



Christ church

United Methodist

April 30, 2006

Dr. Gerge Strunk
Senior Pastor

Rev. Aaron Mansfield
Associate Pastor

Proposed Change in Sunday Service Schedule

With summer time right around the corner, our staff and lay leadership have been looking at the possibility of restructuring our Sunday morning schedule. There are two main reasons to try this approach: 1) To relieve some of the stress that is placed on the church family by having three back to back services in the Sanctuary. 2) To reestablish the value of a dedicated Sunday School hour for all ages.

The proposed new schedule would be as follows:

- 8:00 – 8:40 Chapel Service with Communion
- 9:00 – 9:55 Sanctuary Service
- 10:10 – 11:00 Sunday School
- 11:15 – 12:15 Sanctuary Service

Our hope is that an “early service” which starts at 9:00 a.m. (as opposed to 8:30) will draw more people and help us to balance out the attendance between 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. This is a new approach to the 11:00 a.m. crowding issue that prompted us to experiment with three sanctuary services. The pattern of three sanctuary services did achieve one of our goals – to reduce the overcrowding at 11:00. However, we have also learned that this Sunday morning schedule has resulted in consistent stress on most people involved and, unfortunately, a declining attendance pattern at the 8:30 a.m. worship service.

No doubt, if approved this proposed schedule may yield a new set of lessons we need to learn. However, as we look to the future this schedule will allow us to prepare for some changes we must anticipate. For instance, this schedule will provide a

place for us to continue to offer weekly Communion when construction necessitates that we move from the Chapel. To be sure, when the new Sanctuary is completed, I have always imagined that the additional space would allow us to return to two Sanctuary services. This proposed schedule is also in keeping with our goal of making disciples by stressing the importance of persons being involved in small groups for learning and service as a part of their growth as followers of Jesus Christ.

I appreciate that this may impact us in ways that we have not anticipated, so I have asked our Children, Youth, and Adult leaders to look at this with their Ministry Teams and help us understand the implications of the proposed changes. The Administrative Council will meet Monday, May 8, (second Monday) to decide if we have achieved the consensus needed to move forward with a projected starting date of Sunday, June 4.

I don’t see any obstacles that are insurmountable for this wonderful church. After all we have had at least two other changes to the schedule in the five years I have been your pastor, and we have always remained flexible and adapted. We seem to be able to follow Paul’s instructions to live with “all humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:2). In the final analysis, that is what truly makes this church great.

Your Pastor,
George Strunk

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Looking Inward

Jim Fleming, Counseling Pastor



“Spiritual Aging and the Stranger”

They asked for a spiritual retreat with the focus on aging spiritually. This past weekend I joined this Sunday school class for a spiritual retreat in Cincinnati to reflect upon what aging spiritually looks like and how we can glimpse how tall or short we are in this area of our lives. I researched the topic for months, reading recommended books and articles with a serious study of scripture’s perspective of what spiritual aging looks like.

I learned that the joyful and sad fact about spiritual aging is that it boils down to “a choice.” We can choose to stay short spiritually or grow tall...our call. Some children and young people are spiritually aged while some older people in the forties, fifties and older remain small and frail. Spiritual aging can spurt ahead, or it can occur slowly for a life time. As I reflected and read, I kept returning to a central theme that surfaced in some studies and always surfaced in scripture. The theme, the deciding factor, of “spiritual growth” had to do with *choosing to empathize with a stranger*. Our capacity to put ourselves in the shoes of a “not-me” other, both measures and challenges our aging spiritually.

Paul explained in his letter to the Philippians that Christ landed upon earth like rain falling into an open glass. The glass is all that it means to be a human: fear, guilt, shame, rage, temptation, etc. The soft rain of Christ’s

spirit poured itself into the glass of humanity before He moved among us. He became old spiritually. People, especially broken ones, flocked to Him because He seemed to know *from the inside out* about their lives and struggles. Humanity, with all of its complexity, with all of its twists and turns, with all of its differences, was loved and redeemed by One who was recognized as a spiritual giant who could put His foot in the smallest shoe and know, deeply know, the walk of that human.

Spiritual aging with its “standing-in-others’-shoes” nature can kill a person while they are still young. The religious of Christ’s day killed Him because they wouldn’t tolerate His standing in the shoes of the outcast while calling them the religious stone throwers, whitewashed tombs, a symptom of spiritual dwarfism. I used a movie for the retreat about a lawyer “deciding” whether or not to represent a stranger, another lawyer, who had contracted a terminal, socially unacceptable disease, AIDS, that had cost him his job. The empathic part of spiritual aging, the standing “first” in a stranger’s shoes, messes with black and whiteness as *love becomes the central issue*. The “deciding” lawyer aged tremendously as he came to love the stranger. The cost of aging spiritually, as the lawyer could attest, can be high, very high. James Fowler, a Methodist

minister who wrote about stages of faith, discovered that few rarely reach the highest level of spiritual aging. They’re either crucified before they get there or faint and fall back along the way.

We all will be called to stand alongside the stranger. We can choose not to for our own fear-filled reasons. That’s our call. This is where it gets testy, though. God, as described in scripture, often came to the home town folks as a stranger. Perhaps this was so to see how open, how hospitable, how willing to take risk, how willing to spiritually age, the “at home” person was. Who are the lepers, the outcast, the strange and strangers of our day? What’s our first move when the scent of their different-ness fills our nostrils? Is the move a “turning away” or a “turning toward and into?”

The “spiritually aged” have connected the dots when it comes to strangers. They see that when Christ came upon earth, they, we were the strangers. *We had lost our way and were like sheep without a shepherd.* And the shepherd came, stood in our shoes, and made His home among us. The stranger is US! The spiritually aged get this truth. Their house is full of strangers who, like them, know about wandering with no shepherd. They get it! They’re old, very old, but often, as history attests, die much too young.

(Dr. Fleming provides individual, marital and family counseling for members of the Christ Church family: 893-2201, x230.)



Prayer Calendar for Week of April 30 - May 6

“Then my soul will rejoice in the Lord and delight in His salvation...
My tongue will speak of Your righteousness and of Your praises all day long.” Psalm 35: 9, 28 NIV

This Week Pray For

Sunday: Worship services and those leading them.....and for the reception honoring Lee Thomas and her years of service

Monday: Church staff: Beth Willis,

Associate Director of Children’s Ministries

Tuesday: Wesley House

Wednesday: Wednesday night program – “Celebrating God’s Creatures”

Thursday: Joyous Singers: Clarese Fuller, director

Friday: 3-yr-old Sunday School classes

Saturday: The Fellowship service and Derby party

Prayer Challenge: As you watch the evening news, choose one story and make that your prayer concern before God.

Thought for the Week: “Prayer is not just coming to Jesus – it is letting Jesus come into me.” (unknown)

Membership Sunday, May 21

The next Membership Sunday is May 21. The “Join - Belong - Grow” program begins with a tour of the church on Sunday, May 7, at 9:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The new member class will then meet on Wednesdays, May 10 and 17, at 6:20 p.m. in Room 105, and conclude on Saturday, May 20, with the By Faith We Serve Workshop. If you are interested in membership at Christ Church and would like to participate in our “Join - Belong - Grow” program, contact Aaron Mansfield at 893-2201, ext. 224.

Christ Church School Alumni - We Need Your Picture!

If you have a child who attended CCUM School, or if you know someone who is a Christ Church School Alumni, we would love to have a current photo of them. Please include the years that they attended school here. We are starting an “Alumni Hall of Fame” wall and would like to include as many former students as possible. You can drop off the pictures in the Week Day School office, or send them to Christ Church United Methodist, 4614 Brownsboro Road, Louisville, KY 40207, Attn: Mrs. Jan Miller. THANK YOU!

Administrative Council Meeting Date Changed to Monday, May 8 7:00 p.m. in the Cloister Room

Reception Honoring Lee Thomas

Christ Church United Methodist has been truly blessed by Lee Thomas in her 35 years of ministry as the Pastors’ Administrative Assistant. Lee’s kind spirit, unqualified skill and long memory have been key to countless successes, large and small.

Please join the Christ Church congregation and staff in honoring Lee’s service at a retirement reception on Sunday, April 30, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service in the Fellowship Hall.

RISE UP AND BUILD!



Please consider making a donation to support our Habitat House 2006 for Ajaang, Rebecca, Ajack, and their new baby. Due to rising costs of construction materials, the cost to sponsor a Habitat House is just under \$30,000. Look for the little white houses at various locations around the church to deposit your gifts. You may also mail your contribution to Christ Church, Attn: Habitat Fund.

Graduate Names Needed

We will be listing all of our High School, College, and Graduate School graduates in the newsletter and Sunday bulletin on Graduation Sunday and need the following information:

- ✓ **Name of Student**
- ✓ **Name of School**
- ✓ **Degree Earned** (if applicable)

Please send the information to me by email at jennie@ccum.net or leave it on my voice mail, 893-2201, ext. 234, **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**.

Thank you for your prompt response.

Jennie Weeks

What's Happening

United Methodist Women



Tuesday, May 16
9:30 am - 2:30 pm
in the Holloway Center

Guest Speaker Dr. Jim Fleming will present
"As You Love Yourself"

Kavanaugh Life Enrichment Center
7505 Kavanaugh Road in Crestwood

3rd - 5th Grade Parents

SAVE THE DATES: May 19 & 20
(NOTE DATE CORRECTION)

for the 3rd - 5th Grade Retreat

Kavanaugh Life Enrichment Center, Crestwood, Kentucky

*We will leave the Christ Church at 4:30 p.m. on Friday
and return by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday*

Deadline for sign-ups is Wed., May 10.

COST

\$40.00 per child, \$60.00 family maximum
due when you register your child. (Scholarships are available!)

Registration forms and more detailed information
may be picked up in the church Receptionist Area.

*If you have any questions or would like to volunteer
to help with this fun and fulfilling event,
please call Adina Cook at 893-2201, x248.*

CO-ED and MEN'S SOFTBALL TEAMS



Stierle at 895-3606, 896-2271, or email stierle@bellsouth.net.

The co-ed and men's softball leagues will begin the week of May 8. Both teams are open for anyone age sixteen or above. The co-ed team will play on Wednesday nights, and the men's team will play on Monday nights. All games will be played at Watkins UMC. If you are interested in the co-ed team, contact Susie Kinman at 425-8343 or email skinman1@jefferson.k12.ky.us, and for the men's team, contact David

3rd Annual



Fellowship Derby Party Saturday, May 6

in Fellowship Hall
following
The Fellowship service

Join us for worship
in a relaxed
atmosphere at
5:00 p.m.

Stay for the party...

- Enjoy a "Picnic Potluck"
- Watch the Derby on the big screen
- Wear your best Derby hat
- Lots of family-friendly fun with a Kentucky tradition flair
- Share the good times - bring a friend

Beginners Computer Class



A four-week beginners computer class will begin on Tuesday, May 2, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. in Room 222. To sign up please call Dean Mallrich at 426-5436.

What's Happening

Caregiver Conference

The KIPDA Area Agency on Aging is offering a one-day program for family caregivers entitled "Reducing Stress and Creating Wellness" on Friday, May 19, at the Louisville Marriott East. This program is free for family caregivers and will include sessions on caregiving and coping skills, Alzheimer's disease, depression and aging, ways to reduce stress, compassion, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. For more information, contact Rebecca Heid at 893-2201, ext. 263.

Wednesday Evening Programming for May 3rd



On Wednesday, May 3, we will be in week two of our series, "Appreciating the Artistry of God." This week's topic, to coincide with Derby Week, is Derby Days – Celebrating God's Creatures (specifically horses). Join us for dinner at 5:15. At 6:00 p.m. the children will make stick horses and then be off to the races in the gym. A Derby trivia game is planned for the adults.

Dinner reservations can be made by calling the reservation line at 893-2201, ext. 320, or filling out the tear off section in the Sunday bulletin. **There are NO standing reservations for the dinners from May 3-24.**

Vendor & Craft Fair "Shopping for McCauley"

Vendors and volunteers invite you to join them at the First Annual shopping fair to benefit Prodigal Ministries - McCauley House on **May, 13, from 10:00 to 3:00 p.m.** at St. James Episcopal Church, 401 Lagrange Road, in Pewee Valley.

Over 20 vendors & crafters will be represented. Join us for a gourmet "Luncheon on the Green." Shop for yourself or Mom (remember Mother's day is May 14).

Questions? Please call Mary Starkey, Director of Operations, at 749-9194.

Annual Conference Preparation Stuffers Needed

In preparation for Annual Conference, we are looking for volunteers to help stuff AC packets. One of the items the packets will contain will be information concerning Kavanaugh and our other KY Conference camps and retreat centers. This year Kavanaugh, Aldersgate, Loucon, and Ruggles have joined together to sponsor a Hospitality Room.

The Conference staff needs your help to stuff packets on May 18. If you can help out, please contact Sue Deibel at the Conference Office, 425-3884 or email ddeible@kyumc.org. Your help will be greatly appreciated by both Kavanaugh and the Conference.



Annual Conference - June 5 - 8 Bowling Green, Kentucky

Hospitality Room Volunteers Needed at Annual Conference

The Louisville Conference office is also looking for volunteers to staff the Kentucky Conference Camp and Retreat Centers Hospitality Room the **afternoon of June 5, all day on Tuesday, June 6 and Wednesday, June 7.**

This Hospitality Room is a joint effort of Kavanaugh, Loucon, Aldersgate, and Ruggles. We will offer information about all the camp and retreat centers, as well as donated goodies. Information will be available for all the camps, their offerings, ways to volunteer, ways to participate, and how the camp and retreat centers can meet the needs of you, your group, and/or congregation.

We need you to be a smiling face to welcome folks. Most of you have a story to

tell about camping ministry - you have been a camper or a dean, you have served or serve on one of the camp's committees/boards, you are a former director, you have been a precious volunteer or are currently a treasured volunteer.

Terrie Stuart from the Kavanaugh office will be coordinating the schedule of volunteers, and you can email her at kavanaughcenter@yahoo.com.

Reaching Out to Others

Camperships for Children and Youth

The 2006 camp season is quickly approaching and the Portland Promise Center has plans to provide summer camp experience to more children and youth than ever before. Please consider supporting the children and youth again this year as they are eagerly anticipating their upcoming summer opportunities. Children in grades three through five will be attending Camp Loucon which provides faith development through activities such as arts and crafts, hiking, swimming, sports, campfires, and much more. The Portland Promise Center youth (6th through 12th grades) will be attending Barefoot Republic Camp where they will be challenged to develop Christ-centered relationships while enjoying activities such as basketball, BMX biking, drama, music production, film and graphic arts. In addition to our regular summer camp opportunities we are also planning to provide a visual and performing arts day camp through Stage One Theatre.

Due to the increase in opportunities and number of children/youth expected to attend we are asking you to prayerfully consider increasing your support from last year. In order to support a child or youth for camp, we are requesting \$200 per child, though any amount is appreciated. Please make checks payable to Portland Promise Center, note "Camperships" on the memo line, and mail to 1831 Baird Street, Louisville, 40203.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of these children and youth through your continued support!



Vacation Retreat for Adults with Mental Handicapping Conditions

The Kentucky United Methodist Vacation Retreat for Mentally Handicapped Persons is a week of fun-filled days and will be held at Camp Kavanaugh and Camp Loucon. This brief vacation provides opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities and their Buddies to enjoy one-to-one and small group experiences in a Christian atmosphere. Worship experiences are an important part of each retreat and are coupled with learning experiences, such as role-playing, music, and dance. Vacationers and Buddies have a chance to participate in a variety of recreational activities such as swimming, bowling, bocci ball, hiking, crafts, board games and puzzles. Participants also enjoy trips to tourist attractions in the area. Some of the trips enjoyed in the past have included a Bats baseball game, the Louisville Slugger Museum, the Louisville Zoo, a play at Iroquois Amphitheater, the Kentucky Horse Park, the Noah's Ark, and the Belle of Louisville.

For more information about how you can be a Buddy at Kavanaugh, call Pat Blandford at 749-8982, or at Loucon call Ken Jessee at 270-756-5901. Brochures, applications, and more "Buddy" information at Kavanaugh are available in the Receptionist Area at Christ Church.

Environmental Stewardship *Thought for the Day*



What is another way we can take care of God's creation? Reduce, reuse, and recycle! If you don't have curbside recycling, drop it off.

RECYCLING CENTERS (staffed)

First District Public Works Yard

595 Hubbards Lane

Southwest Government Center

7219 Dixie Highway

Metro Parks Landscaping

9300 Whipps Mill Road

Central Government Center

7201 Outer Loop

Fairdale Community Center (adjacent to)

10620 West Manslick Road

RECYCLING DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

(unstaffed)

Metro Fire Company

3228 River Park Drive

Metro Fire Company

1500 South 6th Street

Metro Fire Company

4535 Manslick Road

Metro Fire Company

235 East Jefferson Street

Metro Fire Company

2620 Frankfort Avenue

Metro Fire Company

2900 Hikes Lane

Fern Creek Firehouse

7700 Rountt Road

Middletown Firehouse

108 Urton Lane

Beechmont Community Center

205 W. Wellington Avenue

Metro Parks

1297 Trevilian Way, across from Zoo

Bowman Field Driver's License Branch

3501 Roger E. Schupp Street

Our Church Family



BAPTISMS

Lucas Paul Hopmann, (6/23/05), son of Charles and Michelle Hopmann was baptized during the 9:40 a.m. service on April 23 by Dr. Strunk. Luke has been added to our preparatory roll.

Ashleigh Elizabeth Heitz, (12/13/05), daughter of Nathan and Joanie Heitz, was baptized during the 11:00 a.m. service on April 23 by Dr. Strunk. Ashleigh has been added to our preparatory roll.

Nathaniel Scott Heitz was also baptized at the 11:00 a.m. service by Dr. Strunk.

NEW BABIES

Congratulations to...

Nelson and Pam Knight on the birth of their granddaughter, Delaney Grace Carroll, who was born on April 12. Delaney joins big brother, Nelson, in the home of Nelson and Pam's daughter Amy Carroll and her husband Jim.

Scott and Kristen Duncan on the birth of their son, Carter Hale, who was born on March 7.

SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is extended to...

Ann McLaughlin on the death of her husband, Robert, who died on April 10. Ann can be reached at 2003 Winding Bluff Trace, 40207.

THANK YOU

"To Christ Church, I would like to express my appreciation to all who have been so supportive during the illness and death of my step-father, Elbert Johns. Thank you for the visits, cards, and especially the prayers that were sent El's way these past months. I know that many of you share with me the loss of this most special man and your love and support means the world to me." Lynne Clinkscales

Thanks from Fourth Avenue UMC

Fourth Avenue would like to thank Christ Church for joining together with us on Maundy Thursday! With all the ministry we have joined in over the past two years, it felt like a natural step to come together in worshipping our Lord and Savior. It was a true blessing and a wonderful part of Holy Week.

Thank you, especially to the music directors, the choir, the actors, the communion servers, the parking lot greeters, the ushers, the backpack-makers, the labyrinth transporters, and everyone who helped design and organize the service. And, thank you to everyone who drove into the city to participate.

Fourth Avenue celebrates all the exciting things that are happening within your church, and it is our hope that the connection between our two congregations, in the name of Christ, will strengthen. May you have a holy and blessed Easter season.

Jean Hawxhurst,
Senior Pastor

HOSPITAL CARE LIST

Please let Leigh Ray know (893-2201, ext. 222) when you hear that one of our members is in the hospital. We will, of course, keep this information confidential, if desired.

As of **Wednesday, April 19**, the following persons were in the hospital.



Marge Corbin	Cindy Scheldorf
John Lundblad	Stu Spransy
Mark Radell	Lowell Stanley

ARMED SERVICES LIST

The following family members continue to serve in the Middle East. We as their church family want to continue to uphold them and their families in prayer. As we pray for peace, please also remember all the service men and women serving throughout the world.



Staff Sgt. Geoffrey Gleitz US Army
(son of Nancy Holt and grandson of Lloyd and Marie Rupp)

1st Lt. Steven Miller, US Army
(son of Don and Mary Miller)

Sgt. Trevor Pruitt, US Army
(nephew of Marilyn Sangiuliano)

CTTSN Nicolas Stout, US Navy
(grandson of Ron and Juanita Swogger)

Sgt. James G. Taylor, USMC
(son of Jim and Pam Taylor)

L/C Daniel M. Wiesen, USMC
(grandson of Peggy Dye)

Lt. Col. Kevin Wright, US Army
(brother-in-law of Scott and Barbie Dickens)

(Note to our church family: please inform us of any additional deployments and the return of those who are currently serving. Thank you.)

Worship the LORD

Worship Schedule

Saturdays

5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
The Fellowship

Contemporary worship in a relaxed setting.

Sundays

8:00 a.m. in the chapel.

Communion served weekly.

8:30, 9:40, & 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

M.O.M.S

Cookbooks for Sale!

The first edition of the M.O.M.S cookbook is in! They are fantastic, full of great and easy recipes created for your family and for entertaining! All recipes were submitted by our very own M.O.M.S group at Christ Church. These will be a great addition to your kitchen, and will make a great Mother's Day gift for someone! The cost is \$10.00 each or 2 for \$18.00. All proceeds will go to several M.O.M.S mission projects. Cookbooks will be on sale:

- **Thursday, April 20** at the M.O.M.S. meeting
- **Sundays, April 30 and May 7** from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in the church hallways



Having trouble finding a parking spot on Sundays? The bus shuttle is the answer to our parking shortage during construction.

Park at Brownsboro Center and get a quick ride to church.

The shuttle runs continuously from 7:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Reflections

Published weekly by

Christ Church United Methodist

4614 Brownsboro Road

Louisville, KY 40207

502-897-6421

www.ccum.net

Issue No. 491

Non Profit
Organization
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Our Mission

Christ Church provides opportunities to
Connect to God,
Connect with people, and
Connect with ministry,
through the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

Vital Signs

Worship Attendance April 15 & 16

Weekend attendance (Easter Sunday)	2718
Weekend attendance last year	1303
Sunday School attendance (not all classes met)	373

Contribution Report

Contributions received as of April 16	\$677,902
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CCUM Website

Reflections is available on the web.

See it on the web first!

**DAILY CALENDAR OF SCHEDULED
EVENTS ON THE HOME PAGE.**

We hope you will visit our website often.

E-mail comments and suggestions to
webmaster@ccum.net



LOG ON TO WWW.CCUM.NET AND STAY CONNECTED!