

Christ United Methodist Church

Rev. Bruce McDaniels

Summer 2007



Christ United Methodist Church
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Dear Friends,

Last evening some very violent and powerful storms blew through our area. I had three sons who became quite worried about what was going to happen. They heard the village siren go off; they watched the clouds as well as the TV, both of which told them the situation was getting very serious.



My parents, myself, and Allan, Judson, and Sam were all watching the storm unfold from the vantage point of our garage. The boys were astounded at how calm the three adults were, wondering how that could be so!

I made the comment as we watched this powerful storm unleash, that for me I liked watching storms because it put the world in perspective for me, at least my role in the world. What I meant by that was that I felt that as I watched a storm and witnessed its power and force and understood better that I had no way to control it. For me this said, in a larger sense, that when I think I can control all things around --- I need to think again. It reminds me that I am not the one in ultimate control of the world but rather God is. My part is to be able to be okay with that, and settle into that reality with calmness and assurance that ultimately God will take care.

I tried to convey that to my sons about the storm – to just trust in my judgment about that – if things got bad enough I would see to their safety. Although that seemed to help a bit, I could still sense their skepticism.

And in that skepticism I see a word for me, and maybe for us all. Maybe it is saying, although we want to trust and believe that God will take care of us and is guiding us --- sometimes it is difficult for us to accept that wholeheartedly. Yet still I believe we must continue to try and live into that reality.

May we trust God's leading through both the calm and the storms.

In Christ,

QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS

Since this newsletter will cover the months of May through July, I thought I would offer some explanation for two more quality characteristics of growing churches. They are gift-based ministry and passionate spirituality.

The second quality characteristic, gift-based ministry is based on a belief that God has already blessed each of us with gifts. The role of the leadership is to help members identify their gifts and either create ministries or employ them in already existing ministries that match these gifts. If one lives in harmony with those gifts, then we may understand that God's spirit is working more effectively with and through us, so that ordinary people can do extraordinary things.

The sad reality is that, for most Christians, they are either not involved in any ministry or function in a ministry that doesn't match their gifts.

Within this characteristic, three areas must be in balance - wisdom, commitment, power. In any given church you will find one or even two of these – but rarely is there a church with all three areas in balance. It is a tricky balance to maintain.

The third quality characteristic is passionate spirituality. In this characteristic, the most important aspect is not a church's style (e.g., liberal/conservative, evangelical/social action) but rather, whether or not a church's faith is actually lived out with commitment, passion, and enthusiasm.

What is depressing is the fact that probably more than any other area, this is where the church and Christians within it have succeeded in destroying spiritual passion.

The balance to be struck here is between being world-focused, Word-based, and Spirit-directed. A spirituality that grows out of the Word by the Spirit is focused on the world.

During the late Spring and into Summer I am going to convene a Natural Church Development Ministry Team. Once that is put together, by Fall we will come to the church with a plan to engage in a church-wide study of Natural Church Development as well as a plan of how to begin on our journey of growth. I already know that a part of that plan will be to set out a mission goal for our congregation. All parts/committees/organizations will then be setting goals for themselves which are linked to and help accomplish the overall goal. Growth is before us. We need reach out and claim it so that Jesus' words to many persons he healed becomes true in our context: "Your faith has made you well."

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

"Who is my neighbor?" That is the question the Committee on Outreach has been trying to answer recently.

Committee members took a tour of the Wood Lane Residential Homes in Portage on April 21st. In June the entire church membership will be invited for a tour and to learn of volunteer possibilities in the Wood Lane Community Friend Program. Men and women are needed to share time and fun with the residents on a regular basis (example: one hour a month). Now, who can't do that? A list of volunteer needs is posted in the church fellowship hall. Take a look. There may be something God is calling you to do!! Committee members: Vicky Allen, Kay Amos, Candi Beaverson, Donna Holloway, Marilyn Keys, Carrie McDaniel, Eileen Smith and Chairman Barbara Brandeberry are ready to answer questions you may have. The staff at Wood Lane stand ready to assist and help us get started.

PASTOR-STAFF PARISH COMMITTEE

The Pastor-Staff Parish Committee has been meeting regularly for the past several months. Among the issues discussed has been the recommendation for the church to participate in the Natural Church Development program which was accepted and is being carried out. The Committee is also currently in the process of developing stated job descriptions for the pastoral, custodial, secretarial, and musical positions over which it has oversight.

If anyone has comments/concerns about the performance of any of the staff, please do not hesitate to contact the chairman of the committee, Richard Yeasting. Of course, positive comments are always appreciated but seldom expressed.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 22, at 7:00 p.m., at the church. Members of the committee are: Linda Allen, Madelyn Amos, Kathy Bame, Hope Fawcett, Kent Lincoln, and Nancy Shrider, chair.

If anyone has any comments or suggestions about the worship service or music, you can email: nshride@bgsu.edu or contact any committee member.

MEMORIAL SUNDAY

Sunday, May 27th, Christ United Methodist Church will remember and honor both those who have died in the last year as well as all loved ones who have died. If you are a family member help us in honoring those who have died in

the last year by bringing in a candle with candle holder so that we might place it on the altar during our time of remembrance.

ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Christ United Methodist Church will be the 51st homemade ice cream social Monday, May 28, 2007, beginning at 5:00 p.m. Come and check out our expanded list of food items. Mark your calendar now!

CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY

JUNE 2ND is Church Clean-up Day. There will be outside work: clean up along the back of the church, planting new bushes in front of church and trimming trees. There will also be a couple of painting crews for inside: to paint the Fellowship Hall and front entryway near the offices.

The day will begin at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided. The members of the Trustees will be inviting you to help on that day please respond with a Yes!

GRADUATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, June 3rd, we will celebrate with those graduating this Spring. We would like to honor all those who will have or are about to graduate from high school, college, technical school, and even post-graduate work. If you know of anyone that Christ United Methodist Church needs to be aware of, please call us at 419-686-2621 or drop us a note on e-mail. Our e-mail address is: christumc@dacor.net. Help us celebrate with those who have reached this wonderful achievement! Congratulations to all!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The lives of Jesus' friends were changed at Easter, the time of resurrection. Our lives are changed as we become Easter people.

This year's Vacation Bible School is entitled "Easter People." The children will learn the Easter Story from John's Gospel, identify ways that people changed because of the resurrection and will recognize that they and we can also experience change through God's love.

So, parents, sign them up now. Children, invite your friends for Easter fun in Vacation Bible School.

EAGLE SCOUT AWARDS

Congratulations to three young men from our church who have earned their Eagle Scout Award! They are: Andrew Cramer, Brian Herringshaw and Nicholas Palmer. We applaud them for their hard work and dedication.

NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Carter Logan born to Emily and Josh Earl on Tuesday, April 17, at 5:23 p.m. and
Tyler Michael born to Juli and Brian Amos on Monday, May 7, at 6:30 a.m.

We welcome them into our hearts and into our congregation.

EARN FREE MONEY FOR CHRIST UM CHURCH

If you shop at Kroger (even if only occasionally), you can earn free money for the church. The Kroger program is a gift card you must purchase from the church. All cards have a preloaded balance of \$5.00. Simply "load" your card at Kroger, using cash, check, or your favorite credit. Then use that card to pay for your purchases. Each time you load your card you earn 5% for the church. The card can be used at the fuel station and the pharmacy, also. As long as there is a balance on the card it is good. Cards that have had a zero balance for 90 days are deactivated. Also, on Wednesdays people with Golden Buckeye cards get a 5% discount at Kroger.

It has been decided that the church will opt out of the Meijer program. Since changes in the program have been made, it is not beneficial for us to be involved.

FESTIVAL OF SHARING KITS

The United Methodist Women are again collecting items for the Festival of Sharing kits. The contents of the kits are as follows:

Baby Kit (Layette)

6 cloth diapers
2 shirts
2 washcloths
2 gowns or sleepers
2 diaper pins
1 sweater or sweatshirt
2 receiving blankets

Health Kit

1 hand towel
1 washcloth
1 comb
1 metal nail file
1 bar soap (bath size)
1 toothbrush
1 tube of toothpaste
6 band-aids

School Kit

1 pair of blunt scissors
2 spiral notebooks (approx. 8-1/2x11")
1 30-centimeter ruler (12")
1 box of 24 crayons
1 cloth bag (12x14") with handles

1 large eraser
12 sheets of colored construction paper
1 pencil sharpener
6 new pencils with erasers

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

"Revive 07", District United Methodist Women Annual Spring Event at Trinity United Methodist Church in Swanton was a very well thought out program and a big success. "Programs for Children" was a first for us and was well received by the kids that attended. It was too bad that only a few members took advantage of the program, but like most changes it takes a while to catch on. New names, faces, and places are now things for the new district to learn. Please remember to pray for the Maumee Watershed District.

Christ United Methodist Women are also trying something new this year. For your information we adjourned January and February and are meeting July and August.

We want to thank everyone who has volunteered to help when it is Christ United Methodist Church's turn to serve at Martha's Kitchen. This is a good outreach for our church and is really appreciated by the people that are served.

Even though some of the projects that are undertaken in Christ Church are started by the United Methodist Women, they are open to the whole congregation and could not be successful without everyone's cooperation. One such project is the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Knitters are badly needed to continue this program. If you can knit

and/or crochet, would you consider becoming a “shawl maker”. If you don’t know a United Methodist Women member, just call the church office and you will receive the information. Also, you can be a big help by donating yarn or money to buy the yarn.

Will you also consider becoming a member of the United Methodist Women? We try to have short business meetings and interesting, informative programs. Your input will be appreciated. Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month March through December at the church, starting at 7:00 p.m.

Dates to remember and programs are:

June - Jay Deutschman – Sight First

July - Pack Health Kits

August – Becky Warnock, Deaconess

June 8 - Martha’s Kitchen

June 17 - Father-Child Banquet

June 10-14 - West Ohio Annual Conference, Lakeside

July 14-19 - School of Christian Mission, Ohio Northern University

September 22 – District United Methodist Women Fall Annual Meeting

SIMPLE SOUNDS

The dulcimer players meet each Monday at the church from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. On May 3rd we played at Wood County Fairgrounds for a RV club. We will be playing at Blakely Care Center in North Baltimore soon and, if possible, for any organization that asks. If you think it sounds like something you would find interesting, just come on Monday night to see how easy it is to play. We have extra dulcimers that you can use for practice.

PART-TIME DRIVERS AND DELIVERY PEOPLE NEEDED

The Maumee Watershed District United Methodist Men are in need of help in the Bowling Green area for their hunger missions.

Greenline, a company located at 12700 S. Dixie Hwy, provides much needed fresh produce for people in need. All we have to do is pick it up and deliver it. Drivers and delivery people are needed. You do not need a CDL to drive our truck. A team of two or three people and one of those being the contact from each church would be very helpful. Of the 11,530 pounds donated the week of April 16-19, 3920 pounds was product and 170 pounds was frozen chicken breasts. It does not always take a big truck; sometimes a pick up or van is enough. This is a perfect opportunity for retired persons to do what God calls us to do – Feed My Sheep. If interested, you can contact Tater Jensen at 419-833-3325 or e-mail tatergeo@roadrunner.com.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Jo Amos

Madelyn Amos

Agnes Austin

Cody Bame

Troy Bame

Kathy Birchin

Family of Dale Blackburn

Adrean Blissfield

Joshua Brandeberry

Carlee Bressler

Pat Canterbury

Brenda Daniels

Blythe (Skeeter) Drain

Erin Dunn

Drew Erickson

Ruth Firsdon

Fire Victims

Joe Gillian

Group Home Residents & Staff

Pam High

Family of Carol Hinch

Beth and Keith Holliker

Doug Instone

Harold Johnson

Lee Kinney

Darnell Kirschner

Craig Kochheiser

Jamie Kominek and family
Jackie Krassow
Mike Krassow
Jerry Lahey
Barbara Maidment
Delma Marten
Betty Perez
Loretta McPherson
Mary Jo Meyers
Wanda and Ronnie Meyers
Bob Miller

Tricia Naus
Sandra Nourse
Shane Parsons
Abe Perez
Lucy Swank
Family of Les Taylor
Rev. Ed Walden
Rev. Mary Ellen Walters
Ada Wasson
Cindy Yeasting
Mackensie Zarecki

All Service Men & Women
Virginia Tech Community
Our Nation/Leaders
People of Afghanistan
Leaders/People of Iraq
People of Darfur
Stop Genocide in Darfur
Relationship with Iran
Victims of Kansas Tornado

Although names have been removed from the above list, please continue to pray for those persons.

