

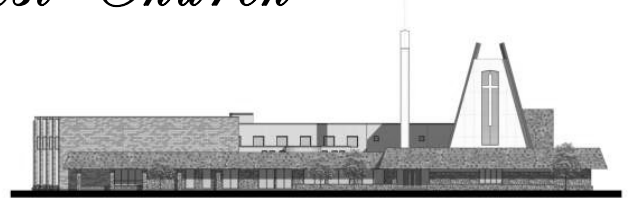


The Connection for January 2011

Christ United Methodist Church

Salt Lake City, Utah

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.



Marti's Reflections

As the year comes to a close, I'd love to share some of the **highlights of 2010** with you, in the hopes that you will feel truly proud of your connection with Christ Church and the

role you play in **making Christ Church as place of open hearts, open minds, open doors.**

- ◆ **Open doors - We installed new automatic doors on the North side for parents with babies, and folks with walkers or wheel chairs. A second door on the West will soon be installed thanks to Memorial Gifts and the Trustees.**
- ◆ **99 Solar Panels were installed providing Green power and cost savings**
- ◆ **53 adorable kids participated in Christmas Sunday School program Dec. 5th followed by an Advent pot-luck where table after table had to be set up for the young families and older members.**
- ◆ **Youth Mission Trips were taken to Pine Cliff camp and Casa de Hogar, Maztalan, Mexico. Upcoming summer plans include a train trip to Sacramento to participate with 10,000 UM youth in Youth 2011 and gleaning for homeless families.**
- ◆ **Missions - The Enchanted Tree raised over \$19,000 last year. Your generous gifts provided emergency funds for the pastors to share, support for Crossroads Urban Center, support for our sister church in Veronezh, Russia, and support for children affected by HIV/AIDS in an African orphanage. Next June members of Christ Church will visit our partners working as volunteers repairing a church camp.**
- ◆ **The February Leadership Workshop chose to focus Christ Church on reaching out to persons aged 18-33. A summer series of feedback groups encouraged a contemporary worship service. Since September, a weekly "Come As You Are" service has been led by young persons.**
- ◆ **You supported Haitian earthquake victims with cash, volunteer hours at the UMCOR depot putting together baby layettes, birthing kits, health kits, and school kits for persons putting their lives back together.**

Our financial picture isn't as rosy, as the economy affects your ability to give to the regular budget and the mortgage fund. In 2010 we ate a big bite out of our savings, even as we gave generously beyond our church. Christ Church members do so much in the community and in the world where the needs are great. We also need approximately \$250 per family unit per month as "first mile giving" to pay the utilities, mortgage, insurance, & salaries. Some of us can afford to give more, others facing financial struggles give their "widow's mite." My prayer for 2011 is that we continue the important ministries both within and beyond this amazing church.

Blessed New Year! -Marti

All Church Conference Jan. 16th @ 7 PM

All Christ Church members are welcome to vote on our leadership team, review budget projections for 2011, and discuss other church issues. Agenda items need to be given to Rev. Marti by Jan.11th.

Please submit your conference reports by January 4th to christumc.secretary@gmail.com

From Pastor Tom's Desk

"The Pastor Just Stopped Preaching and Started Meddling"

I sometimes (and, that is, only sometimes) hear a Christian pilgrim declare to me after Sunday worship, "Well... I liked your sermon until you stopped preaching and started meddling."

I usually can tell when my sermon takes that meddlesome turn: First, those looking and once smiling at me begin to stare at me (eyebrows climb upward); second, those stares turn into glares; third, those glares turn into frowns (eyebrows begin knitting furiously together); fourth, squirming erupts; fifth, folks look around the sanctuary as if they'd never seen the sanctuary before; sixth and finally, pews seem to heat up as if they're griddles, because before my sermon ends, folks pop up out of pews, like cats off a hot, tin roof to make a speedy bee line for the door. When all that happens, I know I went from preaching to meddling.

So... Forgive me in advance, but today I might be going from "preaching to meddling" in my Pastor's Corner.

Let me begin by saying that along with other pastors, preachers, lay speakers, and worship leaders, I occasionally deliver sermons describing how hospitality marks us as Christians. Which means to me not only greeting who we know, but especially greeting who we don't know - even taking pains, battling the crowd, to welcome complete strangers. Hospitality spawns this wild image in my creative, inventive mind, where I picture dozens of us eagerly besieging one another, along with newcomers, as if life may well end if we keep to ourselves, which, if I think about it long enough, might hold some truth. (Am I meddling yet?) I'm captivated by this vision, seeing all of us being so energetically hospitable that my thoughtful worship service, so carefully and meticulously crafted for that Sunday morning, gets cancelled. There's so much excitement that I can't get a word in edgewise. And then I finally give up, saying to myself, "Why preach about hospitality today anyway, when it's already here, bursting at the seams? I'm out of a job this morning, and it's great!"

I'll tell you a secret: While I know how friendly we are already, that wild image of hospitality inside me grows out of control when Marti or I say, "Let's all take a moment to greet each

other." I'm actually not thinking "take a moment." I'm really thinking "take all morning." In fact, I'm truly thinking "take all year to greet each other if you want." But remember, that's just a secret to keep to yourself.

Now, for those who find expressing hospitality a bit of a challenge, they might ask, "What do we say after we say, 'Hello?'" I mean, what else is there to say after I've been hospitable?"

Here's one answer...

It won't be long before you'll discover additional exciting details about Christ Church's adult programming called "The Christ University Project." Very soon, brochures, laden with programs, will magically appear throughout our church, like the yellow brick road in the Land of Oz, so that you'll be able not only to say "Hello," but then afterwards you can say, "And take a look at this brochure. Maybe you'll find something interesting to you." (It's a real ice breaker especially helpful during the month of December.)

Where was I? Oh yes... Hospitality. (And surely I'm meddling now.)

Our church, which is quite friendly already (I can't emphasize that enough), could easily go the extra mile to becoming quite hospitable if every committee, class, circle, church group or organization began picturing itself as a committee, class, circle, church group or organization made up of hospitality buffs, gnashing at the bit for the chance to show warmth, welcome, kindness, and generosity to everyone they know as well as to everyone they don't know. (Is this just another one of my wild ideas?) Without much doubt, if that level of hospitality happened, we might hear more and more folks say, "Hey! Let's go to Christ Church for Christmas and why not go there every Sunday?!" Christmas excitement might just burst out all through the year.

OK. I'm done meddling now. Forgive me. I'll take a break and return to my quiet, little office and stop meddling. But, my mind might still be going gently wild.

Tom, the Meddler



WESLEY BELL RINGER VALENTINE DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2011

JOIN US FOR DINNER, DANCING AND SILENT AUCTION.

Dorcas Circle

January 4, 9:30 am Quilting in the Gym . - Bring a left-over Christmas treat to share.

Claire Circle

January 8 (Tuesday), 7:00 pm, Parlor, Childcare provided. We will be planning our programs for 2011.

General Meeting

Date: Jan. 6 (Th)

Time: Noon

Cost: \$1.50, Potluck

Program: Election/
Installation of Officers,

Memorial Service

Hostess: Exec. Comm.
(outgoing)

Greeter: Exec. Comm.
(outgoing)

Executive Committee

Jan. 27 (Th) 10am

Ruth Circle

January 13 (Thursday), 11:00 am, Parlor. Bring a sack lunch.

Lydia Circle

Lydia Circle Saturday January 8 at 1000 AM

Circles Have Giving Christmas

The women of the 8 circles of the United Methodist Women had a busy December. Each circle had a holiday get together along with supporting various outreach efforts. One of the focuses of United Methodist Women is to support mission projects of women and children. **Martha** and **Claire Circles** purchased diapers for Crossroads Urban Center. **Deborah Circle** supported the Homeless Youth Resource Center with needed items and monetary donations. **Dorcas Circle** made doll clothes for 18 donated dolls; these will be given to the local hospitals. **Ruth Circle** made 3 Enchanted Tree Donations and **Lydia Circle** donated clothes and toys to Candy Cane Corner. **Claire Circle** also made a donation to Candy Cane Corner, as well as to a young mother who had a stroke and has no insurance. **The Knitting Circles** continued to make and donate prayer shawls, and the **Book Club** donated books to the YWCA and the Ronald McDonald House.

Each circle will begin meeting again in January, and most will make plans for the year. All women are invited to attend. If you have questions about which circle might fit your interests, contact Cathy Perryman, 801-272-0853.

The Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will meet Monday January 17th at 1:00 PM in the Parlor at church. We will be discussing the book: *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana DeRosmay. All women are welcome!! Come in through the west door. Questions? Call Gina Kiechle at 801 583-7644.

The next meeting of Witty

Knitters is Monday, January 10th at 1:30 pm at the home of Margaret Wise, 948 East 5014 South, Salt Lake City. 801-263-0948.

The Evening Knitting Circle

January 19 (Wednesday), 7:00 pm, Parlor

Martha Circle

Martha Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 11th at 7:00PM in the church parlor. We will do our program planning for 2011. Members please bring a treat to share.

Deborah Circle

Kitty Borrowman will be speaking on her trip to Turkey in the parlor at 9:30 on Thursday January 20th.

Church Women United

A multi faith gathering of Christian Women

CWU's Annual Meeting and Program (Tea/Coffee and Refreshments following)

Friday, January 28, 2011 (Last Friday) 12:30 p.m. Registration; 1:00 Meeting/Program

(\$1.00 registration fee for meeting materials)

Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church , 175 South Seventh East (SLC)

The Keynote Speaker will be **Patsy Baldwin, TRT Administrator**

From Neighborhood House Cottonwood Adult Day Center

Community Outreach:

The Road Home -

Please bring XX or XXX shirts and tops ,(new or gently used) OR shoes to donate.

Cash Donations

(Checks Payable to "Church Women United," designated for The Road Home)

Free-will Offering: Used for Local CWU Programs:

Checks need to be made payable to: **"Church Women United"**

Missing – Can you help us?

We have discovered that two large metal bowls are no longer in the kitchen. We would love to have them returned as soon as possible.

Thank you!

Children's Christmas Pageant Thank You

On Sunday, December 5th we had a wonderful pageant with 53 children participating in telling the Christmas story. A huge THANK YOU to all the parents and other volunteers who helped with rehearsal and the program. It was a joy to see all those angels, shepherds, sheep and other characters filling the altar area! Check out these great picture highlights!



Mark your calendars for 2011

Annual Pax Cakes Event – Tuesday, March 8th – 6:00 pm. Includes pancake and sausage dinner and those fun pancake races!

Parent/Adult Help Needed for Sunday School

This year we will have two adults in each classroom during our children's Sunday School classes. Our Safe Sanctuaries policy requires this for the safety of our children and volunteers, plus it's a great help to our teachers when there is a classroom full of busy children! We are asking all parents and anyone else who would be interested to please sign-up for one Sunday a quarter. There is no preparation required, just willing hands and hearts. Please see Vanitta Conrad, DCE, if you are interested.

Winter Children & Youth Sunday School Classes & Teachers

9:00 am

Rm 103 – Pre-Kindergarten – Margret Boes-Ingraham
 Rm 202 – Kindergarten & 1st Graders – Heidi Walter, Marcy Rigstad & Paula Vernon
 Rm 203 – 2nd & 3rd Graders – Colleen Werzinski
 Rm 208 – 4th - 6th Graders – Mandy Loveday & Kitty Borrowman
 Rm 201 – Confirmation (7th Grade +) – Rev. Tom Towns & Team
 Rm 209 – 8th & 9th Grades – Jon Jolley, Karen Berner & Patsy Simons
 Rm 207 – 10th – 12th Grades – Kurt Zimmerman & Paul Conrad

10:30 am

Rm 103 – Pre-Kindergarten – Diane Minerich & Danette Luthi
 Rm 202 – Kindergarten & 1st Graders – Kim Johnson & Alicia Simons
 Rm 203 – 2nd & 3rd Graders – Tammy Haynes
 Rm 208 – 4th – 6th Graders – Dorothy Pearce & Patsy Simons

Financial Peace University

Come learn how to better manage your money and your life God's way, in Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace class. Small-group discussions will follow video viewing.

These principles apply to everyone—whether you're financially secure or are struggling with debt. The class will show you how to really live like never before with lessons on saving, debt elimination, investing and real estate to name a few. Over a million families have changed their family trees through Financial Peace, and we want to give you the opportunity to do the same.

Class Details

- ◆ New class begins Jan. 24th, Monday at 6:30PM for 13 weeks.
 - ◆ Preview class is Sunday Jan. 9 at 10:30.
- ◆ Contact Rev. Marti at 801-486-5473, ext 13 to register.

Adult Education and Spiritual Enrichment Opportunities

If there is only one God, why are there so many different interpretations of God's personality? Why are there so many different faith traditions, explanations of history, theologies, beliefs, and practices? And what does God think about these varieties of religious expressions? Come check out the Christ University Project at Christ Church on January 23, 2011 beginning at 8:00 AM and going till Noon with cups of coffee and cupcakes. Discover varieties of classes that explore a number of responses to these questions offered to you by:

The School of Spiritual Development, or
 The School Biblical History and Archeology, or
 The School of Sages and Wisdom, or
 The School of Rock, or
 The School of Anthropology and Psychology, or
 The School of Re-Creation...

Come join us for our Christ University Project Extravaganza January 23, 2011 to find out more.

"This We Believe"

On Wednesday mornings, beginning January 5th, we will begin a study of "the core of Wesleyan faith and practices". Written by William Willimon, a former Duke University Professor and a Bishop in the United Methodist Church, we will study the basic tenets of Methodism. Join us at 9:30 in the Parlor for 8 weeks of study. Indicate on your pink card if you are interested or call Kitty Borrowman, 801-268-4787.

Coming in January, Marti will lead a cancer reflection group using a guide for cancer survivor groups called "Fear Not!: Learning from your Cancer". Time and date to be determined. The group will meet twice a month and is open to the community. This group will offer spiritual support for those both in remission and treatment. There are so many cancer survivors out there. Are you one? Is your friend? To join Marti on this spiritual path contact her at 801-486-5473, ext 13.

The Spirits and Spirituality Class is a study-discussion class for men which will meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month from 8 – 9 pm at McCool's Irish Pub and Restaurant in Foothill Village beginning February 13. We will announce the first study topic on January 23rd.

Contact Chuck Williams for more information,
 801-588-0466, marathonchuck@comcast.net.

5-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation –March 20-25, 2011, Sacred Heart Retreat Center, Sedalia, CO. The Academy is designed to feed both the head and the heart; offering both knowledge about spirituality and a context for experiencing the love of God. The theme for the week is "Listening for the Heartbeat of God (inspired by Philip Newell)." For more information and registration log on to <http://rmcumc.org/rmc/resources/751-5-day-academy-for-spiritual-formation.html>.

Ministry and Missions

Believe Out Loud Worship

January 30th at 5:30 pm.

Evening's testimony from Dr. Derrick Spiva, board member from the national Reconciling Network.

This service is part of our Utah Reconciling Methodist group and celebrates the diversity among us. All are welcome. Please come to this upbeat service and meet other Reconciling Methodists from across the valley. Reconciling Methodists believe that "all means all" and that "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" should be more than just a motto. Come celebrate with us the sacred worth of everyone!

Reconciling Congregation update. In November the Life & Times Sunday School Class sent a request to the Church Council through the Church and Society Committee (C & S) asking that CUMC become a reconciling congregation. The C & S team discussed the request and recommended that a vote on the matter be scheduled for the Charge Conference to be held in May 2011. C & S also felt the need for discussion with the congregation over the next six months including education about what a reconciling church is and does.

Dr. Derrick Spiva will be answering questions and speaking to what it mean to be a reconciling congregation: to have open doors to all, including the GLBT community. Dr. Spiva writes, "To be black, gay, UMC clergy and part of a mixed relationship in America today comes along with any number of challenges. Add to this "happy" and there is definitely a story to tell." He would like to share his story. Along with his work in educational TV he has co-produced several video documentary projects for the Cal-Nevada Annual Conference and the General Board of Global Ministries. He has been the executive producer of the PBS series, "Through Our Eyes" targeting youth issues. Awards include: a Fulbright-Hays Seminar Scholarship to Egypt and Israel, the NAACP and the United States Congress award for outstanding service to youth and media (television production and theater). Rev. Dr. Derrick Spiva has served as a local pastor of the Cal Nevada Annual Conference for many years, and currently is a music minister at Bethany UMC in San Francisco. He also serves as a board member for the Reconciling Network. Dr. Spiva and his partner Russell Leavitt of 20 years have raised 4 children and reside in San Francisco, California.

Russian Volunteer in Mission Trip Coming in late May.

Interested? Contact Rev.
Marti, 801-486-5473 ext 13.

MEDICAL MISSION TRIP TO GUATEMALA May 7-15, 2011


There is an opportunity to join a team traveling to Guatemala in May 2011. Openings are available for doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, therapists, and any other medical or dental professionals. This is an interfaith team consisting of Jews and Christians and we welcome participants from any faith tradition.

Interested persons should contact team leaders Scott & Jessica Patton at 801 583 3327 or email japq1990@comcast.net before March 1, 2011 to be considered for the team.

“Great gifts mean great responsibilities; greater gifts, greater responsibilities!”
Luke 12:48”

Human Relations Day

January 16th: Relationships, not Racism



This year, your special offering will:

- Provide avenues to restored relationships through ministries like Greeley's Giftz Clinic and the Positive Intervention Support program supported by Wesley UMC in Pueblo.
- Challenge oppression and injustice through community advocacy.
- Fund United Methodist Voluntary Services and Community Developers in this relational work.

Church & Society Network: Advocating for Peace with Justice of the Rocky Mountain Conference of The United Methodist Church

We encourage you to:

- "Recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other."
- Lift up the issue in your church and encourage a special offering
- Find and participate in Martin Luther King Day unity activities in your community.

Giving and Action

Resources for Human Relations Day @ <http://www.umcsgiving.org>

RESOURCES ON RACISM

"Racism is a learned affliction and anything learned can be unlearned." Jane Elliot, Anti-racism educator

United Methodist bishops have called on Christians to overcome racism and other sources of animosity to recognize the sacredness of every human being.

"As people of faith, we are charged to build the beloved community because Christ has broken down the dividing walls and ended the hostilities between us," says a pastoral letter approved at the Nov. 2-6 Council of Bishops meeting. "Yet, we continue to build walls in the church and in the world which separate us and cause our hearts to grieve."

Excerpts from the pastoral letter: "Grace and peace in the name of Christ. We, the bishops of The United Methodist Church, feel compelled to renew our commitment to work to become the beloved community of Christ. We as a Council, desire to deal with the crucial and critical issues of racism and the sacredness of every human being. Therefore, as the spiritual and administrative leaders of the church, we issue an urgent call to the whole people of God, lay and clergy, to speak the truth in love in public and private discourse, to act with compassion and to work for peace and justice in the world.

What does the Discipline say?

As United Methodists, we recognize that God made all creation and saw that it was good. As a diverse people of God who bring special gifts and evidences of God's grace to the unity of the Church and to society, we are called to be faithful to the example of Jesus' ministry to all persons. Inclusiveness means openness, acceptance, and support that enable all persons to participate in the life of the Church, the community, and the world. Thus, inclusiveness denies every semblance of discrimination." Para 139, the Book of Discipline

Racism defined:

Racism has two components. First, it is the power of one race to dominate another, usually because of historical, traditional, and/or numerical power.

Second, it is a prejudicial value system that assumes that the dominant race is innately superior. These two components represent racial prejudice plus power, which together equals racism. (from Advocates for Inclusiveness, Guidelines 2009-2012. General Commission on the Status and Role of Women and General Commission on Religion and Race)

Something to ponder: No one "tries to be racist": we hold our beliefs because we think they're correct, and maintain our cultural frameworks because they are functional for us. There are many functional yet limited belief systems and cultural frameworks among God's beloved children—as we work toward a more inclusive vi-

Joys, Concerns and Thanks



Deepest Condolences to the friends of Marjorie Fue who passed away Tuesday, December 7 in Naperville, IL. Funeral arrangements are pending. Cards can be sent to: Chris Groves, 24W431 Cliff Ct, Naperville, IL 60540.

Deepest Condolences to Mickey and John Wells on the recent death of Mickey's mother, Mildred Stewart.

Remember our service personnel in the Middle East: Jon Klentzman, son of Pat and Doug Klentzman and Ron Mawson, son of Kathie Mawson.

I would like to thank our many friends at christ Church who have been so caring to me and my family during my recent illness. Your concerns, kind words and prayers have always been a source of strength and support to us. It is wonderful to know that in times of happiness, hardship, illness and grief our church family is with us to share our joy or ease our pain. God bless you all.
Jon Jolley

Stephen Ministry Prayer Corner
*Lord Jesus Christ,
 you are the gentle moon and joyful stars,
 that watch over the darkest night.
 You are the source of all peace,
 reconciling the whole universe to the Father.
 You are the source of all rest; calming troubled hearts,
 and bringing sleep to weary bodies.
 You are the sweetness that fills our minds with quiet joy
 and can turn the worst nightmares into dreams of heaven.
 May I dream of your sweetness, rest in your arms,
 be at one with your father,
 and be comforted in the knowledge that
 you always watch over me.*
 ---Erasmus from Prayers for Healing

I want to give a big thank you to our youth group for raking my leaves this fall, and the Boy Scout troop 410 and their leaders for putting up my Christmas decorations. You have no idea how much I appreciate all of you. Thank you

As we finish 5 years of monthly hosting the Food Coop of Utah, I will be stepping down as coordinator. Thanks to all who have helped out with distribution and purchases. Your support has made this a huge success. Special thanks to Dave Allison, Dan Herman and Aaron Ashcroft who have faithfully picked up the food at the warehouse every month and helped set up at church. Also special thanks to Jackie Milner and Betty Sturdevant who handle check in and checkout each time. A HUGE thanks to Chuck Mittelstadt who does everything, including clean up and recycling all the cardboard. Thanks to all the other volunteers who have helped with distribution through these many months. I have enjoyed working with each of you. Thank you and God Bless.
 Jackie Longmore

December 2010

Christ United Methodist Church
 2375 East 3300 South
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84109

Dear Congregation,

Family Promise – Salt Lake would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your support of our mission over the last year.

Without your assistance we would not be able to provide shelter and care to families experiencing the crisis of homelessness.

By opening your doors, and your hearts, you are fulfilling a shared and sacred calling:

Isaiah 58:6-8

"Is not this the fast I choose?... Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house..."

Please know that together, all volunteers and congregations, every hour of service and every meal – directly assist the families into housing and lasting stability.

We cannot say thank you enough for all that you do.

Happy Holidays and God Bless,

The Staff of Family Promise – Salt Lake

George Husenits
 1980 East 3900 South, SLC 84124 801-703- 7435
 Community Group: 8, Sponsor: Bob Pearce
 George joined our church family Dec. 19, 2010 at the 10:30 service. Look for his picture and bio on the new member bulletin board.

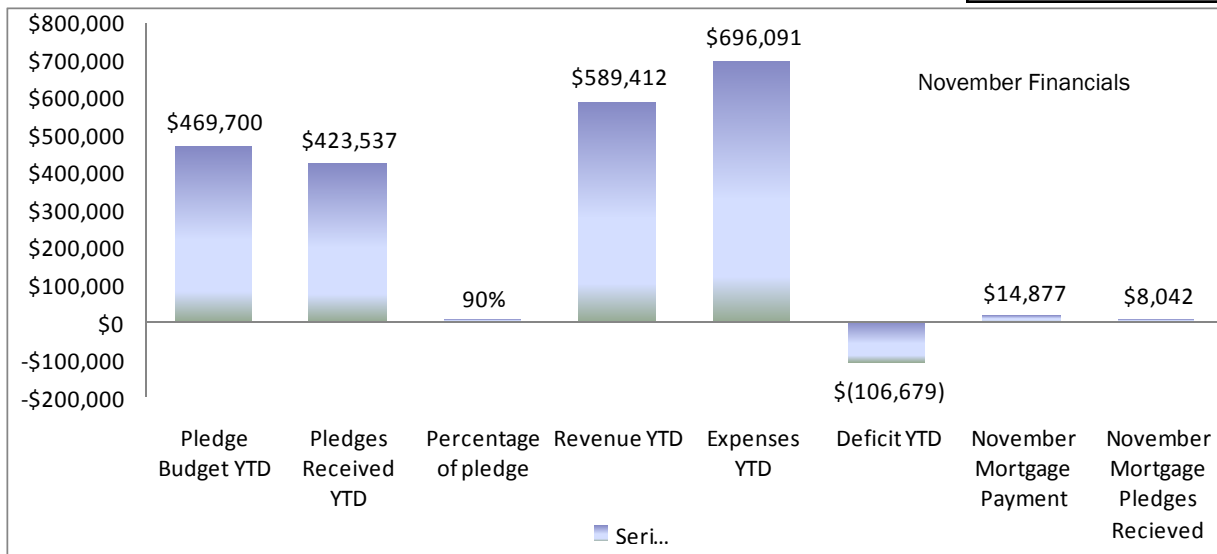


Are you the missing piece?

Despite the snowy Sundays, we still need your pledge cards for 2011. If you have not turned in your card yet, please drop it off or mail it to the church office as soon as possible. We will be adjusting our budget in January. We have 121 pledges returned so far (compared to 207 last year). Please remember that both the General and Building/Mortgage Funds are important as you make your pledge. Each fund serves different purposes – the General fund pays all of our regular expenses like utilities, staff salaries, programming costs, building maintenance, etc. Our Building/Mortgage Fund pays our monthly payment on our building loan. Both funds are considered First Mile Giving, which is very important. If we fail to meet our basic needs, we can't do the extra things we enjoy doing through our Second Mile Giving, i.e. Crossroads, UMCOR, etc. Thank you for helping Christ UMC fulfill our calling to do Christ's work in our community. Please contact Vanitta Conrad, Financial Secretary, at 801-486-5473 ext. 12 with any questions.

Charitable Giving Made Easy!

Now you can make contributions to Christ UMC through our website using your Checking or Savings Account or a Debit/Credit Card! Just click on the link on our home page titled "New Convenience" and enter your information. You no longer need to give this information directly to the church office!



Did you know that your money likely has traces of cocaine on it?

A study by Jack Demirgian of the Argonne National Laboratory revealed that a full 78% of the currency circulating in Miami and other major US cities carries trace amounts of cocaine. That's probably true elsewhere, too.

They were only looking for cocaine, but I wonder what else might be found on the bills? Maybe fast-food products, such as frying grease, mustard or teriyaki sauce? Tea or coffee? And how about rouge or lipstick from purses and lint from pockets? Perhaps ink from a leaky pen? I've found more indistinguishable stains on some of my money than I care to think about.

What's more, we're told that if they look closely enough, they can even learn something about where your money has been. To the store. To the beach. Even hidden beneath a mattress. Just about anything that comes into contact with money leaves a bit of itself behind. Then, when the bills rub up against each other in a wallet or billfold, they share contaminates. Everything the bills touch will be changed, however slightly.

So it is with us. *Everything we touch is changed.* I used to play English hand bells. "Don't touch the bells with your bare hands," we were told. "Wear gloves." The oils from our hands changed the quality of the bells.

Everything we touch is changed. And *everybody* we touch is changed -- even if we're not infected with something contagious. I'm not only talking about physical touch, either. Often we touch their minds and spirits and hearts. Everybody we speak to, rub shoulders with or even smile at...is changed in some minute way. These changes can be helpful or hurtful, depending on our interaction. It is like leaving a piece of ourselves behind with everyone we meet, and taking a piece of them with us.

And even little changes can make a difference. NO ONE is insignificant in this regard.

Bette Reeves said, "If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in bed with a mosquito." But you don't need to be a mosquito to have an effect on people around you. The question is: what little part of yourself will you leave behind? How will you influence them? Will your encounter be thoughtful or hurried? Helpful or harmful? Intentional or accidental?

Your church is entering into a new year. It will be exciting and challenging. And it may even be a bit scary. But there is something awe-inspiring about the influence we have on one another. I wonder...what effect will your church have on those around you this new year? How do you plan to touch those in your neighborhood? In you pews? In your world? How do you plan to make a difference this year? *For whom-ever you touch you will change.*

Have a blessed new year. *Steve Goodier*



Happy New Year to our church family and friends!

This past month our youth have experienced what it's like to be Christ's Body in doing His work. They participated in the Angel Tree Prison Ministry again this year and, using their own money, went shopping for children who have a parent in prison. The following week, both our Jr and Sr High Youth Groups held separate parties for these children. The caretaker parents/guardians so appreciated how much our youth loved their children, unconditionally. We also had a visit from Santa Claus and took photos and sent them to the children and also to the parent in prison along with a letter letting that parent know what God loves them unconditionally, too!!

The Thursday before Christmas 28 youth and parents helped with Crossroads Food-Give-Away held at Rowland Halls Middle School. They helped carry out bags of groceries for people who have found hard times. Our youth are giving people in our community HOPE by showing by their actions that people - youth especially DO CARE for them and GOD does love each and every person - NO MATTER WHAT!

We have some great upcoming events, please check out our calendar and invite any Jr or Sr High Youth you know to come join us! We are also looking for a few more adults who might have 2-6 hrs a MONTH to assist with various activities. Help guide our Youth by showing them that adults at our church also care and love them, too!!

2011 is going to be a GREAT YEAR for CHRIST!!!

Blessings, Barb McClellan, Director of Youth Ministries (801 792 7478 cell)

Christ UMC YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Sunday, January 2nd DEADLINE for Dodgeball Tournament Team Registration

- 9a – Jr & Sr High Sunday School
- 3p-430p Sr High Youth Group
- 5p-7p Jr High Youth Group

Monday, January 3rd 6p Youth Praise Band Practice – Choir Rm

Saturday, January 8th 12n Jr High Dodgeball Tournament (6th-8th graders)

- Sr High Youth are needed to help set up – arriving at 11am.
- 3p Sr High Dodgeball Tournament – registration 230p

Sunday, January 9th JAN 9a Jr & Sr High Sunday School

- 3p-430p Sr High Youth Group
- 5p-7p Jr High Youth Group

Monday, January 10th 6p Youth Praise Band Practice, Choir Rm

Sunday, January 16th 9a Jr & Sr High Sunday School

No AFTERNOON YOUTH GROUP

Monday, January 17th 730a-5p Youth Day at Brighton

(if you need a FREE pass, let Barb know ASAP)

Saturday, January 22nd 5p-7p Final Rehearsal for Youth Worship Services

Sunday, January 23rd Youth Worship Services, "Conflict with God" 8a, 9a, 10:30a

Come listen to our Youth Praise Band, Holy Toledos, watch our Youth Dance Troop, Lifted Spirits and our Youth Drama group perform!

Sunday, January 30th 9a Jr & Sr High Sunday School

- 3p-430p Sr High Youth Group
- 5p-7p Jr High Youth Group

Friday, Feb. 4 through Sunday, Feb. 6 WINTER RETREAT at BIG CANYON RANCH

Cost: \$100 for lodging & food (scholarships available—please call Barb 801 792 7478)

Pre-Registrations due by Jan 2nd along with at least a \$50 deposit. Balance due by Jan 30th. Parents, please call Barb if you can drive either way – you'll need a 4 X 4 or chains.

Friday, February 25 through Saturday February 26 30 Hr Famine

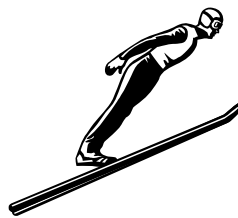
Friday April 1 through Saturday, April 2 SPRING FLING

Register for the Dodgeball tournament at



www.youthdodgeball.blogspot.com

(team and individual forms) Talk to your friends at school and in your neighborhood. Pick up posters during Fellowship time or in the youth room to help promote this event! Try to get as many people who are NOT from CUMC to be on your team. Remember at least 1 girl must be on each team (9th-12th grades)



Would your family like to host or mentor an exchange student?

For details of the program go to <http://www.slcc.edu/hostfamily/> or contact Lisa Tsujimoto at Salt Lake Community Multicultural Initiatives www.slccmulticultural.wordpress.com Office 801 957-4954 Cell i801 860-2670

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Methodist Church**
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**We're on the web
www.christumcutah.net**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Evening Knitting Circle Needs More Members!

Have you been the recipient of a prayer shawl? When my dad died several years ago, I was presented with one, and it meant so much to me to know someone's hands had spent hours knitting it. I still wrap myself in it when I need comfort and I can feel the love that went into making it. I decided that I wanted to do something to pay back this kindness and joined the evening knitting group.

Our group meets the third Wednesday of every month in the Parlor at church from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. If you would like more information please call Donna Thomas at 801-466-6243 or email me at donrot@comcast.net.

If you don't know how to knit or crochet, we have people who can teach you. We will be giving lessons for the first 5 months of the year. From January to May the group will start at 6:30 PM and the first half hour will be lessons, the last hour you can practice. If you need the supplies, we have extra yarn and needles.

A person only needs the most basic knitting/crocheting skills to make a prayer shawl, nothing complicated or intricate. The shawl you make is something that can be presented to someone who is in need of comfort. We know everyone is busy and it is hard to fit in one more thing, but this group is strictly a fellowship of people whose goal is to be of service to others. We simply knit/crochet and chat, no added responsibilities. Everyone is welcome!

**The warmest shawl is the one
you'll knit for somebody in need.**



Learn to knit or crochet...free lessons.

Join Evening Knitting Circle and learn to make a prayer shawl for someone who needs solace.

Lessons from 6:30 to 7:00 PM on the third Wednesday of every month starting in January in the Parlor at church. Knitting practice and fellowship follow from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

Call Donna Thomas at 801-466-6243 or email donrot@comcast.net

Evening Knitting Circle