

# The Flame



April 2, 2012

Christ United Methodist Church

## May fundraisers to support Patrick Anderson, Shelby Martin by Mark McGowan

For Beth Palm, it began with lighting of a candle.

Patrick Anderson, then too young to accompany his father, mother, and brother on a church mission trip to Africa, had joined Christ UMC congregation members who gathered to pray for the group that had journeyed overseas.

For Sherrill Muller, it began with a letter printed in the February issue of *The Flame*.

"Dear Christ United Methodist Church," the plea from Kate Moore began. "I am wondering if you could help my very good friend, Shelby Martin, who needs a liver transplant. She is only 9 years old and is very kind."

Both women have turned their inspirations into May fundraisers in the Fellowship Hall of the Alpine Center.

A dinner is scheduled at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 5, for Patrick, who will depart July 10 for a four-month stay in Kenya. A tea party and doll fashion show will take place from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, May 12, for Shelby.



Shelby Martin

The May 5 dinner will feature Jan McMullen's famous chicken and rice, green beans, an African side dish, bread, and dessert. Ticket are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children; they will be available Sundays in

April after services at Alpine Center. Reservations are strongly recommended; to RSVP, or to make a donation to Anderson without attending the dinner, contact Palm at (815) 399-6267 or [emom321@yahoo.com](mailto:emom321@yahoo.com).

Patrick, the youngest son of the late Rev. Patty Anderson, will present a program after the meal. Palm also is planning a short service in the sanctuary to bless Patrick and send him off.

Well-wishers also can receive prayer cards for Pat-

rick—"Our prayers and support are more important to him than the money," Palm said—and read his requests for prayers.

"Patrick has such a heart for Africa," Palm said. "My love for Patty really has connected me to him, and I feel honored



Patrick Anderson

being part of his life. I see his passion for Africa, and I feel very called to do whatever I can do to support him. I see the spirit of God at work in his life."

Working through the Nyumbani organization, which eight years ago created a village for 750 children who have lost their families to HIV and AIDS, Patrick will spend his days teaching trade skills such as masonry, woodworking, and metalworking. The village also is highly sustainable, so Anderson will assist with efforts to harvest rainwater and create methane gas from cow manure.

Nighttime will mean tutoring children who live in the village's houses.

"That's what I'm looking forward to most," he said. "I'll read to them. They'll read to me."

He's also hoping to teach life skills, such as budgeting, to the older teens soon to leave the village to seek work in the cities.

After two trips to Kenya already—as well as visits to Haiti and Nicaragua—mission work in Africa feels "natural" to Patrick, who calls the country his "second home."

"This will be my third time going to Kenya, and a lot of it has to do with mom. My mom always had a heart for

**Dinner for Patrick Anderson**  
Sat. May 5, 5:30 p.m., Alpine Center

**"Me, Mommy, My Dolly, and Tea" for Shelby Martin**  
Sat. May 12, 1:00 p.m., Alpine Center

# Journey with Jane



My last several letters to you have focused on property issues. In this letter, I want to report the results of our Special Church Conference on April 1, 2012. We have taken important steps, and I am grateful for the participation of the congregation.

The Special Church Conference convened at 4 p.m., April 1, 2012 (No, this is not an April Fools joke). Rev. Ouk-Yean Kim Jueng, our district superintendent, presided over the gathering, which was attended by 157 people. We opened with singing "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," and an opening prayer. Paul Carpenter (acting chair of the Comanche properties subcommittee of the Facilities Study Task Force) presented a brief presentation and answered questions regarding the following resolution:

### **Resolution for Sale of Comanche Properties**

Resolution for the sale of seven (7) properties at 1416, 1424, 1502, 1506, 1510, 1514, and 1518 Comanche Drive, Rockford, Illinois 61107, owned by Christ United Methodist Church. The purpose of the sale is to minimize the debt of CUMC, halting the negative cash flow from operating these properties as a renter, and eliminating potential major capital expenses on these properties.

Be it resolved, that in order to dispose of the properties, that any one or a combination of the following strategies will be pursued:

- Sale of all 7 to a single buyer without the cost of realtor commission.
- Sale of all 7 individually or in parcels without the cost of realtor commission.
- Sale of all 7 with realtor seeking a single buyer.
- Sale of multiple and single properties with realtor until all are sold.

Be it resolved that every effort will be made to obtain a price that will reduce as much as possible the current mortgage debt totaling approximately \$448,000.

Be it resolved that every effort will be made to obtain a buyer or buyers who will be good stewards of the property.

Votes were received and counted, and the motion carried (153 voted yes; 3 voted no).

Then Bill Sims (chair of the parsonage subcommittee of the Facilities Study Task Force) presented a brief presentation and answered questions regarding the following resolution:

### **Resolution for Purchase of Parsonage Property**

Resolution for the purchase of the parsonage property at 1894 Plum Orchard Lane, Rockford, Illinois 61107, owned by former Pastor Richard Wisdom. The purpose of this purchase is to provide a parsonage for the current Senior Pastor and for the use as a parsonage for future Senior Pastors or Associate Pastors.

Be it resolved:

- The purchase will be within the existing agreement with Pastor Wisdom in order to minimize legal cost.
- The purchase will not exceed the contract price of \$139,000.
- Said price will be reduced by the portion of rent (\$13,973.85) as stipulated in the agreement.
- We will negotiate for a one year home warranty contract to be purchased by the seller that will include ceiling fans, ductwork, air conditioning, clothes washer, refrigerator, heating system, plumbing, dishwasher, electrical system, garage door opener, clothes dryer, garbage disposal, built-in microwave, range/oven, plumbing stoppages.

Votes were received and counted, and the motion carried (144 voted yes; 13 voted no).

While the votes were counted, we sang "Holy, Holy, Holy," and "How Great Thou Art."

## Holy Week Services

### Maundy Thursday – April 5

6:30 p.m. Alpine Center  
Nursery will be available

### Good Friday – April 6

Noon Alpine Center  
7:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service Alpine Center  
Nursery will be available for both services

### Easter Vigil – April 7

7:30 p.m. Our Master’s Center

### Easter Sunday – April 8

Join us at any of our Easter morning services to celebrate the Risen Christ.  
Communion will be celebrated at all of our morning services

Alpine Center - Worship Services at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Our Master’s Center - Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.

## This Month’s Outreach Speaker



April 22—Alpine Center  
April 29—Our Master’s Center

MELD is a nonprofit social service agency providing programs and services for young parents and their children in the Rockford community. MELD offers emergency shelter and housing, parenting information, life and job skills training, support and resources, and prevention education.

Christ UMC will hold a baby shower on May 6 for MELD’s Clothes Closet. Mother’s Day cards will be sold after church services on April 22 and 29 and May 6 to raise money for the organization as well.

Visit [www.christumc.cc](http://www.christumc.cc) to view a video about MELD, or visit [www.rockfordmeld.org](http://www.rockfordmeld.org) for more information.

## Welcome to Christ United Methodist Church!

**Alpine Center**  
**(MAILING ADDRESS FOR BOTH CENTERS):**  
4509 Highcrest Road  
Rockford, Il 61107  
Phone: 815-399-5910  
Office Hours: Monday—Friday  
8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

**Sunday Worship Services**  
Blended Worship Services:  
8:00 and 9:30 a.m.

**Our Master’s Center**  
5973 Darlene Drive  
Rockford, Il 61109  
Phone: (815)399-5910

**Sunday Worship Service**  
9:30 a.m. Child care is available

Rev. Jane Eesley, Sr. Pastor  
Rev. Laura Barkley, Sr. Assoc. Pastor  
Rev. Sun Hyung Jo, Assoc. Pastor



*The Flame* is a monthly publication of Christ United Methodist Church, available by mail or at online at [www.christumc.cc](http://www.christumc.cc).

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**Christ UMC Mission Statement**  
We will live out God’s vision by  
**Gathering:** introducing people to Jesus Christ,  
**Growing:** moving from believer to follower, and  
**Going:** making a Gospel impact beyond the church

## **WOWS Group Widows or Widowers and Singles**

### **In April:**

Celebrate April showers on Tuesday, **April 17**, at 12:30 p.m. at the Stockholm Inn, 2420 Charles Street. Call Helen Muir at 815-282-8165 to make your reservation

### **In May:**

On Wednesday, **May 16**, the WOWS will be attending the 2:00 p.m. performance of the Senior Follies. After the show we will be going to Giordano's for dinner. Tickets for the show are \$10. Please make your checks payable to Sandi Johnson. This year the show is being held at Rockford First (formerly First Assembly of God). We will meet there at 1:15 pm at the entrance to the main sanctuary. To make a reservation or if you have questions, call Sandi at 815-963-7634. Reservations must be in by May 5.

## **Are you looking to connect with other moms?**

CUMC Mom Connection is a group that meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday mornings every month from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. We have different speakers, craft or cooking ideas and snacks. Childcare is provided. Please contact either Alicia Arthur at akarthur75@comcast.net or Tracey Greenland at 815-885-8337.

**April 13: Attitude of Gratitude & Power of Words—Pastor Laura**

**April 27: Parish Nurses**

## **Scrapbooking Group Saturday, April 21, 9:00 am-4:00 p.m. Dining Room, Alpine Center**

Scrapbooking/Stamping is scheduled for **Saturday, April 21**, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Dining Room, Alpine Center. Stay for all day or just a half day - whatever fits your schedule. Not everyone in our group scrapbooks. Some are stamping, so join us for a fun day of crafting! Childcare will be provided from 9 a.m. to noon only, but you must request it. If children will be joining us, it's requested they be at least middle school age.

Please bring money for a sandwich from Subway plus snack to share and your own beverage. RSVP to Mary Hicks at 815-742-1136 by Wednesday, April 18 if you need childcare.

## **CUMC Senior Fellowship Group Friday, April 20 at noon, Dining Room, Alpine Center**

Come and join this group for those who are age 65 or better for a wonderful homemade lunch and fellowship with your friends. After lunch, Ray Paul will present a program on his latest book (books will be available for purchase if you want) and about his writing process.

Call the church office at 815-399-5910 to make your reservation by Monday, April 16, so we can plan for enough food. Hope to see you there!

## **Couples Bridge**

Couples Bridge will meet on Friday, **April 20**, at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Frank and Betty Dyke, 4460 Crittenden Circle, Rockford. Please call the Dyke's at 815-637-1766 by April 16 to make a reservation.

New couples are always welcome. This is not a marathon and scores are not kept from month to month. We play for the fun and fellowship (and some great desserts and snacks!).

If you have any questions about this group, please contact Ed and Mary Anne Rounds at 815-877-2968 for more information.

## **Join us for A Thousand Acres April 27 movie night**

**6:15 p.m., Coffee House, Alpine Center**

This month's movie night is on Friday, April 27. While the farmers plant their fields, we'll be watching a film about the family dynamics of a particular farm family. It's an adaptation of a novel by Jane Smiley based on *King Lear*. This 1997 movie, *A Thousand Acres* (R), was filmed in the Rochelle area. Some of the actors are Jessica Lange, Michelle Pfeiffer, Jason Robards, and Jennifer Jason Leigh.

We'll gather in the Alpine Center Coffee House at 6:15 p.m. to fill up our popcorn bowls--drinks and munchies will be provided. The movie starts at 6:30 and will be followed by a discussion. We'll finish by 9:30. The evening is free. **If you would like child care in the nursery during the film and discussion, please call the church office by Fri., April 20, 815 399-5910, to make your family's reservation.**

## **All Church Skate Night on April 18**

Come out and join the fun on **April 18th** from **6-8 p.m.** at Skateland, 4823 Stenstrom Rd-- north side of Sandy Hollow Road, two blocks east of Alpine). Admission is \$2.50 and skate rental is \$1.50 (prices per person). It will be a great way to unwind and connect with other families from our church. Invite your friends too!

**Men's Group**

**Next meeting: Saturday, April 7 at 8:30 a.m.**

**Coffee House, Alpine Center**

The men's group at the Alpine Center has been meeting now since October of last year and we have had a variety of activities and programs. The purpose of the group is to offer opportunities for men to meet and discuss issues that may be unique to them as they grow as husbands and fathers in relationship to Christ and the church.

We are planning more programs, work projects, and activities during the year. Please consider this your invitation to be a part of the men's group. We typically meet on the first Saturday of the month.

The next meeting is April 7th at 8:30 am in the Coffee House. The program will include a special breakfast by two of the men and their wives and a brief sharing from a couple of men from Grace United Methodist Church Men's Group regarding how they are connecting with men and activities in their area. Following that will be a presentation by Morry Harms regarding a book entitled "Letters From Dad". This is a very meaningful and proactive activity designed to improve communication and relationship skills with your family. Come and join in this program. No RSVP needed.

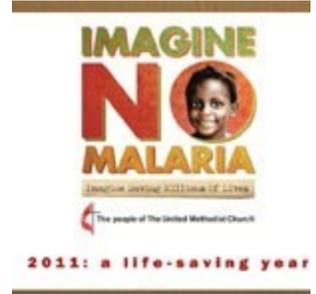
The following meeting (May 5th) will be a special guest presentation by a former Air Force pilot talking about the air war over Laos during the Vietnam war and his experiences with night missions, search and rescue. Please consider this meeting as well.

For more information contact Morry Harms at 815-986-6652 or Bill Sims at 815-397-5717.

**Coins in April**

**What is Imagine No Malaria?**

Our coin offering on Sunday mornings in April will go to the Rainbow Covenant mission project *Imagine No Malaria*. The project will still support Nothing But Nets. But, they will be doing more. Their comprehensive plan will be divided into four parts:



**Prevention:**

Use of bed nets (insecticide treated), access to diagnostic tests, and medicine. Draining standing water and improving sanitation.

**Treatment:**

Improving the infrastructure. They will make sure that the hundreds of churches, schools, hospitals and clinics operated by the United Methodist Church in Africa will have the medicines to treat malaria.

**Education:** It's about outreach. Thousands of local people in Africa will be trained to teach their communities about avoiding malaria.

**Communications:** Upgrading communication networks throughout the continent. Greater numbers of people can be reached with hand-crank and solar powered radios.

**The Church is People**

**Sympathy to:**

Kay Cull and family on the death of Rev. Bill Cull.

Chris Estes and family on the death of her mother, Doris Ellison.

The family of Willie Mae Parsons.

Tom Ogilby and family on the death of his mother.

Denise Eilers and family on the death of her father, Harold Rhodes, on March 18.



On March 28, the staff gave a baby shower for Minsoon Chu (Pastor Sun Hyung's wife) and Erika Coffey, Director of Children's Ministry. We celebrated the joy of these new lives with cake, ice cream, gifts and prayer for our forthcoming "staff babies."



## UMW Circle Schedule

*The United Methodist Women invite all women of the church to their circle meetings. Visitors are welcome and encouraged! To learn more about each circle, Contact Carla White-Carpenter at 815-885-3425*

### Out to Lunch Bunch:

**Thursday, April 26, at 12:30 p.m.  
At Olive Garden Italian Restaurant  
6367 East State Street**

Call Rickie Andersen at 815-885-4373 or email r.andersen@comcast.net to make your reservations.

### Martha Circle:

Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, **April 11**, at 12:30 p.m. in the Armstrong Lounge, Alpine Center, following dessert in Fellowship Hall. Our program will be on Restorative Justice, a mission study, and will be presented by Wilma Porter. We welcome visitors! Please call Wilma with questions at 815-877-3465.

## Special Priscilla Circle Meeting

**April 23—6:30 pm at Just Goods**

Priscilla Circle would like to invite all the circles and ladies of CUMC to an evening at Just Goods, 201-7th Street. It will be April 23, at 6:30 pm. We will have an evening of information about Just Goods, fellowship, refreshments, and shopping. Please feel free to extend the invitation to friends or any members of CUMC. There is parking behind & in front of the store. If you have questions call Deb Laskey, 815-335-3347.

## Caravan to visit

**Christ the Carpenter UMC  
Everyone invited—April 18**

On Wednesday, April 18, Caravan Circle is going to visit Christ the Carpenter UMC, 1100 S. Winnebago St. The pastor's wife, Linda Putney, will give us a tour of the neighborhood in their van and tell us about the ministries of the church. There will be refreshments and devotions. **We'll have two carpools. One will meet at Our Master's Center and one at Alpine Center. Both will depart about 9:05 a.m.** Join us, or meet us at Christ the Carpenter. Please bring something for their food pantry.

## 36<sup>TH</sup> Annual Spring Salad Luncheon

**May 11, 12:30 p.m.,**

**Alpine Center Dining Room**

The 36<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Salad Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, May 11, at 12:30 p.m. in the Dining Room at Alpine Center. Co-hosts are Martha/Lydia, Harmony, and Priscilla Circles.

After a lunch of delicious salads and desserts, we will enjoy our program for the day, **Through the Garden Gate**, presented by Jean Heise. While her program will help us to think of spring, Jean is also the co-founder of The Haven Network, a perinatal hospice center in Rockford. Prior to co-founding the center, Jean was on the staff at the Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society for many years.

Please mark your calendar now, and plan to join together with your friends for an afternoon of good food, interesting program, and warm fellowship. A love offering basket to benefit The Haven Network will be available for donations.

Baby sitting will be available.

## Special Speaker at Rebekah Circle

**Everyone Invited—April 11, 10:00 am**

**Dining Room, Alpine Center**

Rebekah Circle will have a special speaker at our meeting on April 11th. Dola Gregory, director of Rock House Kids, will introduce us to their programs, special needs and hopes for the future. This is an inspiring place on 7th street, near Broadway, where underprivileged children can come for programs to learn about Jesus. It also helps them in daily living by addressing basic needs.

You can help with some of those needs:

Tooth brushes and toothpaste, socks, from sizes for five years, flip-flops, sizes as above

We will also have a free will offering for the program, if you would rather give this way. Please meet with us in the Dining Room at 10 am.

## UMW Greeting Cards to be sold

**April 22 & May 27 at Alpine Center**

Cards created by the UMW, will be sold one time only in the next two months, April 22nd and May 27th. Remember to buy Mothers' Day cards in April!

We are in need of envelopes, size standard greeting card. If you can help, please place them in the wall cupboard, lower right in Fellowship Hall, Alpine Center..

**Hang on to your hat!  
.....and your blouses, slacks, jackets,  
sweaters and scarves.**

There will be a new event at **Tender Loving Crafts** this year. We are planning a resale of gently used clothing in junior, misses and women's sizes.

Please begin to set aside items you no longer use. The collecting will begin in September, but there will be an update each month. This is not a rummage sale.

All proceeds of this sale only will go to the church. For info contact; Marion Kern at (815) 227-0711

**Ta-Da Party!**

**Thursday, June 14, 9:00 a.m.**

**Fellowship Hall, Alpine Center**

It's time for the annual Ta-Da Party of the CUMC quilters to celebrate their efforts to date and offer quilted items for sale. We will also do a "bed-turning" where we will show family quilts or projects and tell about their stories. Invite your neighbors and friends. There will be light refreshments and a good time will be had by all. Everyone is invited to bring a quilt for the bed-turning. We look forward to celebrating quilting with you. Questions? Call Renée Johnson at 815-397-9270.

**The Quilt Group is looking for the  
person who donated a tablecloth  
several years ago**

Several years ago someone from the congregation donated an unfinished tablecloth to the quilt group. The project had exquisitely cross-stitched pastel flowers and two-tone blue ribbons. It is now a finished quilt hanging in the front hall of the Trinity building. We would love to know who donated it to us to give it proper provenance. Please call Nancy Watson at 815-877-1959 or Renée Johnson at 815-397-9270 if you know who donated this.

**A Note About Easter Sunday Worship**

On Easter Sunday, in order to make room for our visitors at the 9:30 service, we would appreciate if you would consider coming to the 8:00 service, which has the same music, or coming to the 11:00 service with the Praise Team.



**Summer Garden Walks  
2012**

Due to weather conditions and such an early Spring, it's already time to be thinking of our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual garden walk! This year we would like to begin the first week in June and have weekly walks through August, depending on the number of volunteer hosts. As in the past, we would like to invite new hosts and those who have hosted in the past. We love a real variety: small or large gardens, flowers, vegetables, unique, natural, organic, specific interest, such as ponds, waterfalls, bridges, or specific collections, such as hostas, hydrangeas, etc. Each summer walk seems to bring new surprises and new ideas for the guests.

This year the walks will be held on Monday evenings at 6:30. The host will welcome people to walk through their garden and possibly serve a simple beverage. Visitors will be asked to make a cash donation for plants for the church gardens.

This is a great activity to meet new people, fellowship with people who share a common interest in gardens, and a wonderful way to see and appreciate God's bountiful natural beauty of the season. If you are interested in hosting, please sign up at the Connection Center. Watch for more information in the Flame, E-News, and in the church bulletins. If you have questions, contact Marco and Sandy Revoredo at 229-1841.

**New Church Pictorial Directory**

**Sign ups are in progress now for photography sessions**

Help us make our new church pictorial directory complete. Sign-ups for your photography session are now being taken.

- You may use our convenient scheduling online at the church's website: [www.christumc.cc](http://www.christumc.cc) on the opening page of the website regarding photo session sign ups. This will link you to the Lifetouch sign up page. **Please note: The link is unavailable each weekend from Saturday evening through Monday morning for sign-ups.**
- You can sign up in person after all services at both the Alpine and Our Master's Centers. Sign-ups will continue on Sunday mornings on April 1, and April 15 (not on Easter Sunday, April 8).
- You can call the church office at 815-399-5910.

You will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory just for participating. You will be able to view your images immediately after your photo is taken. Additional portraits can be purchased at that time. Photography sessions will be held at the Trinity building, Alpine Center. Dates for photography will be: April 19-21, May 1-5, 8-12, 22 and 23. Please allow an hour for your portrait session and that includes viewing and selecting portraits.

*(Fundraisers, continued from front page)*

Kenya, had a servant's heart, and a lot of that poured out on me," he says. "The people of Kenya are very loving and very accepting of the work we do. We'll see if this is what God really wants me to do."

For the moment, however, the religious studies major is preparing to graduate from North Central College in June. He will begin mortuary sciences coursework on the North Side of Chicago next March to follow in his father's footsteps.

Shelby Martin's journey is a different one.

"When she went to our school she would be absent a lot because she would be in the hospital. When we would have play dates she couldn't play tag because she would waste her energy by running, so we'd play board games instead," her friend, Kate, wrote.

"She has a fund for her medical expenses but I would like to help her family so they have money for gas when they have to go to the hospital in Chicago, and some money to order pizza as a family and stuff like that. Money should be the last thing on their minds."

The letter touched Muller.

"I was struck ... that this 9-year-old child had the foresight to know that the place to go was to the church," said Muller, who attends worship at Our Master's Center. "I asked the good Lord to forgive me for having to be reminded of that."

Muller, who has had experience planning fundraisers

for other organizations, proposed the "Me, Mommy, My Dolly, and Tea" party.

Girls of all ages who bring their dolls can put them in a fashion show, which will feature introductions from a master of ceremonies who will announce the names of the dolls, their owners, and the makers of their outfits. One doll will win a prize drawn randomly.

"I know how much I've always loved dolls," she said. "I did buy a doll for my granddaughter, and there are probably other women who would love to have that kind of a relationship with their granddaughters."

Partygoers also can craft bead bracelets and create handmade Mother's Day cards. They also can bid for donated items at a silent auction.

Tickets are \$12 for adults (\$15 at the door) and \$5 for children. Reservations are strongly encouraged; contact Muller at (815) 520-4158 or her daughter, Jennifer Mele-nas, at (815) 282-6088.

Money raised will go into Shelby's COTA (Children's Organ Transplant Association) account. (Coins collected during March 25 worship services also were contributed to the account.) The total goal is \$75,000.

Those unable to attend the May 12 tea party who want to help the Martin family can donate directly to Shelby's COTA account by calling Megan Abbott at the church office, (815) 399-5910. For more information on other upcoming fundraisers to benefit Shelby, please visit [www.COTAforShelbyM.com](http://www.COTAforShelbyM.com).

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## Dinner Theater 2012—an Evening to Remember!



Photos, clockwise from above: Ed Burton introduces the CUMC Youth Praise Band; Jackson Nickel, Alex Childs, Bryce Boeselager, and Elena Wilson perform a praise song; Teri Reynolds, Curt Sidener, Taz Tuschen, and Wade Potter celebrate a winning answer during "Family Feud." *Photos by Kim Boeselager*



inspired *faith*

## Laura Stroup

For Laura Stroup and her husband Mike, the desire to adopt a child began even before they met.

"Mike had always thought about adoption as an option for a child and has a nephew who is adopted domestically," she explained. "I also had always wanted to adopt a child—I had neighbors who were adopted domestically growing up."

While dating, they discussed adopting a child quite often. Mike and Laura, then working as an international adoption social worker, were married at Christ UMC, where Mike was raised, and soon began their family.

"We were already blessed with a biological son, and when we decided to go for a second child, we did not feel that it had to be biological child," she said.

Wanting their children to be close in age, and knowing the timeline of the adoption process from Laura's career in the field, they began the process of adopting a child from China. It took about four months to complete their home study and prepare their documents to be sent to Beijing to request a child to adopt. Once the documents were in Beijing, they waited about seven months before receiving a few photos and brief information about their daughter, Mya.

Two months later, Laura and Mike traveled to China for two weeks to receive 9-month-old Mya and go through the court process to adopt her. Then they had to go through U.S. Immigration Services to receive her visa to enter the country and bring her home to meet her big brother Jake, then 2½ years old.

Even though both Laura and Mike had long had the idea of adoption on their hearts, and Laura had experi-

enced many successful adoptions through her job, the process was not worry-free. They knew that with any child, biological or adopted, there are many blessings, some challenges, and no guarantees.

"When we decided to adopt, we had the same concerns and worries that I think all parents have when they add a child to the family: Will the child like us? Will we like the child? Will the children like each other? Will they be healthy and happy?"

"During the wait for the referral and travel, we trusted and prayed to God that the right child would be chosen for us and that we would have the ability to care for whatever needs this child would have."

And for Laura and Mike, the knowledge that God is leading them extends far beyond the adoption process.

"There is an ancient Chinese proverb that says, 'An invisible red thread connects those destined to meet, regardless of time, place, or circumstances. The thread may stretch or tangle, but never break,'" Laura explained. "I felt this red thread represented God's hand in Mike and I meeting, our son being born, and our adoption of our daughter from China. He has placed many blessing in our lives, and we just have to trust in him, as he has a plan for all of us."



by Amy Nickel

(Amy Nickel, continued from back page)

In fact, music brought Amy and Noel together at Rockford College—they met as DJs for the college radio station.

Noel earned a political science degree from Rockford College and a MBA from Cardinal Stritch University. Today he's director of primary care operations for SwedishAmerican Health System, overseeing its medical clinics.

Being raised near Milwaukee, Noel was a Brewers fan. So Amy converted from her White Sox allegiance.

"We're all big baseball fans," Amy said. They make frequent trips to Miller Park in Milwaukee and spent their spring and summer months at Roy Gayle Park watching all three sons play little league.

Amy grew up attending Beth Eden UMC. Today her family attends the 9:30 a.m. service at Alpine Center.

Amy enjoys traveling, reading, Zumba, biking, and volunteering. At Washington Academy, where her sons go to

school, she coordinates a monthly schedule of about 25 parent volunteers to provide daily library help.

Twins don't run in Amy's family. Halfway through that pregnancy, the doctor had a suspicion, although the 10-week ultrasound had showed only one baby. The 22-week ultrasound, however, showed two boys.

"We freaked out for two weeks," she said, but then she and Noel were ready to take on the challenge of two babies. Evening help with the twins from Amy's mom gave Noel time to give big brother Jackson some extra attention, taking him out for ice cream and to minor league ball-games.

Eight weeks after the twins' births, Amy was back singing with a band while Noel hunkered down with the boys. Amy explained Noel's baby-feeding system—in true male fashion, he would put each baby in a bouncy chair, face the TV set, and alternate feeding and burping while watching the Brewers.

*(Journey with Jane continued from Page 2)*

**What happens next?** At our meeting on March 27, the Leadership Team selected team member Will Rodgers to chair the negotiation processes. The Comanche negotiating team will be Will Rodgers, Paul Carpenter, and Kip Kirkland (chair of Facilities Study Task Force and member of the Board of Trustees). The parsonage negotiating team will be Will Rodgers, Bill Sims, and Kip Kirkland. Both teams will work with our real estate attorney, Mr. Steve Zimmerman.

So many people worked hard to get us to this place: Members of the Facilities Study Task Force and the Leadership Team put in countless hours of prayer and study. I'm also grateful for all the research and support provided by our staff: Megan Abbott, director of accounting services; and Linda Kuntz, congregational care administrator. We received tremendous help from Kathy Wight, our office support assistant for printing (for bulletin inserts and mailings) and also Alicia Arthur, our office support assistant for membership, (for compiling membership lists for voting).

I am looking forward to this next phase: with reduced debt, a higher proportion of our operating budget will be freed up for ministry (and not debt service and property management). Also, the congregation will accrue equity in the parsonage (and in time will own the home outright). The Leadership Team can turn its attention to the recommendations from the Alpine Sanctuary/Christian education building team and the Rosecrance team of the Facilities Study Task Force, as well as doing some visioning for congregational ministries.

These are exciting days, and I look forward to sharing them with you. God is good. All of the time.

Peace,

*Jane*

### When I Survey the Wondrous Cross By Isaac Watts ((1674-1748)

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me  
most—  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands,  
His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled  
down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?  
Were the whole realm of nature  
mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

*Taken with permission from The One Year  
Great Songs of Faith, Tyndale House  
Publishers, 1995*



Few believers ever learn to truly love the cross of Christ. For though it offers great deliverance, it also demands great sacrifice. Isaac Watts drives this truth home through the words and music of the powerful hymn. Watts was deeply disappointed with the hymns of his day, which failed to inspire his parishioners to genuine worship and holy living. His dissatisfaction led him to compose more than six hundred hymns all designed to call his congregation to a deeper knowledge and worship of God. This hymn was written in 1707 for use in a Communion service.

The music of this hymn was borrowed from Gregorian chant. Its rich, grave tones call those who sing it to realize the seriousness of Christ's sacrificial death. What shall we offer to God in grateful return for His gracious gift? All that we are and have is but a small offering in return for such great love.



# Children's Ministry News

## April, 2012

### April 18th: Skate Land

Get ready, get set, Skate! Join us for family fun night at Skateland from 6-8pm.

### Looking Ahead:

#### **June 25th-29th : Vacation Bible School**

Join us from 9-11:45am each day for this special summer tradition for children age 4 by 9/1/12 through graduating 6<sup>th</sup> graders. This is a fun filled week where children will learn about God, build friendships, enjoy snacks and play games. Details and a registration form will follow in May's Flame!

### Pre-school Sunday School:

**Bottom line** – Jesus is my good friend.

**Memory Verse:** "A friend loves at all times."

Proverbs 17:17

### Monthly Theme for k-5<sup>th</sup> Sunday School:

**Hope-** Believing that something good can come out of something bad.

**Memory Verse:** "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

### \*WANTED\*

The Children's ministries is looking for any old hand held CD players and games. If you have any of these items you would like to donate, please contact Erika Coffey at the church office. (815) 399-5910

## Easter Egg Hunt 2012



*Craft time at the Easter Egg Hunt*

### Alpine Center Schedule

**8:00am Worship Hour**  
Nursery care is available for all infants and children

**9:30am Worship Hour**  
Infants and Toddlers: Nursery  
Pre-School: Lower Level Sunday School Room 7  
Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Begin in Great Hall  
\*Every last Sunday of the month we will all begin upstairs in worship.\*

**11:00am Worship Hour**  
Infants and Toddlers: Nursery  
Pre-School: Lower Level Sunday School Room 7  
Kindergarten -5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Begin in Sanctuary, dismissed downstairs for Sunday School

### Our Master's Center Schedule

**9:30am Worship Hour**  
Infants: Nursery  
Pre-School-Kindergarten: Nursery  
1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Begin in Sanctuary, dismissed downstairs for Sunday School following the Children's Message

*Parents and children alike enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt at Our Master's Center on March 31*

Photos by Don Black and Joe Whinnery



**Birthdays and Anniversaries****April 6**

Jack Mumma  
Beth Weedman  
Viane Staniszewski  
Gordy Wermager  
Barbara Nevel  
Carol Anderson  
Claire Kelley

**April 7**

Anne Pierce  
Julia Zimmerman

**April 8**

Javier Saez-Gimeno  
Amy Nelson  
Rich Cooper  
Ryan Cullen

**April 9**

Diane LaMantia  
Avery Martin  
Sarah Price  
Dennis Thorn  
John Mink  
Kelly Beaman  
Dorothy Peters  
Austin Leach

**April 10**

Marty Bogie

**April 11**

Laura Keller  
Jacob Miller  
Nathan Schoff  
Bryn Lipton  
Evelyn Spear

**April 12**

Kelsey Stiles  
Gayle George

Jack Hansen  
Jim Chancellor  
Leland Cottrell  
Frank Laine

**April 13**

Ron Raiber  
Carol Beaman  
Gregg Herrmann  
Jonathan Volz  
Amanda Milloro

**April 14**

Linda Nevel  
Wendy Blackburn  
Kelsie Miller  
Robert Faist  
Steve Davis  
Kaylie Miller

**April 15**

Jim McGowan  
Nicole Mann  
Bob Reitsch

**April 17**

Virginia Gully  
Sharon Bliss  
Derek Hunter

**April 18**

Wade Potter  
Alexandra Jacobs

**April 20**

Gabriella Williams  
Jackie Burke  
Landon Burton  
Kyra Murray  
Teagan Marino  
Joshua Harper

**April 21**

Scott Martin  
LeRoy Grande  
Helen Olson  
George Garner

**April 22**

Cadence Arthur  
Cory Schrank  
Nancy Otwell  
Rachel Schrank  
John Schmitt  
Austin Reisetter  
Brett Parrish  
Tracey Greenland  
Doug Pomatto

**April 23**

J Halpin  
Stella Cacciatore  
Nate Calow  
Anne Wilson  
George Edwards  
Wendy Jancek

**April 24**

Brian Hawes  
Amelia Constantin  
Adam Moore  
Hilary Peterson  
Austin Constantin  
Jenae Rezin  
Adam Moore  
Jane Hitter

**April 25**

Carson Masters  
Mary Gummow

**April 26**

Sherrill Muller  
Phil Rives  
Cameron Geddes

**April 27**

Christopher Roegner  
Andrew Chancellor  
Myrna Schelling  
Lexi Fagan  
Olive Bresette  
Alex Geddes

**April 28**

Tony Dzik  
Donna Copeland  
Lucas Molina  
Doris Dion

**April 29**

Kaila Roberson  
Bobby Reitsch  
Jan Hudgin  
Jackson Nickel  
Wes Sattelberg  
Jeanine Wang  
Corey Beard  
Matt Schwabero

**April 30**

Rachel Erickson  
Betsy Leverenz

**May 1**

Don Black  
Jan Rittweger  
Dave Carlson

**May 2**

Donna Dyer  
Melody Coffey  
Jessica Wieck  
Bob Radford

**May 3**

Gavin Horkheimer  
Nina Giannangeli  
Milo Case  
Ken Michalak

**May 4**

Liezl Carlson  
Leah Lundberg  
Lauren Cyr  
Amy Steffen  
Dave Johnson

**May 5**

Nick Scribner  
Alex Bielefeldt  
Jessie Lantz  
Justin Brown  
Heidi Lashock

Alex Liddell  
Becky Rippentrop  
Stephanie Umenhofer

**May 6**

Bill Michalsen  
Steven Moore  
Becky Schoff  
Drew Presson

**May 7**

Elijah Smith  
Rachael Estes  
Lori Constantine  
Alex Deppe  
Brady Kneller  
Linda Lurvey

**May 8**

Jeannine Harms  
Steve Thomas  
Maya Alston

**May 9**

Patti Lashock  
Deborah Griffith  
Terri Kobler  
Randy High

**May 10**

Rebecca Bruesewitz  
David Kirk  
Eddy Kirk  
Nancy Chalman  
Linda Wagener

**May 11**

Murphy Fraser  
Amy Craig  
Joyce Raiber  
Don Schultz

**April 9**

Jim and Doris Lindsay  
Stanley and Chandra Malone

**April 10**

Franklin and Lois Kretschmer

**April 11**

Charles and Mary Jo Frey  
Tom and Pam Laughlin

**April 13**

Dave and Pat Replogle

**April 16**

Scott and Alicia Arthur

**April 17**

Rich and Kelley Roach  
Joe and Deb Whinnery

**April 18**

Ben and Frances Conway  
Jerry and Donna Tomlinson

**April 20**

Dean and Becky Schoff  
David and Amy Steffen

**April 21**

Bill and Nancy Trevey

**April 24**

Ken and Kate Harper

**April 25**

Brian and Jodi Miller  
Jarrett and Bethany Morlan

**April 26**

Al and Patti Lashock

**April 27**

John and Patty Armstrong  
Austin and Lori Reisetter  
Dennis and Judi Thorn

**April 28**

Mark and Marlena Bielefeldt  
Jack and Wanda Schroeder

**April 30**

Malcolm and Ann Martin

**May 1**

Gary and Cindi Lutes

**May 2**

Andrew and Lindsey LaPour  
Ben and Jo Mohrmann

**May 4**

Bill and Maureen Cook

**May 5**

Joe and Sue Calcione  
Ted and Kristen Frericks  
Doug and Janet Johnson  
Ken and Rose Johnson

**May 7**

Jeff and Lori Whitman

**May 9**

Eladio and Carol Arreguin  
Scott and Karen Hulick  
Harold and Holly Sweeney

**May 10**

Dustin and Megan Marino



- **From Marty Bogie**

I want to thank all my wonderful friends at CUMC for prayers, cards and phone calls and the love you gave us on the death of my son, Larry. You are very special to me. Special thanks to Pastor Jane for her support and for praying with us at my home. Also to the Welte family for their kindness.

- **From Jeanne Steinmetz**

Thanks so much for the card and the prayer shawl. It is so nice to know that others in our family of God are cheering us on in our times of need. My healing seems to be coming along well and I trust that it will continue so. I do miss going to church and hope to return soon. I am blessed by your kindness.

- **From Malcolm and Ann Martin**

Thank you for the cards and get well wishes—and your prayers during our recent hospital stays. We also thank our pastors for their visits and prayers. And to the prayer shawl makers for the beautiful blue prayer shawl. It was a great source of comfort.

- **From Patti Walker**

Thank you to those who called, sent cards and offered prayers after my knee replacement surgery.

- **Souper Bowl Sunday and Bag It Sunday Successful**

A special thank you to those who donated to make both Souper Bowl Sunday and Bag It Sunday so successful. In total, 466 pounds of non-perishable food was donated on Souper Bowl Sunday and 1,717 pounds on Bag It Sunday. The food donations equate to a monetary value of \$3,689.27. Please remember that your donations can be made at any time.

- **Outreach Committee Thank You**

The Outreach Committee thanks Jean Kearney and Penny, Bill and Stella Cacciatore for their work in organizing, collecting and delivering food donations on Souper Bowl Sunday and Bag It Sunday.

- **Thank You for help with Funeral Meals**

On Thursday, March 15, the United Methodist Women served a funeral luncheon for the family and friends celebrating the life of Willie Mae Parsons. Those who prepared and served the meal were Marion Kern, Donna Kirk, Joan Gray, Joyce Lantz, Martha Ritter, and Joanne Stewart. The delicious salads were furnished by Marion Kern, Mary English, Arlene Earlywine, Lynda Moser, Toni Neitzel, Carol Parkinson, Pam Wilson, Becky Keith, and Donna Gillette. Dessert bars were furnished by Marion Kern, Irene Janacek, Jo Mohrmann, Marilyn Rothermel, and Gennie Schultz.

Our special thanks to Marilyn Dykstra, who made the calls and arrangements for all the delicious food. This service is an important part of the UMW ministry.

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On Friday, March 16, a funeral luncheon was served to the family and many friends of Pastor William "Bill" Cull. Pastor Bill was a former pastor at CUMC. Our special thanks to Marilyn Dykstra and Marion Kern for the calls they made, and to all who responded by bringing the many delicious salads and dessert bars. A special thanks to Marge Johnson who brought a cake she and Bill shared with the Cull family so many times in the past.

The United Methodist Women appreciate this opportunity to serve and bring comfort to the family at this time of sorrow and celebration.

Marion Kern, Joyce Lantz, Wilma Porter, Co-Chairs

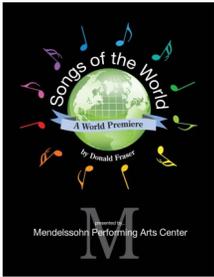
- **Soup Kitchen Thank You:**

On March 10, CUMC youth served 40 meals at Emmanuel Lutheran Soup Kitchen. Those serving included Becky, Alex & Katie Childs; Griffin Allen; Ashyn & Dylan Esgar; Kathy Gibbons; Mary & Andrew Gummow; Lisa, Brittany & Grace Jewell; and Shae Page. A special thank you to all who served and Becky Keith, super cook, for caring about the homeless.

On March 11, Boy Scout Troop 425 also served at the soup kitchen. Their kindness and continued commitment to the homeless is greatly appreciated.

If you would like to be served on April 15, please contact Virg Wilson at 815-978-1794 or [davidwwilson41@yahoo.com](mailto:davidwwilson41@yahoo.com).

# General Church News; Kids Klub Musical



You're invited to the world premiere of *Songs of the World*, our own Donald Fraser's new piece – in concert on April 27!

The Mendelssohn Performing Arts Center presents *Songs of the World*, a new choral/orchestral song cycle based on folk music from different countries, written by Donald Fraser.

Performed by the award-winning Mendelssohn Chamber Orchestra, soprano Jonita Lattimore, baritone Robert Sims, and a massed choir of singers from the Mendelssohn Chorale, Rock Valley Children's Choir and Belvidere High School Choir.

Friday, April 27, 7:30 p.m., Court Street United Methodist Church Tickets: adults \$25, students \$5. Groups of 10 or more adults receive \$5 off per ticket! For tickets or more info, visit [www.mendelssohnpac.org](http://www.mendelssohnpac.org) or call 815-964-9713.

Save the Date  
Italian Feast at Our Master's Center  
Saturday, May 19—4:30-6:30 p.m.

Sign up for a Community Garden Plot  
April 14, 9:00 am-noon  
At Our Master's Center

If you would like to sign up for one of the community garden plots next to Our Master's Center, you may do so on April 14 from 9:00 a.m.—noon at Our Master's Center.

Our Next New Member Session  
Sunday, April 22, 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Our next new member session will be on Sunday, April 22, 4:30-7:00 p.m. at Alpine Center. This will include supper and child care. If you are interested in joining Christ UMC as part of your discipleship journey, please contact Gayle George at the church office, 815-399-5910 or email her at [gaylegeorge@christumc.cc](mailto:gaylegeorge@christumc.cc). New members will be received on Sunday, April 29, at the service of your preference.

## 2012 Kids Klub Musical GPS—God's Plan of Salvation



"You are the Truth, Our hope is in You" - the full cast



Elaina and Kayte as the GPS; Carly, Gracie and Selena idolize the magazine stars

On March 25, the Kids Klub musical, "GPS-God's Plan of Salvation" was presented at Alpine Center at the 9:30 and 11:00 services.

Photos by Joe Winnery

Student driver hits the guardrail—Shae, Riley, Elena, Shane, Gracie, Carly and Maddie



## Financial Update

By Noel Nickel, Finance Committee Chair

At the end of last year, several forums were conducted to provide an update on the status of the financial standing of our church. As the incoming chair of the Finance Committee, I presented at each of these forums on progress being made at developing a longer term plan for the Finance Committee. I shared information regarding the preliminary goals established for the committee through this process.

I am pleased to report that work on the development of this plan is complete. Finance Committee goals have been established and a list of specific action items have been developed and put into a schedule for this calendar year to assure that we make satisfactory progress on meeting our objectives.

One of the goals that was established (actually, the first goal) is "to develop a system to effectively communicate financial information to parishioners." Thus, the purpose of this article is to provide you with updated information that hopefully you will find valuable. Additional updates will be published on a quarterly basis. As a reminder, monthly financial information continues to be posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex of Alpine Center and at Our Master's Center for your review.

First, I am pleased to report that pledges from the congregation for 2012 are up 15% over 2011. While pledges are not necessarily an accurate predictor of income for the church, much thanks goes out to everyone for your willing-

ness to help assure the financial health of our operations.

Second, staff parish expenses comprise approximately 49% of our budget for 2012. This is down from 55% from actual expenses in 2011.

Third, the issue of restricted fund balances was discussed in detail at the financial forums. Progress has been made at rebuilding these fund levels through regular deposits into a separate designated bank account.

Much work in this area still needs to be done, but I am pleased at the progress made in just a few months. While there is much to be thankful for with some overall good news, work on improving our financial position needs to continue. Through the first two months of this year, we are behind budget (expenses are below plan but income is below plan as well).

The action plan developed for the Finance Committee for 2012 is comprehensive. Some of the major items to be accomplished throughout the rest of the year include, producing and distributing quarterly "giving reports," identifying and developing needed financial policies for church operations, implementing a more detailed and comprehensive budgeting process, and closely monitoring overall financial performance.

However, the most important goal is to provide a heightened level of communication to church members of our financial status. Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Finance Committee if you have any questions.



## Shelby Martin Fundraising Update

We have a few fundraisers coming up in April and May. Proceeds go to Shelby's COTA fund for costs associated with her life-saving liver transplant!

- 
- **Month of April** – Chili's restaurants in Rockford and Machesney Park are donating 10% of any meal to Shelby's fund for the entire month of April! All you need is vouchers which are available at the Connection Center.
  - **Friday April 20<sup>th</sup>** 7pm-9pm Zumba dance party at the Harlem High School Commons. \$10 at the door for two hours of fun with FitPro Zumba instructors! See Megan Abbott for more details.
  - **Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>** at 3p Pub Quiz and Backyard Grill & Bar in Loves Park. Teams of 4 are encouraged to come challenge your trivia knowledge for only \$10/person! See Becky Keith for more details.
  - **Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>** 5pm-7pm Cut-a-thon at the Hair Cuttery on Perryville. The stylists have donated their time so all haircut costs go to Shelby!
  - **Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>** 1pm-3pm Me, Mommy, Dolly & Tea in the Fellowship Hall at CUMC. There will be snacks, crafts and more! Adults \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door. Children are \$5. See Sherrill Muller or Jennifer Melenas for more details.

## Did you know....?

Did you know that we have beautiful works of art adorning the walls of the Alpine Center that were painted by members of our congregation? I encourage you to take a brief walking tour through the church to check them out.

- Across from the entrance to the coffeehouse is a beautiful mural painted by Megan Klazura Dehner and Gail Kirk which depicts the story of Creation. Laura Widstrom commissioned them to paint this over one of their breaks from college.
- The original nursery, as well as the hallway outside the nursery, was painted by Megan Klazura Dehner. It is a blast of color with oversized flowers and plants. The original toddler room which is now a part of the nursery, was designed and painted by Robin Roegner. The cute animals in a nature scene create a sense of being surrounded by God's creation.
- At the bottom of the stairs to the right is a picture of a woman washing Jesus' feet. This was painted by Laura Widstrom.



- At the bottom of the stairs to the Sunday School rooms to the left, on the wall in front of you, is a painting of Jesus with children. This was painted around 1987 by Paula Neville, we believe. (If you think otherwise please let Jody know.)
- At the bottom of the stairs to the right, next to the Children's Lending Library, is a large canvas of Noah's Ark. This was also painted by Paula Neville in 1989. In the Great Hall are 2 huge wall murals painted by the children in the Sunday School Classes as part of the curriculum. The first is of Noah's Ark. It was outlined by Laura Widstrom and then painted by the Sunday School children in 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade in February and March of 2000. The other is a mural of Jesus' Family Tree. It

also was outlined by Laura Widstrom and then painted by the 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School children from November 2002- January 2003.

- In the hallway leading to the Sunday School classrooms is a Timeline of the key Biblical Stories of the Old and New Testaments that the children were learning about in Sunday School. This was drawn and painted by Laura Widstrom.
- In The Great Hall, you will find the 12 Disciples painted on the wall. These were outlined by Laura Widstrom, but painted by the 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders as part of a lesson taught by Nancy Cleburn. Laura told me that for whatever reason, the children painted the eyes first, so that for a week, all that was on the walls were twelve sets of eyeballs. "It was creepy!!" If you look carefully, each disciple has an identifying mark.
- And last, but not least, in the choir room, you will find a hand-painted border of different types of crosses separated by spiritual words. This border was painted with love by Barb Palm.



I hope you take the time to enjoy and experience the beautifully creative works of art that is part of the legacy of Christ United Methodist Church.

Submitted by Jody Warren

# the CUMC STUDENT Newsletter

because there **IS** more to life.  
www.ChristUmc.cc  
CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

SPRING IS HERE! AND THINGS ARE WARMING UP!

Workcamp is just around the corner! Thank you for all of your support for Dinner Theater in early March. Everyone worked so hard to provide a wonderful meal and a fun show! So thank you for your support and for helping us to have a successful event!

Up next, as you'll see in Fellowship Hall, students will begin to sell workcamp stock, please be on the lookout! Students will be approaching folks from our congregation as in years past to raise support for their individual cost of camp. They're also being given the chance to write a support letter to friends and family.

In addition to these things, we've created a web page to help students and families raise funds for Workcamp. Go to [firstgiving.com/89853](http://firstgiving.com/89853) and click the "Donate" button, and your funds will go towards helping us to pay for nails, wood, and gallons of gas, and much more!

Also, in Fellowship Hall at the Youth Table we're collecting old or broken cell phones, empty laser and inkjet cartridges, laptops, iPods®, PDAs, video games & consoles, scientific graphing calculators, digital cameras, DVDs, GPS devices and iPads®/tablets/eReaders. Everything we collect helps us raise money for Workcamp and all future events and camps!



## Italian Feast

**Saturday May 19th the CUMC youth are hosting the Our Master's Annual Italian Feast!**

Cost: \$8.00 per adult, \$3.00 for kids (10 and under). We'll start selling tickets on April 15th. The Feast will go from 4:30p to 6:30p.

Come out for some excellent food, fun, live music, and to support the youth at CUMC! Don't miss it!

### Important Events this Spring:

**April 14th - CUMC Soup Kitchen (call for details)**

- We serve a meal on the second Saturday of every month. Come and serve with us!

**April 15th - Demo Day! (Youth Room)**

- We're in the process of finishing the Youth Room renovations we began last spring! We need youth and families to help out starting at 1:30p.

**April 18th - All Church Skate Night! (6p-8p)**

- Jr. & Sr. High and their families are invited! We'll be going to Skateland together, bring a buddy!

**May 19th - Italian Feast at Our Master's**

- see the big green box above :-)

**June 10th - Workcamp Meeting (1:30p)**

**June 10th - Car Hop! (4:00p)**

- Time for our last big meeting for all of you workcampers and leaders, and then we can all come back for a meal together! All for Workcamp!

# Christ United Methodist Church

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Next Flame Deadline: **May 3, 2012**

Articles may be e-mailed to [lindakuntz@christumc.cc](mailto:lindakuntz@christumc.cc) or mailed/brought to the church office by the deadline date.

Check out our website:  
[www.christumc.cc](http://www.christumc.cc)

## Getting to Know You: Amy Nickel by Don Black



Amy Nickel, the tall blonde soprano, sings praises to God on Sunday morning in Sanctuary Choir and R&B and oldies on Saturday nights in a secular band.

Amy and husband Noel brought their sons—Jackson and identical twins Brady and Hayden—to Christ UMC about five years ago. They were impressed with the youth ministry opportunities when they visited on a work camp launch Sunday, but the music spoke to Amy.

“I wanted to be in that choir,” she said.

Amy also sings with Missing Links, an eight-piece horn band specializing in ‘60s and ‘70s R&B and soul. The band performs two or three gigs a month at night clubs, special events, and festivals.

She serves the church in other ways, too, working as a leader for Kids Klub and VBS, serving with the youth at the soup kitchen, and working as features editor for *The Flame*, Christ UMC’s monthly newsletter.

A graduate of East High School—where she sang in the acapella choir and participated in All-State Choir for two years—and Rockford College with an English degree, she began her professional editing career after a summer in-

ternship at the college’s Office of College Relations. A college friend told her about a job opening at the Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, a Rockford publisher of multiple trade magazines for the metal forming industry. She started in 1989, eventually becoming senior editor. She switched to part time work when her first son was born 14 years ago, and today she works half time, both from home and in the office.

Travels with the company and pleasure trips have taken her to England, Belgium, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, and Japan.

Amy has two older brothers and is the only one of the three kids born in Illinois. Her parents, who hail from the Green Bay area, kept moving south through Wisconsin until they eventually reached Rockford, where she was born. Her husband Noel is from Waukesha, Wis.

Music runs in the family. Old photos of Amy’s dad’s ancestors show them playing band instruments, and his mother sang and aunt was a church organist. Amy’s dad sang in church choir while she was growing up, her brother Tim sang in the Kantorei, and her brother Stewart played guitar in rock bands that practiced in their basement and garage. The family beat goes on, as Noel and Brady play guitar, Hayden plays drums, and Jackson plays guitar with the Christ UMC youth praise band.

(continued on page 9)