

Christ Church United Methodist

December 31, 2006

Dr. George Strunk, Senior Pastor
Rev. Rebecca Heid
Rev. John Hill
Rev. Bonnie Glass MacDonald
Rev. Cherie Parker



CHRIST CHURCH UNITED METHODIST

IT'S REGISTRATION TIME!

Christ Church School is an important part of our church's ministry. Our philosophy is to maintain and build a child's positive self-image and encourage an eager attitude to learn in a Christian environment.

Registration Packets will be available beginning Wednesday, January 3, 2007 in the School Office.

We look forward to **CHURCH MEMBERS REGISTERING** their children on **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17**. We ask that you drop off your **COMPLETED** registration packet, along with your application fee, on January 17th, in the **SCHOOL OFFICE**.

Registration for our current students and their siblings, **IN HOUSE REGISTRATION**, will be held on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 18**, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in **FELLOWSHIP HALL**. Please bring your **COMPLETED** registration packet along with your application fee on January 18.

If your child is a current student at Christ Church School they are guaranteed a spot in an age appropriate class. Two things determine your child's placement in a class:

1. Boy/Girl ratio for the classrooms
2. The number stamped on your child's application at the time of registration.

Registration for the public, **OPEN REGISTRATION**, will be held on **TUESDAY, JANUARY 16** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in **FELLOWSHIP HALL**. Please bring your **COMPLETED** registration packet along with your application fee, on January 16. These children will be added to class lists following church member and In-house registration.

Note: Each family must register their own children.

If you have any questions, please call the school office at 897-3657.

Jan Miller, Director
Christ Church School

OPEN HOUSE AT CHRIST CHURCH SCHOOL



January 11, 2007
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
for all Current &
Prospective Students

Parents will have an
opportunity to...

- meet our staff,
- visit in the classrooms, &
- have a glimpse of your child's day.

Inside this Issue

- 1 Looking Inward
Prayer Calendar
Special Insert: Wednesday Evening
Winter/Spring 2007 Flyer
- 2 Our Church Family, Hospital List &
Armed Services List

Church Office & Building Closings
On the January Calendar
Louisville Prayer Breakfast
Epiphany Celebration
S.A.M. Luncheon & Program

- 3 Worship Schedule
Volunteer Opportunity
Air Hockey Table Needed
Our Mission Statement
Vital Signs & Website Info

Looking Inward

Jim Fleming, Counseling Pastor



“This Baby Cried for Us”

He was described as crying for the people in Jerusalem. Part of the “set-apartness” of this man was the depth of empathy he felt for all human beings. All human pain was his pain. As if connected by emotional and physical nerves, Christ knew in His own gut the agony of the person across from him. *When the baby in the Bethlehem manger cried, He was preparing to cry for all of us one day.* Thus he was anointed with the name “Emmanuel” which means “God with us.” The appearance of Christ didn’t mean that now God was going to be with humans in a new way. The gift of Christ was a new attempt by God to help us see that God’s presence has always been in our deepest place. Sending this baby to us was God’s way of saying: *“Now do you get it? Can you see through my child how deeply in love with you I am?”* To be connected to the depths of humanity would often bring tears to both Christ’s and God’s eyes.

The tears fall from the baby’s face when we reach a dead end with another. The panic, the desperation, the deep exhaustion that overwhelms us after we have tried to earn the other’s love, the Christ child feels all this and more.

The tears fall from the baby’s face when we, without being aware, are suffocating ourselves with the smoke of our self-righteousness. A pain similar to a heart attack seizes Christ’s chest as He feels our vain attempt to save others while we are the ones drowning. He senses the fear behind our self-glorification in a futile attempt to be

God’s chosen ones over the bad ones. He grimaces when we still don’t get it.

The tears fall from the baby’s face when we lose a loved one to death. He knows how deep our roots are woven into the other’s being and the gut-wrenching pain that doubles us over in the dark of night. He feels our anger and helplessness at not being able to stop their pain, their death. I see Christ falling down on His knees as our pain pulsates through his heart, chest, gut, legs. To lose a loved one, regardless of the age, is one of the worst human hurts. The baby sobs alongside us.

The tears fall from the baby’s face when we are treated like an object by our job, our church, our friends, even our spouse. Baby Christ sees the blank stare in our eyes when we are alone or even in a crowd. The numbness, the shock of being used by another, of being nothing more than a rung on the ladder; the Christ child shakes His head, closes His eyes, and leans backward in pain. To be betrayed by those you thought loved you, valued you, respected you, accepted you; such a stab in the back Christ knows very well. His own back throbs with our pain as we fall backward, as He falls backward.

The tears fall from the baby’s face when we are lost. What we thought was the way disappears before our eyes. The Christ child feels the horror of feeling abandoned by who we thought was our guide. The rage, the pure rage that pulsates through our lost soul, Christ says “yes, I feel it too!” To look up

Ongoing Support Groups

- **Divorce Recovery Group** meets each Thursday from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in Room 206 for both church and non-church members.
- **Grief Support Group** meets on Mondays from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in Room 206.

Contact Jim Fleming at 893-2201, ext. 230, if you are interested in learning more, or to participate in either group. Brochures are also available in the hallway outside the Receptionist Area.

and the God to whom you’ve prayed to, studied about, sought to believe in, when this God remains so quiet and still while we stumble around lost in the dark, Christ knows such times test the strongest of human souls.

And there’s more! Along with the tears this baby cries for us comes a hope that none of us can see coming. It’s a hope when mingled with the tears of the Christmas baby that reveals a way out for all of us. So powerful is this tear-soaked hope that it lifted a carpenter’s son beyond the grasp of death.

Let the baby cry for all of us. We need someone to stand with us in the middle of our pain and weep with us. And then let the hope have its day. Then the baby tears fall for the joy that rises like the sun after a long, long night of the human soul. We made it in a way we never saw coming. Let the tears continue to fall for both the sadness and joy that comes along this human journey.

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

Prayer Calendar for Week of Dec. 31 - Jan. 6



“My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken.” Psalm 62:1-2 NIV

This Week Pray for

Sunday: Worship services and those leading them

Monday: Happy New Year!...pray for God’s blessings and guidance this new year

Tuesday: Church staff – Jason Bradley, Custodian

Wednesday: Epiphany Celebration

Thursday: Senior’s “Game Day”

Friday: Persecuted Christians in Afghanistan

Saturday: 6th grade Sunday School class

Prayer Challenge: Pray with someone else.

Thought for the Week: “The value of persistent prayer is not that God will hear us, but that we will finally hear God.” — William McGill

Prayer Chain Contact: Prayer Chain Coordinator, Bob Parr, 327-8184, or Leigh Ray, 893-2201, ext. 222.

Our Church Family

NEW BABY

Congratulations to...

Jeff and Olivia Sleadd on the birth of their son, Jude Thompson Sleadd who was born on December 15. Jude joins big brother Jackson in the Sleadd household.

BAPTISM

Parker Ruth Jennings, (5/4/06), daughter of Rebecca and Patrick Jennings, was baptized at our 10:00 a.m. service on Christmas Eve morning. Parker will be added to our preparatory roll.

SYMPATHY

Christian sympathy is extended to...

Jim Fleming on the death of his grandmother who died on December 16.



On the January Calendar

January 3: Louisville Prayer Breakfast - 7:30 a.m.

Ramada Inn at Zorn Ave. Guest Speaker, Dr. Walter Jones, III. Continental breakfast. Cost, \$6.00. For reservations call 552-2094 or 724-8853.

January 3: Epiphany Celebration - Dinner 5:15 - Program 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Join us for dinner, a visit from the Magi, and an interactive journey to find the young Jesus. **An event for all ages.** Families with preschool and elementary children please participate together. Infant childcare available for ages two and under. Dinner reservations are requested by noon on Monday, January 1. Call 893-2201, ext. 320 or make your reservation online at www.ccum.net.

January 8: S.A.M. Luncheon, 11:15 a.m. and Program at 12:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Ted Hitch, a well-known amateur nature photographer, whose work is of professional quality, will talk on wildlife photography featuring beautiful examples of terrain, birds, reptiles, butterflies, and shots from recent trips to New Zealand and the Swiss Alps. **Reservations should be made no later than Thursday, January 4, by calling the reservation line at 893-2201, ext 328.** The cost of the luncheon is \$8.00.

THANK YOU

from Charles Smith...

Thank you to Dan Burgess, Kathy Keadle, and Bobbie Larkin who worked with our Church Historian, Charles Smith, for their diligent research and wonderfully written Jubilee Moments that appeared in the bulletin this past year.

from the Adventurers Sunday School Class...

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the "Christmas Greetings" this year. Please note that we have one addition, Nancy Walker, to the printed list in last week's bulletin. The Adventurers added \$88.64 from their class mission fund to the \$2,911.36 contributed to make a grand total of \$3,000.00! The money will be equally divided among Wesley Manor, Methodist Mountain Mission, Portland Promise Center, Henderson Settlement, and The Side Door Ministry at Fourth Avenue UMC.

from June White and family...

"Dear Church Family, How can we ever thank you for all your prayers, cards, calls, the lovely planter, and for being so gracious and helpful with the memorial service for Mickey. Bless you all."

HOSPITAL CARE LIST

As of Wednesday, December 20, the following persons were in rehab.



INREHAB:

Ethel Cropper (Bapt. E. Rehab)
Faye Grinter (Hurstbourne Rehab)
Mariann Kaster (Four Courts Senior Center)
Mark Radell (Oaklawn)
Dottie Watkins (Oaklawn)
Anne West (Jefferson Place)

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.

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

Sgt. James R. Rose, USAF
(nephew of Theresa and John Bondurant)



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

2nd Lt. Christopher Wardlaw, US Army
(nephew of Russ and Marsha Wardlaw)

Church Office and Building Closings



The offices and building will be closed on Monday, January 1 for the New Year holiday.



Worship the LORD

Worship Schedule

Sundays

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

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

10:10 a.m. Sunday School



Volunteer Opportunity for 2007 Tax Season

Portland Promise Center's VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program needs volunteers to prepare income tax returns for low income families. Training will be held on Saturday, January 6, at the Portland Promise Center, 1831 Baird Street. Last year the Portland VITA Center prepared 1,100 tax returns and helped save low income families in the Portland neighborhood hundreds of dollars in tax preparation fees.

Opening day is Friday, January 12, 2007 and runs through April 17, 2007. The VITA Center at Portland is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Please contact Portland's VITA Coordinator Eurana Horton at 776-2635 or e.horton@insightbb.com if you need additional information or would like to volunteer.

Air Hockey Table Needed for Fun!

The youth at the Portland Promise Center are in need of a strong, sturdy air hockey table for their youth room. The previous table lasted for about nine years and was used on a daily basis by the youth who participate at the Center. If you can help provide such a table, please contact Bonnie MacDonald at 893-2201, ext. 231 or bonnie@ccum.net.

Reflections

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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 December 17

Worship attendance	1203
Worship attendance last year (December 25)	507
Sunday School attendance	596

Contribution Report as of December 17

Budget pro-rated to date	\$2,603,139
Contributions received to date	\$2,272,260
Amount needed to be on budget	\$330,879

CCUM Website... SEE IT FIRST ON THE WEB!

****NEW****



SUNDAY SERMONS NOW AVAILABLE
DAILY CALENDAR
REFLECTIONS NEWSLETTER

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!