 2/20 Roland Gavin  
 2/21 Gene Pouly  
       Audra Simmavanh  
 2/22 Ralph Hiltabidle  
       Ruth Harrington

Bob Weeman  
 Gary P. Burkey  
 2/23 Zola Craver  
 2/25 Carol Jones  
       Karen Herr  
 2/26 Colin Abel  
 2/27 Mark Gehres  
       Katelyn Malcuit

### ***Anniversaries***

2/01 Bruce and Rhonda Weeman  
       Tim and Katheryn Gresser  
 2/12 Al and Carol Yeagley  
 2/13 Carl and Dorothy Weidman  
       Bob and Linda Ballentine  
 2/14 Robert and Karen Markley  
 2/19 Dave and Judy Browne  
 2/25 Robert and Mary Ellen Hanna  
 2/28 Jeremy and Chelsey Fry

# February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:30p Spiritual Council	2 12-6p Blood Drive	3 5:00p Kid's Club 6:30p Carol Choir 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir	4	5	6 9-12p Quilt Workshop
7 8:45a Confirmation 9:00p Visioning Session 10:15a Worship 11:30a Parish Nurses-BP's 11:30a Visioning Session 6:01p YF-Super Bowl Party	8 1:00p Care Ministries Cabinet 7:00p Consistory	9	10 5:00p Kid's Club 6:30p Carol Choir 6:30p Bell Choir 6:30p Green Team 7:30p Chancel Choir	11 1:30p Sarah Circle	12	13
14 8:45a Confirmation 10:15a Worship 11:30a Coffee Hour 2:00p Gathering Area Reserved 5-7p Mardi Gras Party	15 9:30a Parlor Reserved	16	17 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 5:00p Kid's Club 6:00p Pancake Supper 6:30p Bell Choir 7:00p Ash Wednesday Service 7:30p Chancel Choir	18 <b>Luke 1:1-56</b>	19 Confirmation and Youth Retreat (at Pilgrim Hills) <b>Luke 1:57-80</b>	20 2:00p FH Reserved <b>Luke 2:1-20</b>
21 8:45a Confirmation 10:15a Worship 11:30a Third Sunday Potluck 6:00p Brenn-Field Service 6:00p Green Team Soup and a Movie 6:00p Youth Fellowship	22 6:30p Visioning Session 7:00p Worship Comm. 7:00p Healing Service <b>Luke 2:21-52</b>	23 <b>Luke 3</b>	24 5:00p Kid's Club 6:30p Carol Choir 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Chancel Choir <b>Luke 4</b>	25 <b>Luke 5:1-26</b>	26 <b>Luke 5:27-6:11</b>	27 10:00a Visioning Session <b>Luke 6:12-49</b>
28 8:45a Confirmation 10:15a Worship 7:00p Visioning Session						