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photo courtesy of Tommy Kersten






Several years ago we explored the idea of creating a magazine for our church — a communication piece that would do more than simply alert people to things that were coming up and highlight things that had just happened. We were exploring the possibility of creating a monthly document that would not only tell “WHAT” we are doing but talk about “WHY” we are doing what we are doing as well as “HOW” our ministries are reaching people. Well, here is our first effort at such

a communication piece. We are very excited about it. As you look through this document, you will notice some distinct changes from the normal church newsletter. I hope this will be something that you will share with other people as a means of communicating to those who don't attend our church just how much of a difference Christ UMC is making. I also hope this will help you get to know some of our staff and leadership better as you read heart-felt words about the work God is doing in and through them. God is doing a new thing in our midst these days at Christ UMC. If

you look around, it won't take you long to witness the stirring of the Spirit among us. I've said this before, but I'll say it again – “Our best days are ahead of us!”

I hope you've had a chance to get to know some of our new staff members. You can see them and read their articles in this first new edition of *Inside Christ UMC*. It is a new day! I look forward to our journey together in it!

Peace,

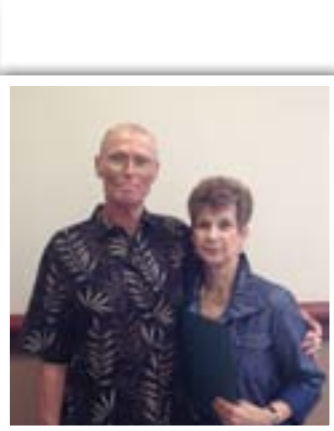


Rev. Jerry House Jr., Senior Pastor

Meet the newest members of our church family



Stephanie & Nicholas Bilski



Jeanne and the late Harry Price



Susan Reynolds

Keep your lamp oil burning in the Connection Center

by: Missy Holloway

You, as a part of our Christ UMC community have the opportunity to burn your lamp every Sunday in the Connection Center. Find new friends, renew friendships and help guests feel welcome and give them information that will help them feel led to return to our church again.

Every Sunday God puts people in our path that might need a hug, a kind-word, encouragement or maybe just to feel welcomed at our church. We would love for you to be a part of this ministry.

CONNECTION CENTER

A few remarks from members & guests speak for themselves:

ANN HAYES, guest
“The word SINCERITY comes to mind. I felt truly cared about; one is bound to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.”

LINDSEY KAHN, team member
“After being involved in the Connection Center, I realized the more I serve, the more people I meet & the more I hear of other things I would like to be a part of. The more I serve & connect, the more I grow in spirit, in love, in fellowship, and in my life as I follow Christ.”

PROJECT HOPE

Summer Lunch Program

by: Della Stephenson



We began by including families with children in the Head Start program and also were able to include several other families with school age children. A group of volunteers meet at church each Sunday afternoon to fill 25-30 grocery bags, load them up, and deliver them to the mobile home parks. There are usually 10-15 volunteers, quite a few of them children, who make quick work of filling all the grocery bags. It has been such a joy to watch the excitement of these children as they work and are eager to be the ones to carry the grocery bags to the doors and hand them out! The importance of this program has

been very apparent to the volunteers making deliveries as we hear the expressions of need and thankfulness for the food. One mother of four expressed her gratitude for the extra groceries saying we came at just the right time when she was really short on food. A grandmother was very glad to receive the groceries since it takes a lot to keep her two high-school-age grandsons fed. At another home three children ran to the door excited to see what was in the bag. Many of us are never lacking for food but there are families in our community who face this problem. Please keep these families in your prayers.

This summer, Christ UMC sponsored a new local mission outreach to provide food assistance to our neighbors through Project Hope. Many in the congregation participated in this program by donating boxes of cereal, jars of peanut butter, and boxes of fruit snacks. Bread was bought fresh at HEB and the store donated \$100 toward that purchase. Other monetary donations were used to buy bread and boxes of fruit snacks as needed. The Project Hope area includes the two mobile home parks located on South Texas Avenue just a couple miles from church. The goal of the program is to help families with children who eat breakfast and lunch at school during the school year but do not have this assistance during the summer break. On every Sunday in July, each family was provided with a grocery bag containing a box of cereal, a jar of peanut butter, a box of fruit snacks, a loaf of bread, and a devotional page with a prayer for the week. These food items were chosen because they can be used throughout the week for meals or snacks and are things the children can easily fix themselves.

Thank you to all of the volunteers and contributors who supported this special local mission program this summer! As we continue to serve in this community please watch for volunteer opportunities for all ages and skill levels at upcoming work days to help with a variety of home repairs and painting.

by: Della Stephenson
dellastephenson@hotmail.com

good news from Family Promise

by: Anne Boyle, a.boyle@verizon.net

The last two families that Christ UMC hosted have moved into their own apartments! Thanks to all who brought in items for these families. They were very appreciative and grateful for the care shown to them and through the gifts given to help them get reestablished. Currently, we have one new family that is hoping to find a place before their baby arrives at the end of August. There are 12 families on our waiting list, and the director is in the process of completing background checks and setting up interviews for our next two families. We hope to have our next family join us by July 31, 2012. Christ UMC's next time to host will be August 26 – September 2. This will be a time when we can support families as children get back to school. As always, it takes 50 to 75 volunteers to make the week go smoothly.

If you'd like to be a part of this community outreach — sharing God's love with those working to get back on their feet again, contact Anne Boyle at a.boyle@verizon.net or 979-690-0782.

CHILDREN



August is here! We have rolled through most of summer! Looking back, we have had some great times in the kids ministry! This summer on Sunday mornings we have been walking through New Testament stories. We learned how Jesus promised that He would be back and how He sent the Holy Spirit to live in us, guide us, and give us power and strength to be more like Him! We learned that Paul helped start, and empower others to start many churches.

In June, we had an amazing time learning about God's Promises at Vacation Bible School. We had over 500 kids join us for the week and over 200 youth and adult volunteers! It was an amazing experience to see all of these kids worshipping together and learning how much God loves them.

Other neat activities that the kids ministry got to be a part of include: First Sunday Summer Movie Matinee's in BiG House, District Camp, Camp Narnia, and the welcoming of our new Nursery Coordinator, **Jori Kennedy**; Stop by and tell her hi!

Looking forward to Fall: This fall we will kick off with our annual Backpack Blessing and Promotion Sunday on **August 26**. We will be implementing a new model in our Nursery and Sunday morning Preschool programs, we will be starting Tweens back up in September, and we will be walking through the Bible stories starting from the very beginning, in the book of Genesis!

We look forward to all of this and more! Check the weekly church emails and the DIG emails for information on What's Coming Up. *If you would like to subscribe to the Kid's Ministry DIG emails, email me at rachelsouth@christ-umc.org.*

Children's Sunday October 14



We look forward to the children leading us in worship on October 14 with our special guest **Nancy Burks Worchester**.

YOUTH

Youth Missions Coffeehouse August 12, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Christ's Youth Ministry has been very busy this Summer! Since June, 150+ youth and adults have gone on mission trips to spread God's love and help those in need. In Livingston, TX and Van Alstyne, TX they repaired homes and constructed wheelchair ramps, spending a week in each town. In College Station, they made and delivered lunches for 90 children at the Southgate Village apartments on several days. The youth love to go and play with the kids when the lunches are delivered and they also took a large collection of books that were shared and given away. Our Peru Team is in Shankivironi, Peru this week constructing a playground and holding Vacation Bible School for 50 children.



Youth build a playground in Peru

These trips are made possible because of the amazing support of our congregation! Please join us for dessert and coffee and let us personally share our Summer mission experiences with you. *For more information, contact Janice Volkmar at janicevolkmar@christ-umc.org*

Weekly schedule what's happening in August

Wednesdays	Recharge Bible Study	6:30 – 8 p.m.
Sundays	Common Ground	9:30 – 10:30 p.m.
	Common Ground	11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
	Youth Band Practice	4 – 5 p.m.
	Refuel	5 – 7:30 p.m.
August 12	Youth Missions Coffeehouse	6 p.m.

If you would like to receive Christ's Youth Weekly email please contact janicevolkmar@christ-umc.org



by: *Graham Michel*
grahammichel@christ-umc.org

Hey there Church Family! This is your friendly neighborhood youth director, Graham Michel, writing to you again. As we end July, and the summer is beginning that last crawl before we find ourselves in fall and back to school, I've been given the opportunity to think. A dangerous thing, I know. However, my thoughts have traveled to one of the most spiritually enriching experiences in my ministry: U.M. ARMY.

For those of you who are not in the know, U.M. ARMY is an awesome experience / work camp that the UMC family participates in. This summer was my first U.M. ARMY, and I can say right now without a shadow of a doubt that I am pumped and ready to go again next year. Heck, I can go RIGHT NOW. This year, U.M. ARMY was held in Van Alstyne, TX (my former neck of the woods) and Christ UMC sent close to 80 students and adults to act as Christ's love in that community.

Our students spent the hot summer days repairing houses, building wheelchair ramps (one, I believe up, to 48 feet long), painting, and helping out in the community. Spread out amongst Van Alstyne and neighboring Sherman, our



top left: Youth pose with clients after completing a project; **right:** Youth at U.M. ARMY construct a 48' wheelchair ramp for a client in Van Alstyne, TX this summer; **left:** Completed wheelchair ramp

students showed Christ's love and did some amazing things in the name of God. Never once did we hear any complaints or see any bad attitudes during the week. Besides working their tails off, our students spent their evenings immersed in worship and in fellowship with one another and with students from Faith UMC and Vista Ridge UMC from Lewisville.

At the beginning of this journey with our high schoolers, I was worried about what to expect and what great pranks were about to be pulled on me, most likely in my sleep where I was totally vulnerable. What these students did, not only opened my eyes, but opened the eyes of those in the community to how Christ can work in and amongst our daily lives. It made my heart sing to see our youth in action and to hear clients and fellow students confess the love of Christ and how Christ worked in them during the week.



If you have high school students, or if you are a high school student, I absolutely recommend going to U.M. ARMY. It is an experience everyone should go through at least once—or eight hundred times. So, next year, I would love to see more of you there. And if you see one of our high school students who went, let them know how proud you are of them. I know I am positively glowing.

U.M. ARMY





Ruben Khadka, a delightful, committed young Christian man of 17 years, is one of the most intelligent and spiritual young boys in the H.E.L.P. orphanage mission in Nepal. Ruben has felt called by God to serve his own people as a Health Assistant (HA). In Nepal, the HA is similar to a doctor. Most rural areas of Nepal cannot financially support a doctor, and doctors will not go to those areas, as the facilities (electricity, running water, good schools) are not available, and there are no hospitals. The HA in Nepal functions at a level higher than that of a Physician's Assistant (PA) in the US, and more like that of a family physician. He prescribes medicine without supervision, teaches, trains others in preventive and curative health, and does simple surgical procedures. Because of the huge cost of medical school, serving as an HA is more practical and feasible for Ruben, but will allow him to use the intellectual gifts God has given him in meeting the physical needs of his people. This course lasts approximately three years. After completion of the course, Ruben will serve full-time on the H.E.L.P. staff, sharing the gospel with those in very poor villages, assisting churches in health needs of their people, and training the H.E.L.P. volunteers (other Nepalese) who in turn, take the gospel to more people. In short, Ruben will be a medical missionary to his own people.

GORAN UPDATE

Rehab in Germany
July 30, 2012 by shannon
David continues to recover each and everyday. It's amazing to see his progress. Today he had all of his stitches from his surgery removed, and walked on crutches. But even though his recovery is steady, he is still in a fragile state and is in no way ready for international travel. David continues to have MRI's and neurological testing almost everyday, but today we were told that David will be ready to be released to a rehab center by the end of the week. So on Thursday, David will be moved to a rehab center about an hour from Munich. We will not get to see him as often, but we are very happy about the treatment he will receive. He currently is scheduled to be there from 2-3 weeks.

See the Goran's blog at www.thegorans.wordpress.com



Namaste and greetings from Nepal!
I am really thankful to God and your church for your great support for my Health Assistant (HA) study. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you. I think my thanksgiving will be very little in comparison to your help to me. I have passed my board examination (SLC) with first division marks and now I am doing bridge course of the entrance exam of HA I have to travel an hour every day to go this bridge course class. I take a bus at 5:30 a.m. and reach to college about 6:45 a.m. We have three hour classes and my studies are going well. The teachers are very good. They are helpful and make everything easy to understand. The entrance exam will be in a month or so. After I pass entrance exam I will join the health assistant course. It is a three year course. After I complete my education, I would like to care for people in the name of our living God as long as I can. Once again I would like to thank you all for your great support to me and making my life dream come true. Without your great support it would be impossible for me to join the health assistant course. You all are in my prayers and please do remember me in your prayers and for my studies especially for my entrance exam. And if you have any prayer request please send us so we can pray for you all.

Thank you.
In Christ,
Ruben

MISSIONS



by: Heather Reed

First, I want to thank you for your prayers and encouragement. Seriously, I could not have made it through the first few months here without knowing I was being prayed for everyday. Next, I want to thank you for your interest in what the Lord is doing in Vietnam. Thank you again for your desire to support the various ministries in some way. I am actually living in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). I teach English at an English center here in the city in order to support myself. I enjoy this work. It is an international school where I teach Koreans, Japanese, Chinese, Taiwanese, and Vietnamese all in one school which is a lot of fun.

My favorite work is down south, where I spent 3 months last year in a village. The village is called Mang Thit. This village has yet to have a church built here. They have one family with some extended family also that is already Christian (in total - 7 adults and 5 kids). When I am there I try to do some Bible teaching also, because they are such new Christians and do not have regular teachings. Last month we studied about Joshua and talked about what it looks like to call on God's promises to tear down even the most fortified walls, even in Vietnam. Another portion of my ministry is introducing World Race teams to Vietnam and the ministries available to them here. This is a lot of fun seeing them on this same journey that I had the opportunity to be a part of.

THE BRIDGE FOOD PANTRY

by: Rev. Tommy Myrick

A Christ United Methodist Church intergenerational group has organized to serve the most in need in our community. The Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, and Education, Travel and Caring (ETC – 50+) have teamed up to bring food to families in the Brazos valley. Once a month, volunteers representing these groups work at The Bridge to support the delivery and processing of a supply of food for those in need. Each month we serve 40 to 70 families. This effort is in the second year as a mission. Other area churches serve families on the other weeks. Even though the Food Pantry is a part of the Food Bank, which is a USDA effort, we are able to witness to these families in need with our deeds, our fellowship and our service. *If you would like to help at The Bridge Food Pantry, contact Tommy Myrick at tommymyrick@christ-umc.org*



2012 PRAYER CALENDAR

Pick up your copy in the Connection Center or online. This Prayer Calendar is prepared to help our congregation understand and pray for the missions of our church. It is designed so that you may pray daily for one week for a specific mission that needs your prayers.

Communion Rail Offerings

Jan – July 2012	\$
Health for All	132
P.E.T. Project	2,617
SOS	1,029
Methodist Children's Home	3,942
Crestview	7,222
Family Promise	1,148
Scotty's House	1,665

Adult Discipleship

by: Becky Hand



Our newly formed Adult Discipleship Committee has already met three times and God is speaking to us in so many ways about how we as a church might move forward as Christ’s disciples. And, let me say what a powerful, spiritual, and servant-oriented team God has brought together!

Our team has been seeking God’s guidance and direction as we evaluate current studies, small groups, Sunday School classes and ministries. We have been listening to God and dreaming with God about ways to strengthen our ministry’s effectiveness as we provide opportunities for spiritual formation and leadership training.

The word disciple means “learner.” In Jesus’ day to be a disciple meant to literally go with him and follow him, striving to apply his teachings and way of life. Disciples had a desire, above all else, to be like Christ. Isn’t that our desire as well?

Fall Bible studies are beginning soon! Won’t you consider making a commitment to study God’s word in one of our small groups? Soon you will hear more about “An Invitation to Leadership,” an opportunity coming Sunday, September 9 designed to empower current and future small group leaders.

I love Ephesians 3:20 and the promise we can claim – God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!

Building Marriage Muscles begins Sunday, Sept. 9 at 11 a.m.

Cowboy & Bets Davis have been leading marriage enrichment seminars for more than 30 years, and have been growing in a relationship based on faith, love, and mutual respect. Their love finds two people delighting in each other after 55 years of marriage – now that’s something else!

They began their ministry by becoming a team couple for Marriage Encounter for eight years and then began teaching the Building Marriage Muscles curriculum to now more than 500 couples. They believe there is no such thing as a no-maintenance marriage. Making a good marriage better is a continuing process. Time devoted to this holy enterprise will reap lasting and valuable dividends.

Bets and Cowboy are both graduates of the University of Texas in El Paso. She is an artist and Cowboy is a lawyer and both are still actively involved in their profession. They moved to College Station 10 years ago to watch their grandsons grow up at close range!



“Teaching this curriculum has made a tremendous impact on us by seeing the members of this congregation who have enrolled, experience newness, renewal, blessings, growth, and transformation in their marital and spiritual lives” — Bets Davis

A Testimonial From Joyce Dendy...

“Once I established the habit of attending, there was an empty place in my life when we could not meet on Wednesdays. I look forward to that spiritual lift that I get from good, Christian fellowship with the people in our group(s). The faces change a little from study to study, but the fellowship is still there. Our discussions are filled with wisdom and laughter, sadness, and just the everyday “stuff” that happens to us along our Christian walks. If I had to summarize what being in Bible study has done for me, I would tell you that I’ve grown in Christ, I’ve grown in knowledge of the Bible, and I’ve become acquainted with some great people along the way!”



Join Women of Christ UMC August 20 at 6:30 p.m. to learn more about *Finding Christ in the Rush*. With back-to-school right upon us, we want to take time to focus.

Please bring a favorite potluck dish to share, childcare available with advance registration. Sign up online so we’ll know you’re coming, or contact Kasey Lobb at kjlobb@mac.com for more details about the Women’s Ministry of Christ UMC.



Join men of Christ UMC for a fun weekly outing — softball! Starting Monday, September 10, game start times range from 6:15 – 10:15 p.m. and the fellowship is as fun as the games. Register online today through August 26. Games are on Monday nights. Contact: jeffwarnertx@gmail.com

College Ministry

by: Becky Hand

First, let me say how excited I am to be at Christ UMC and am already so blessed to be a part of all that God is doing in our midst!

Especially encouraging to me are two college students who have a vision for our college ministry — Alex Garrett and Daniel Lumpee. With their help, we have recently started a Sunday school class that meets at 11 a.m. with a meal and fellowship opportunity following. In the coming weeks we will build a wheelchair ramp and serve at The Bridge food pantry. We have two fellowship events planned — and we hope to begin meeting in homes for small groups in early September!

Yes, “programs” are in place but what I pray is that we don’t just see students as objects to be

“I pray we don’t just see students as objects to be won and counted.”

won and counted. In front of us is a tremendous responsibility and opportunity to invest in the lives of young people in a way that will help them grow in their relationship with God so that they can become leaders within the church and bearers of the good news in their own culture. We can provide opportunities to help them grow in holiness through relationships with their peers and opportunities that will move them into the overall mission of the church as they serve with their spiritual gifts.

1 Timothy 4:12, “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

If you are interested in hosting a small group in your home – once a week or for one semester — or a one-time event such as a cook-out or pool party, sign up online or contact Rev. Becky Hand at beckyhand@christ-umc.org



Fall Bible Studies

For class descriptions, start dates, & registration information check out the website:
<http://www.christ-umc.org/#/events/bible-studies>

Daytime Studies

Building Marriage Muscles: After You Say “I Do,” H. Norman Wright (13 weeks) Sundays

Spiritual Parenting, Michelle Anthony, (8 weeks) Sundays

Ruth: Loss, Love & Legacy, by Kelly Minter (6 weeks) Wednesdays

James – Mercy Triumphs, Beth Moore (12 weeks) Wednesdays

Jesus’ Parables of Grace and Life, James Moore (6 weeks) Tuesdays

Domestic Engineers & Everyday Dads (ongoing) Thursdays

Evening Studies

Financial Peace University, Dave Ramsey (9 weeks) Wednesdays

The Blessing, John Trent, PH.D & Gary Smalley Mondays

Young Adults, Tuesdays

Young Adults, Wednesdays

1 John Young Adults, Thursdays

Me, Myself and Lies: A Thought Closet Makeover, Jennifer Rothschild (8 weeks) Wednesdays

Band of Brothers (ongoing) Wednesdays

The Real Meal Deal (Third Thursday of each month)

Long-term Evening Studies

The Story, Max Lucado & Randy Frazee (32 weeks) Mondays

Disciple I (34 weeks)

Disciple II (32 weeks)

Jesus in the Gospels (30 weeks)

ETC: Save The Date

Day Trip Saturday, September 22
ETC (Education, Travel and Caring for the 50 and over crowd) Day trip to tour the Methodist Children’s Home in Waco and Homestead Heritage just north of Waco in Elm Mott

Watch for additional information and an opportunity to register for the trip online beginning in the mid-August weekly email, “What’s Coming Up At Christ UMC”. For additional information contact Sharon Camp at 979-575-9680.

Did You Know ...

... that Christ UMC sponsors a boy scout troop?

CUB SCOUT
TROOP 60
by: Pat Kelly

For boys entering first, second, third, and fourth grade: Cub Scout Pack 60 is looking for boys interested in Scouting and is accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year. The Pack is sponsored by Christ UMC and most of our meetings and events are held in one or more of the church’s facilities.

Cub Scouts is “Fun with a Purpose.” That purpose is to help boys learn their place in the world through achievements focused on a variety of subjects, service projects, learning activities, and by watching success build confidence.

This is a very active Pack and we have great plans for the 2012-2013 school year. In addition to working on various requirements for each scout level, we do lots of fun things together. This year we are planning a fishing trip in conjunction with Boy Scout Troop 60, a fall campout at which we will hold a rain gutter regatta, a trip to a cavern, a sleep-in at Sea World, a lock-in in December, our annual Pinewood Derby, a spring campout, our annual Blue and Gold banquet, and a Fellas (dads and sons) pizza bake. We also participate in the Radio M*A*S*H holiday toy drive, Scouting for Food, a neighborhood cleanup, a tree plant, and will volunteer at the Brazos Valley Food Bank. As you can see there are lots of things the boys can choose to participate in.

If you are interested, you can contact Shawn Palermo at sspalermo@yahoo.com or visit the Connection Center off the Narthex on August 26 or September 2 after each service. We will also be holding a rally night at Forest Ridge Elementary School. Watch for further information about rally night.

If you would like to see the Pack in action, please come to our beginning of school pool bash at the Shenandoah pool on Saturday, August 25 starting at 3 p.m.

We hope to see lots of new Scouts this year!!!!

VENTURING
CREW 60
by: Jim Bob Ward, Crew Advisor

Christ United Methodist Church is home to BSA Venturing Crew 60. Crew 60 will be backpacking through Europe from August 1 –15. The Crew is completely youth led from fund raising to following their own itinerary through Paris, France, Interlaken, Switzerland, Milan, Venice, and Rome Italy. As in our past treks (mountain climbing, skiing, fly fishing and backpacking), the focus will be on obtaining leadership experience while exploring the religious life, history, and economics of leading communities in Europe. After we return, the youth leaders will be looking

for opportunities to conduct presentations of their trip to groups within Christ UMC. Several families at Christ UMC have young adults who have participated in the Crew so please look around and ask a Scout parent about the benefits of this program.

Venturing is part a youth development program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men and women who are 13 years of age, have completed the eighth grade, and are under 21 years of age. Venturing provides positive experiences to help young people mature and to prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. Venturing provides the skills needed for young adults to make ethical choices, experience a fun program full of adventure and challenges, acquire leadership skills, and to take advantage of

opportunities to advance their skills and knowledge in the areas of high adventure, sports, arts, hobbies, religious life, and sea scouting.

Crew 60 meets in the youth area of Christ UMC on Monday nights the first, third and fifth weeks of the month from 7-8:30 p.m. Please let us know if you have anyone who may be interested in joining us in our high-adventure treks. Feel free to contact the crew advisor, Jim Bob Ward at 979-777-8840, or at vjimbob.ward@verizon.net.

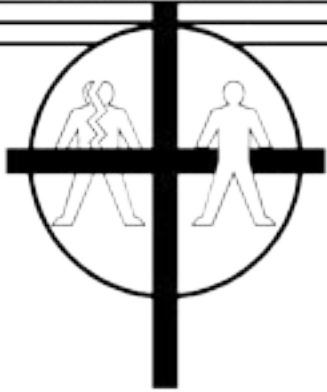
Missions Opportunities

Be A Stephen Minister

STEPHEN MINISTRY

We are currently taking applications for the 2012-2013 Stephen Minister class scheduled to begin in September and run through May 2013. If you are not familiar with the ministry we are a group of lay Christians selected, trained, and supervised by Stephen Ministry Leaders to provide confidential effective Christian care. We make a commitment which includes 50 hours of training, ongoing supervisory meetings, and an average of one, 1-hour visit per week with the person receiving our care.

The program is named after St. Stephen, one of the first deacons in the early Christian church, commissioned by the



apostles to care for the needs of people in the Christian community.

We recognize this as a confidential ministry in which continuous effort is expended to maintain the body of trust between the person receiving care

and the caregiver.

We are usually assigned to minister to those members experiencing: loneliness, loss of a loved one, retirement changes, unemployment, discouragement, childbirth, hospitalization, separation and divorce, terminal illness, being shut-in, and other situations of need.

To learn more about the application process and how you can become a part of this rewarding ministry team you can speak with one of our current Stephen Ministry Leaders (Judy Draper, Lana Gonzales, Priscilla Smith, LaNell Crumpler, Jack Michaels or Peg Michaels) or contact Pastor Tommy Myrick at 979-690-4673 ext. 112 or at tommymyrick@christ-umc.org

BLOOD DRIVE

Christ UMC announces the next blood drives for 2012 conducted by the Blood Center of Brazos Valley on Sundays September 16 and November 18 to be held in the Annex Room A211.

In 2008, The Blood Center of Brazos Valley began work settling into a permanent home in the Bryan/College Station area to better serve the Brazos Valley community. As the primary blood supplier to nine Brazos Valley counties - Brazos, Burleson, Fayette, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson, Walker and Washington, The Blood Center has provided blood products through operations out of Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center, which serves more than 170 hospitals and health care facilities in a 25-county region of Texas. A Neighborhood Donor Center opened on Rock Prairie Road in College Station in 2009. The Blood Center is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization and is accredited, licensed and inspected by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Medicare, AABB as well as local and state authorities.

Information regarding registration will follow in weekly Christ UMC emails beginning in late August. Contact Sharon Camp at 979-575-9680 for additional information.



Music



The Music & Worship Ministries have been busy this summer, though the choir and orchestra have taken a short break during the month of July. During that time though, around 50 members of the choir sang a short concert and led worship for a revival service at Kosse United Methodist on Sunday, July 15. We also just completed our 8th annual **Camp Narnia Fine Arts Camp** with 100 children and 50 volunteers. The week was full of activities that taught boys and girls about making costumes, set designs, drama, dance and singing. Camp Narnia concluded on Friday, July 27 with a presentation of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.



Looking ahead, the **Music & Worship Awards Banquet** will start at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 8 in the Fellowship Hall followed by our first rehearsal for the fall semester. This will be a great time for anyone who has considered being involved in the Music & Worship Ministry to come see what it is all about. It is also a great time for someone who has been out for a while to return (...Ms. Ileen!).

This fall will be full of exciting activities, concerts, and new music, so continue to pray for the Music & Worship Ministry and consider getting involved if you are not already. We would love to have you! Details on ensembles, hand bells, youth and children's choirs will be available soon as we prepare to kick those off in September.

Serving as your interim this Spring was such a blessing to our family and we are even more excited now that I am on staff and serving as your Director of Music & Worship. Thank you for all the kind emails, cards and phone calls welcoming us to Christ UMC. I look forward to what the Lord is going to do with us and through us here at Christ United Methodist Church.

Blessings!
GRADY CHISM
Director of Music & Worship



YES, CHILDREN, SUMMER IS NEARLY OVER!

– Ileen McCullar



I was greeted the other day by several of my children from choir asking, "Is summer nearly over? When does choir start?"

Games, songs, rhythm, instruments, dance, movement, and lots of fun! Fall children's choirs start **September 12** for all children ages 2 years to sixth grade. Please watch the website under the "Events" section for online registration, as it will be starting soon. Let the joyful noise begin as summer ends!

Love in Christ,
Ms. Ileen

Business

Celebrating Christ UMC

by: Irene Keating, Lay Leader

You may not be aware that we, as a part of a connectional United Methodist Church, are affected by what happens at the various levels. The General Conference met April 24 – May 4 and some decisions were made that affect how we do business. I think we need to know some topics that were addressed.

- Retained the church's position regarding homosexuality, deciding not to adopt language that would have said United Methodists are not of one mind on this issue.
- Did away with “guaranteed appointments” for clergy.
- Rejected a proposal for setting aside a bishop to serve as full-time president of the Council of Bishops.
- Entered into full communion with a number of historically black pan-Methodist denominations.
- Approved making the United Methodist Women an autonomous organization rather than operating it under the church's missions agency.
- Created a national ministry plan for Pacific Islanders.
- Adopted a \$603.1 million budget for the 2012-13 period.
- Decided not to divest from three companies whose products are used by the Israeli military in the occupied Palestinian territories.

I hope this will help you see the depth and breadth of our denomination.

For more info go to
http://www.umc.org/site/c.lwL4KnN1LtH/b.8029511/k.8489/General_Conference_2012__The_United_Methodist_Church.htm

June 30, 2012 Financial Report

Go to <http://www.christ-umc.org/#/resources/financial> to view the June 2012 financial reports. Should you have a question, please contact the finance office.

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