

October 24, 2007



Christ Connection

Christ United Methodist Church

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More Than Survivors - Nehemiah

Have you ever lived away from home? Did you long to hear news about how things were going back home?

Nehemiah was living in Persia, far away from Jerusalem, but he never forgot his roots. When he heard that things were not going well back in Israel, he made the journey back to his homeland to see what he could do. He faced some significant challenges when he got there, but with help from on high, Nehemiah helped the people rebuild their lives and the sacred walls around the city.

Come this Sunday as we explore what

Ministry Fair Sunday

At Christ UMC we want every person to be involved in ministry. Stewardship includes not only our financial gifts, but also our time and talents. We want to offer everyone the opportunity to serve God and be involved in ministry.

To that end, we are offering a Ministry Fair this Sunday morning, October 28th, in the People Place. We will have booths available for persons to find out more information about our ministries and the many ways they can serve in our church. Everyone will also have a chance to sign up to become involved!

Kid's Party for Teresa

Hey kids! This Sunday, October 28th will be Ms. Teresa's last Sunday as Co-Director of Children's Ministry. We're having a party to celebrate all the wonderful things that we've done with her! And, since it is so close to Halloween, we've decided to wear our Halloween costumes on Sunday morning. There will be games and treats. SO.....come dressed in your costume and ready to celebrate our last Sunday with Ms. Teresa!

Widow/Widower Adjustment Workshop

Our next workshop for widows and widowers will be November 3-4. Workshop hours are 8:15 am to 6:30 pm Saturday and 1:15 to 9:00 pm Sunday. Cost is \$35.00. The workshop offers help and healing through group discussion and informal lectures. For more information or to register call the church office at 747-8601.

24/7 Prayer Vigil November 4-11

Prayer is so important in the life of every Christian. Last Spring we did a 24/7 Prayer Vigil, where for one week, we prayed for 24 hours a day. Everyone could sign up for one hour slots during the week, filling 24 hours for 7 days.

We had such a positive response that we are doing it again. November 4 – 11, we are having our next 24/7 Prayer Vigil. Sign up today in the People Place for your time to pray. Many said that they couldn't believe how fast their one hour went, and how meaningful it was to spend that time with their Creator. Sign up today for this faith-full experience!

- Our Evening Worship Services -

Sunday - 6:30 pm

Dr. Mansfield will lead evening worship this Sunday. Join him for his message and favorite hymns.

Wednesday - 6:00 pm

Our schedule will be a little different on October 31st because of the Great Pumpkin Party. There will not be an evening meal, but the Fellowship Board will be selling nachos chili, frito chili pie, mini orn dogs, brownies and drinks, beginning at 5:15 p.m.

We will have Wednesday evening worship led by Rev. Feist, but there will not be any LEO classes or Singles Fellowship.

Staff Parish News

Teresa Dailey Fields has tendered her resignation as Co-Director of Children's ministry effective October 29th. In her letter, Teresa indicates:

"Christ United Methodist Church has been my spiritual home and employer for 20+ years and I have thoroughly enjoyed and been blessed by my time here. With my new marriage, I find myself in a position of wanting to spend more time at home with my family on the weekends and in the evenings." She and her family plan to continue worshipping here and look forward to being involved in a Sunday school class.

We bless Teresa as she moves into this new season of her life and appreciate the dedication and devotion she has given our children and their families the past 20+ years.

New Kitchen Manager

Catherine Burton is our new kitchen manager. She comes with a food service background, most recently as an associate general manager for TGI Friday's. She will work 30 hours preparing food for the Child Development Center and 5 hours preparing the Wednesday night meal.

She is married to Chris and they have 4 children. Welcome, Catherine!

Amish Dinner - Nov. 9th

It's time for another trip to the Miller Farm near Chouteau for a delicious home-made Amish meal. The menu features roast beef, mashed potatoes, homemade noodles, slaw, green beans, homemade rolls and cherry and coconut creme pies.

Tickets are on sale in the People Place Sunday morning. Cost is \$14 per person. Deadline for ticket sales will be Sunday, Nov. 4th. If you want to ride a church van to Chouteau, reservations can be made when you purchase your ticket. Cost to ride the van is \$2. Meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. The meal will be served at 7:00.

Children - Bring \$1 for Amadou

The children at Christ Church are sponsoring an 8-year old boy from an orphanage in Niger. Please remember to bring a dollar for Amadou this Sunday!

O My Stars, It's Christmas!

Children's Christmas Program practices are being held in the sanctuary at 4:00 pm on Sunday afternoon. Children ages 4 through 5th grade are still encouraged and welcome to come to rehearsal this week, and bring their parents.

Help With Great Pumpkin Party

Plans are under way for the Great Pumpkin Party on Oct. 31st, and Children's Ministry could use some extra helping hands! Please call Karol Stevenson at 747-8601.

We're also still accepting contributions of wrapped candy to give to the children at the Party. Please bring your "treats" to the church office.

Sign Up Your Child for Upward Basketball

You can still register your Kindergarten through 6th Grader for Upward Basketball! Registration will be taken until November 8th. Cost is \$75.

This is a great program where every child gets to participate. Sign your child up for Upward in the church office during the week or in the People Place Sunday morning.

Couples in Christ Ministry

With the divorce rate being at just under 50 percent for first marriages and around 75 percent for second marriages, Christ Church is looking for ways to help reduce that rate by starting a new ministry.

We are looking for healthy married couples who would be willing to be mentors for the engaged and newly married couples of the church. As a mentor you will meet with the couples several times prior to their marriage, go over materials that you will be trained in, and meet with the couples several times during the first year of their marriage. If you would be interested in being a part of this powerful new ministry, please contact Jim Stilwell at 747-8601.

Each One Reach One.

Members of the Involvement Board recently voted to encourage an "Each One Reach One" effort throughout our congregation. The concept is simple and it's something we've lifted up before. If each member will commit themselves to inviting and bringing one guest a year to worship or a "come and see" event, the impact over time will be tremendous.

Start thinking, "Each One Reach One" and prayerfully ask God who you should invite!

Vision 2008

This week a letter is going out from leaders of the congregation along with a narrative budget and an estimate of giving card as part of our Vision 2008 campaign. The narrative budget provides specifics about how we hope to do ministry in the coming year. There are so many positive ways in which your tithes and offering are used to impact the lives of people in our church, in our community, and around the world. The estimate of giving card is for November 11th, Commitment Sunday, when couples and individuals are invited to bring their cards to the altar at the close of worship. If you are going to be out of town that day, you may want to mail it in to Brenda Bussman, church accountant. The Finance Board uses the total of all the cards received in setting the budget for the new year.

Let's continue to "pray without ceasing" for our church and its ministries as we approach Commitment Sunday.

Closing the Gap

At the Finance Board meeting this week I learned that our efforts are working. At the end of September the gap between expenses and income was \$60,585. Our efforts are working! We've closed the gap by \$4,000 in September (we only started the focused effort midway thru the month) and will see even more progress in October. A person has told me of their plans to sell some stock in order to help close the gap.

With each of us prayerfully considering what God would have us do, I know that we can close this gap. Please join me in prayer about this each day at 9 a.m. Prayer will get us there!

- Pastor Bob

Care Callers

One of the great ministries in the life of our church is "care calling". This ministry is a simple and yet very significant part of our caring ministry. Volunteers meet at the church on the last full week of the month on Tuesday and Thursday nights to make caring phone calls to members of the congregation. Those receiving the calls are blessed and those making them are blessed as well.

The Lay Leadership committee is lifting up the need for new coordinators of our Care Calling ministry as Bill and Brandy Barry have finished their term. We would suggest two people to provide leadership - either a couple or two individuals. Call Craig Clark or Janet Holt to find out more about this vital ministry.

Rotation Room Dedication

Our new Rotation Room "Cape Hope - Puppets & Drama" is now complete! Thanks to the countless hours and labor of love of Gary Bennett and his team, we have started using our incredible new room. We will be dedicating the room to God's service with children this Sunday during all of our morning worship services.

The construction team consisted of Gary & Donna Bennett, Otto Cantrell, Bill Yeagle, Shane & Rhonda Hembree, Jim & Barbara Stillwell, Jesse Barnes and Travis Norris. We are blessed by the labor of these workers.

October 31

6 - 8 pm

Great Pumpkin Party

Carnival Games, Prizes,
Food, Children's Costume
Contest at 6:30

The Fellowship Board will be selling chili, nachos, frito chili pie, mini corn dogs, brownies & drinks.

All the children of the church are invited to come and bring friends. Don't forget that Trick or Treat Bag!

Food, Blankets for Restore Hope

Christ Church's Mission Board is collecting blankets and bed linens for Restore Hope Ministries. There are large boxes in the People Place for your donated bedding items. We will collect bedding through the end of October.

Oct. 28th is the last Sunday of the month, when we bring non-perishable food for Restore Hope. Bring a blanket or can Sunday!

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SUNDAY, October 28

Worship 8:00/9:10/10:30/11:45 a.m.
 Church School 9:10/10:30 a.m.
 Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal 4:00 p.m.
 Short Term Bible Studies 4:30 p.m.
 Disciple I, II 4:30 p.m.
 Jesus in the Gospels 4:30 p.m.
 Youth 5:30 p.m.
 Worship 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY, October 29

Boy Scouts 6:00 p.m.
 .Singles Dance Lessons 7:00 p.m.
 Celebrate Recovery 7:00 p.m.

TUESDAY, October 30

Tutors 4:30 p.m.
 Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
 Contemporary Singers 7:00 p.m.
 Volleyball 7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, October 31

Women's Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
 Great Pumpkin Party 6:00 p.m.
 (No Fellowship Meal this evening)
 Bell Choir 6:00 p.m.
 Worship 6:00 p.m.
 Chancel Choir 7:15 p.m.
 Singles Fellowship 8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, November 1

Men's Fraternity 6:00 a.m.
 Phoenix Praise & Worship Singers 5:30 p.m.

Schedule Changes on October 31

There will be some changes on October 31st, because of the Great Pumpkin Party.

We will still have worship at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary, but a fellowship meal will not be served. The Fellowship Board will be selling chili, frito chili pie, nachos, mini corn dogs, brownies and drinks beginning at 5:15 p.m.

There will not be any child care that evening. Parents are invited to take their children to the Great Pumpkin Party.

Youth News

Sunday, October 28th – “All About Blotie”- Our own David Blotevogel is going to be “in the house” tonight. David is a senior at ORU majoring in business. He has a HUGE heart for God and for YOU and has become a familiar face around the youth center lately. Come and support him with your prayers and smiles as he opens up to us about his walk with Christ.

Dinner is at 5:30pm (\$3) and then we'll praise and worship at 6:30pm. Bring a friend!

Wednesday, October 31st – There is no youth tonight BUT there is the Great Pumpkin Party and you're asked to help out. It's in the gym from 6pm-8pm. Come in costume and help show little kids how cool it is to help each other!

Attention Senior High and Hi Def:

If you are interested in XTREME WINTER conference in Branson, Missouri on Dec 27-29th a \$25 deposit is due on Sunday, November 4th to hold your spot. Let Lynn know ASAP if you are going. Information packets will be available Oct. 28th.

This conference is 60% sold out. Therefore we need to get our registration in NOW! Questions - call Lynn.

Young Adult Class Forming

An organizational meeting for a new young couples Sunday School class was held last Sunday at 10:30 am in room 3 (Lower Level). This class will primarily be for young couples in their 20's and 30's who are interested in joining a new, exciting, fun, challenging Sunday School class. For more information contact Jim Stilwell at 747-8601.

~ Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with Katie Whisenhunt, Charles & Sheila Whisenhunt, and their family. Katie's husband, C. K. "Jerry", died last week.

~ Marriage ~

Congratulations to Katy Stefanic and Brandon Holder. They were married October 20, 2007 at Christ Methodist Church.

~ In the Hospital ~

St. Francis
 Charles Catlin Rm. 3202
Hillcrest
 Jana Elliot Rm. 4432

Nursery Staff Openings

We have several openings on our Children's Ministry Nursery Staff. Please contact our Nursery Director, Tanya Erickson, at 294-0254 or fill out an application in the church office.