



Christ Church United Methodist

May 28, 2006

Dr. George Strunk
Senior Pastor

Rev. Aaron Mansfield
Associate Pastor

Singing with Your Heart

As Christ Church members welcome the many visitors who participate in worship services and activities with our church family, they often ask, "Are you a singer?" Their intention is to introduce interested people to the ministry of music. Thanks for doing that; many handbell ringers, instrumentalists and singers have found a home at Christ Church because of your thoughtfulness! I would like to take this opportunity to pose the more important question, "**Do you have a song?**"

Something wonderfully transcendent happens as we join our voices in the opening hymn of praise

each Sunday. We are part of a community of faith, focused on praising the One who gave us breath. This is not about who can sing and who can't sing. It is not about the best voices singing while those who don't feel gifted stand idly by waiting for the music to end so that they can feel included again. It is about the condition of our hearts. Paul says it in these words from his letter to the Colossians.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs **with gratitude in your hearts to God.**"
Colossians 3:16

What if you are not "*a singer*"? Whether or not you make a sound, don't miss the opportunity to open your hymnal and let your heart sing praise.

What if your spirit can't sing just now? The healing power of Christian community is felt in the gift of songs sung by those around us when our hearts cannot sing.

The music ministry exists to lead the entire church family in **heartfelt** songs of praise. Does your spirit need a tune up? Trying singing with your heart and see what happens.

Dan Stokes
Director of Music Ministry

Mission Tour Homecoming Celebration Saturday, June 17th • 7:00 p.m. • Sanctuary

Featuring...

- Words of witness from our students returning from a week of inner city ministry
- The sounds of the High School Handbell Choir
- The music of ONE VOICE

Your heart will be filled with song by the end of this evening!

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Looking Inward

Jim Fleming, Counseling Pastor



“Waiting Through the Pain”

It's particularly hard for me to wait when my children are in pain. If there's ever a time when I become frustrated and angry at God, it's when my son or daughter is bleeding and I can't do anything but watch...and wait. A broken arm, a broken heart, a broken promise, a broken soul instinctively pulls me into a "fix it right now" mode, but the pain seems unaffected by my anxious impatience and goes its slow way. You and I are ignored by this intruder. We are left to wait through the pain, our own or another's, until it leaves. What's left after the pain is often an oil film of rage, bitterness, fear, and confusion. Too often this aftermath becomes a pain in itself. The exhaustion and anxiety of waiting for pain to pass reveals our humanity at its best and worst.

Sometimes it's the type of pain I or another is experiencing that takes us to the depth of our soul. Emotional and spiritual pain can travel places within us that physical pain can't touch. Waiting through the suffering of a broken heart to heal, well...you know. Despair becomes too real. It seems we're too deep to make it to the surface...you know. The sunrise can not come soon enough when emotional pain falls upon us. An ankle will heal, but heart pain leaves us wondering if there's a tomorrow or if tomorrow is worth the wait. There's pain and then THERE'S

PAIN. You know just what I mean. Life and pain are partners. If you will imagine for a moment that pain is a teacher that visits us occasionally in our living room, what are we supposed to hear, to learn, to see while it is with us? Suffering invites in-depth learning.

Pain, perhaps, reveals a glimpse of truth along the wait. *First, painfully so, it reveals our limitations as a frail human being.* My reach isn't long enough to take away my children's pain. Pain reminds me, often brutally so, that I'm not God. Oh, I wish I were at times, and I've hurt myself when I've tried to be. I bleed, you bleed, and so it is on this side of eternity. So pain says, "Be careful, be very careful while you do your best which will never reach as far as you wish." Make peace with being human.

Second, pain draws us inward to think. Pain brings us face-to-face to resolve those questions, issues, and shadows that we've skirted through external distraction. When my son was almost murdered, pain drew me inward to look at my capacity to hate and to be consumed by fear. As I pause and close my eyes, I'm sitting by his bed at Suburban Hospital at 3:00 a.m. fretting about losing him and how I'd go on with my life. That inward movement changed me forever. Pain invites us to look at our personal demons that keep us in the

dark. This inward movement brings a wisdom born of the pain.

Third, pain takes us to resurrection. Regardless of what type of pain we are facing, there's the promise of the "new." A new appreciation, a new perspective, a new chance, a new beginning, a new opportunity, a new and different life pokes its tiny green sprout through the dark, brown, broken earth and asks, "Are you still here? Then let's go!" Many of us have stories that involve a dead end becoming an unexpected beginning. God, mysterious always, converts chaos into creation again. Pain backs us into this truth.

Waiting through pain doesn't seem holy and divine at the time. We are spinning up-side-down trying to survive, calling out for help, for an end, and for hope. In this painfully awake time of our existence, we are the student as life reminds and teaches us of things we've forgotten, never learned, or have rejected. The holy, the divine is so hard to grab hold of in the midst of pain; so the holy, the divine holds on to us and will not let us go. Waiting through pain melts down that which passes and leaves the forever standing.

Even so, with all the above, it's still hard to wait through pain.

(Dr. Jim Fleming provides counseling for members of the Christ Church family: 893-2201, Ext. 230.)



Prayer Calendar for Week of May 28 - June 3

"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song." Psalm 95:1-2 NIV

This Week Pray For

Sunday: Worship services and those leading them

Monday: Memorial Day holiday... remember those who have served, and are serving our country

Tuesday: Evangelism Ministry Team: Catherine Smith, leader

Wednesday: Church staff: Leigh Ray, Admin. Assistant to the Senior Pastor

Thursday: Persecuted Christians in Nigeria

Friday: 9th grade Sunday School class

Saturday: The Fellowship

Prayer Challenge: Each time you see a flag, pray for our country.

Thought for the Week: "Spread out your petition before God, and then say 'Thy will, not mine, be done.' The sweetest lesson I have learned in God's school is to let the Lord choose for me." —Dwight L. Moody

Our Church Family

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members who joined our church family on Sunday, May 14.



Landy and Allie Townsend
3507 Birchmore Place
Louisville, KY 40245

Landy joins us by transfer from First Presbyterian in Owensboro, and Allie transfers from Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Henderson, KY. Their son, John (2 1/2 years old), is added to our constituency roll. Landy is the Regional Manager for Salis Pharmaceuticals and Allie is a stay-at-home mom and former teacher.

THANK YOU

from Edith Moran...

“To all of you who have been so kind to me the past several months and to the Pathfinders (the world’s best support group!) for phone calls, cards, and good food, and to Rebecca Heid for her faithfulness -- my love and gratitude. Thank you all.”

OFFICE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking for volunteers to

- assist with the newsletter printing once or twice a month on Fridays from approximately 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.,
- deliver Sunday School envelopes weekly, and
- office filing, once a week.

If you are interested or would like to learn more about these opportunities to serve, please contact Janet Hundley at 893-2201, ext. 226 or email janeth@ccum.net. Thanks!

HOSPITAL CARE LIST

As part of our continued efforts to extend care to our members, we will be letting you know about folks in our congregation who have recently been hospitalized. Though they may be out of the hospital by the time you get the newsletter, it is never too late to send a card to let someone know you care.

We need your help with this.

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, May 17**, the following persons were...

In the hospital:

Jemmetta Beaver
Duncan King
John Lundblad
Melissa Mansfield
(no visitors please)
William Pehlke
Joyce Smith
Lowell Stanley

In rehab:

Mark Radell
Jim Blair

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)

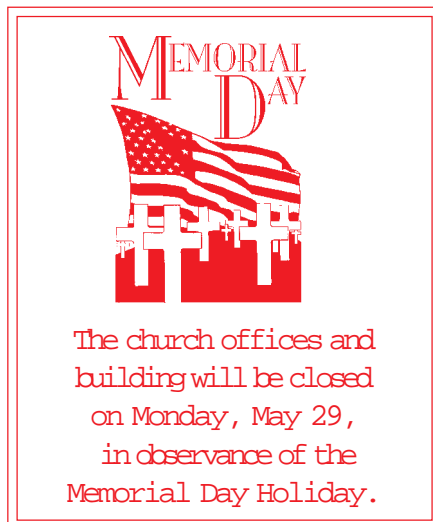
L/C Daniel M. Wiesen, USMC
(grandson of Peggy Dye)

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

Inter-religious Memorial Day Service to Honor Military and Civilian Victims

The 22nd annual Interfaith Paths to Peace Inter-religious Memorial Day Service will be presented at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 29, at Christ Church Cathedral, 421 South Second Street. This event is free and open to persons of all religions and those who do not identify with any religious tradition.

The service is designed to honor the memory of all victims, military or civilian, of war and other forms of violence through a solemn ceremony featuring prayer, readings, art, music, chant, and dance. For further information, call 214-7322 or email IPP Executive Director Terry Taylor at tatduende2@yahoo.com.



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



Reflections

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Non Profit
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NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning June 3, 2006

Saturdays

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

Contemporary worship in a relaxed setting.

Sundays

8:00 a.m. worship in the chapel
Communion served weekly

10:10 a.m. Sunday School

9:00, & 11:15 a.m. worship in the sanctuary



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 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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 May 13 & 14

Weekend attendance	1572
Weekend attendance last year	1216
Sunday School attendance	621

Contribution Report

Contributions received as of May 14	\$889,861
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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!