



The Advance



CHRIST CHURCH

September 2011

*An Open and Affirming Congregation
of the United Church of Christ*

Christ Church UCC Vision Statement

*Seeking to walk in the way of Jesus,
We believe that all people are made in the
image of God and that all are
welcome at Christ's table.
We aspire to be an open-minded
community of faith, engaged in
meaningful worship, and committed to social
justice, community service, and
personal spiritual growth.*

Christ Church, United Church of Christ

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Christ Church to Move Forward as a Strong and United Church in Search of New Pastor

As most of you are now aware, Reverend Rick Meyer will not be returning as pastor of Christ Church. At a congregational meeting on August 28th, the members of Christ Church voted to release Rick from his contract as our pastor. This was a difficult and painful decision for many in the congregation, and we thank you all for your thoughtfulness and faithfulness in making this decision.

Those involved in this difficult process have grown much stronger spiritually despite the many long hours involved in trying to resolve it. The leadership of Christ Church is looking forward to a much more unified and focused future together. Lessons have been learned. We are appealing to any who have left our Congregation in the past year and a half to return to old friends. You have been missed.

We will soon move on, and we will once again start the pastoral search process. Reverend Becky Turner has agreed to serve us as a part time interim pastor, working about 15 hours per week. It will be a real blessing to us to have Becky back to help guide us through this transition as she did 17 years ago.

If you feel called to serve on our new Pastoral Search Committee, please speak to Jennifer Elam or any other member of Council.

Please keep this congregation and its leadership in your prayers. Once again, we don't know where God is leading us, but we will faithfully take this special journey together.

Yours in Christ,

The members of the Pastoral Relations Committee and the Council of Christ Church

If you have any questions about any of these recent events, please feel free to contact members of the Pastoral Relations Committee. Ron Gaus has graciously offered to field questions over the phone and can be reached at 314-583-9935.

News From Barbara O'Connell

I will be back in my office on Thursday, Sept. 1. The doctors are pleased with the results of my mother's radiation treatments and she is in much better spirits. My grandson, Danny, is receiving all of the medical help that is available and he is surrounded by the love of his family. I appreciate the time I had off work to be more available to my family and to take care of personal medical issues.

I am looking forward to my return to Christ Church and my work as a parish nurse. Thank you for all of your prayers, phone calls, and cards.

Sincerely, Barbara



Herb Kopp/Les Roeder/Gus Krause Memorial Bowl

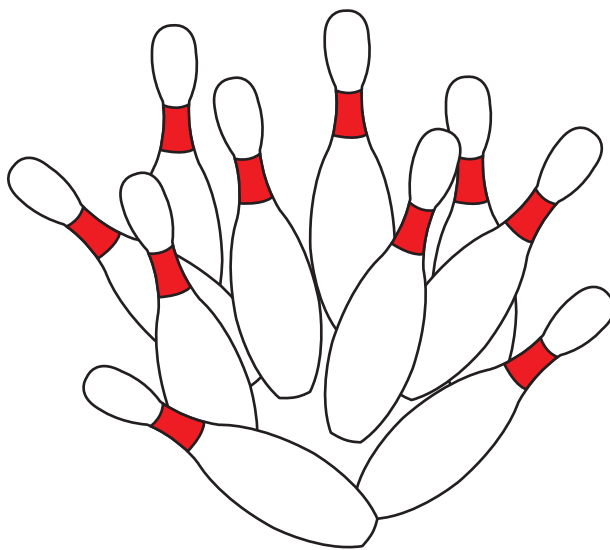
This is our 19th year for the Herb Kopp/Les Roeder/Gus Krause Memorial Bowl. This year we will again be bowling at Crestwood Bowl. Bowling this year will be on September 25th at 1:00.

The captains sheets will be handed out to last year's team captains during coffee hour in August and September. If you were a team captain last year or if you are interested in being a team captain this year, be sure to let Ginny Halloran, Janet O'Neal or Ron Gaus know. If you bowled last year, check with that team captain for your sponsors' sheet if you want to bowl on the same team this year. We would like if everyone collected at least \$45.00 in sponsors this year, because the amount will be used for our church maintenance fund. If you do not get \$45.00 worth of sponsors you can still bowl, but it will cost you \$6.50 to bowl.

Everyone who needs to rent bowling shoes will have to pay \$1.00 for shoe rental. If you are sponsoring someone and want to write a check, please make the check payable to Christ Church UCC and mark for "Memorial Bowl".

In the 18 years we have had the memorial bowl, you have all helped to contribute \$21,747.50 to our maintenance fund. We want to thank all of the bowlers and sponsors for their support of this worthwhile cause, which is also a lot of fun, so mark the date of September 25th on your calendar now so you can bowl or come and cheer us on.

Thanks, Ginny Halloran, Janet O'Neal & Ron Gaus



Christ Church Member Nancy Fahey to be inducted into Hall of Fame



Washington U. head women's basketball coach Nancy Fahey is a five-time NCAA Division III national champion, the all-time winningest coach in Division III history and boasts one of the best winning percentages in women's basketball history at any level of the NCAA. Now she will be able to add Hall of Famer to her list of accomplishments as she will be inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 2012. The announcement was televised live on ABC and came during halftime of the 2011 WNBA All-Star game being held in San Antonio on Saturday, July 23.

Fahey will be inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame along with five other honorees: Nikki McCray (player), Pam McGee (player), Inge Nissen (player), Robin Roberts (contributor) and Dawn Staley (player). Included the

Class of 2012, Fahey will become one of just 127 individuals to be inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame since the inaugural class in 1999.

"I am excited, honored and humbled to be recognized by the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame," said Fahey. "Basketball is a team sport, and it truly took a team effort for this to happen. All of the administrative support staff at Washington University, my assistant coaches, and most importantly the players have played a role in this and I am honored to share this on behalf of all of them."

Fahey, who is the first Division III coach or student-athlete to be inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, has enjoyed one of the most spectacular careers in NCAA history. In 25 seasons roaming the sidelines at Washington University she has accrued a career record of 596-106 (.859) and her career-winning percentage ranks fourth all-time in NCAA women's basketball history.

"In 1986 Nancy Fahey was selected as Washington University's head women's basketball coach and in 2011 she was selected to join a distinguished group in the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame," said Washington University Director of Athletics John Schael. "In between that time she has brought tremendous acclaim to Washington University, women's basketball and to herself."

From 1998-01 Fahey guided the Bears to four straight NCAA Division III national championships including back-to-back undefeated national championship seasons in 1998-99 and 1999-00, racking up a winning streak of 81 consecutive games in the process, a record that stood as the longest winning streak in women's basketball history.

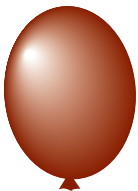
Over 25 seasons Fahey has coached in an NCAA Division III-record 10 Final Fours and nine national championship games. Her first Final Four run came in 1991, and she reached the national championship game for the first time in 1994, before the stretch of four titles began four years later.

Washington University reached the national championship game once again in 2007, beginning a stretch where the Bears played in the Final Four in four of five seasons, winning a fifth national championship in 2010, and falling in the national championship game this past season.

A 1981 graduate of UW-Madison where she was a four-year women's basketball letterwinner, Fahey came to Washington U. in 1986 after coaching for four years at Johnsburg High School in McHenry, Ill.

She has led the Bears to 18 University Athletic Association championships and has been named the UAA Coach of the Year a record 17 times. Fahey was tabbed as the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Division III National Coach of the Year in 2000, and received the honor once again in 2011.

The Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2012 will be formally introduced at the State Farm Tip-Off Classic and the official date of the 2012 Induction Ceremony will be announced at a later date by the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.



September Celebrations

Birthdays

Rena Mueller	9-03
Karen Burke	9-03
Doris Meyer	9-06
Mark Bishop	9-09
Patricia Roeder	9-10
Sara Bryant	9-14
Bonnie Paulsmeyer	9-14
Debbie Tolstoi	9-20
Cora Lee Hiller	9-23
Barry Bierwirth	9-24
Clara Mueller	9-29
Melinda Barbaglia	9-30

Anniversaries

Sean & Jennifer Elam	9-01
Roger & Aimee Moore	9-16
Robyn & Kevin Keough	9-19

If you would like your birthday or anniversary listed, please call the church office at 314-644-3303.

Open Studio Day at The Community Crafts Studio

- Please join us on **Saturday, September 17 from 9:00 a.m. to whenever lunch is done!** In September, we will be offering a demonstration on gluten-free cooking and pasta making starting at 10:30am. Lunch will be served after!
- The demonstration and discussion on gluten-free cooking and pasta making is free. To stay for lunch, please bring \$7.00 to cover your meal and beverage. We will be enjoying a tasty pasta dish and salad! **Please RSVP for lunch to Amy by Saturday, September 10.**
- The studio will be open from 9am to noon for those who wish to continue working on their own projects while we meet in the kitchen.



Cara Crocker & Amy Chapleau

Senior Club Dinner

Please join us on Thursday September 15th at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Christ Church.

Join us for pot luck dinner
Everybody Welcome!

Christ Church Monthly Lunch!

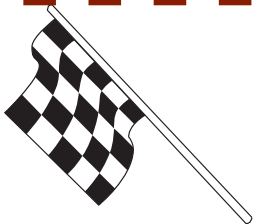
Thursday, September 8th at 11:30

The Piccadilly

7201 Piccadilly Ave.
Please RSVP! 314-644-3033

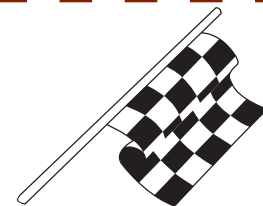
Fall Harvest Festival & Sale

SOCC's members continue collecting items for the annual Fall Sale which is October 1st. (the same day as the quad-city garage sales) Household items, collectibles, jewelry, holiday decorations, anything other than tupperware, clothes and electronics are acceptable. Items can be placed on the stage or for pickup of items, contact Robyn.



Rally Day

September 11th
Potluck following worship



Larger than Life, Meet Mr. Joe

Ron Gaus

It has been a number of years since I have written an article for our Advance. For the prior ten years, one had appeared in just about every issue, but I got lazy or busy with other things, and I stopped. A significant event occurred recently and moved me to put another one out there. Hope you find it interesting or can use for reflection.

About 5 years ago I had a part time job selling European smart cars. These were converted to US legal specs and that task was completed by a fine gentleman in California. These tiny cars, made by Mercedes, are 8' long and only hold two people. Through quirky circumstances, I ended up representing this man for smart car sales in the Midwest. Shortly after the cars became available for sale, I received a call from a gentleman in Lexington, Kentucky. Joe Ohnheiser was his name and he had just returned from a trip to Rome with his Catholic parish. While there, Joe became intrigued by all these cute little cars he had never seen before. Upon his return, Joe found me on the internet and within two weeks we delivered a bright red smart car convertible for his "mountain" in Sadieville, Kentucky (outside of Lexington). I had never met a man with a bigger, brighter smile and heartier laugh.

As years passed, Joe and I communicated regularly on all sorts of things other than smart cars and I learned of his history. Fifteen years ago, Joe had worked in Lexington for an employer in St. Louis that owned a Truck Fleet Repair company. They maintained and repaired trucks for different companies and had branch locations outside of St. Louis, including Lexington. Joe was responsible for the Kentucky location. Once each week, he would travel six hours to St. Louis to report the status of business in Lexington. On one fateful trip, an icy road caused a horrible crash, putting Joe in a coma. It lasted over two weeks. The doctors were afraid he would die, but even if he lived, they warned he'd never walk again. While in a coma, his boss fired him... a dark time for Joe, Mary Ann & 4 kids.

What the doctors did not know was Joe's past. He had been a Green Beret in the early 70's and was as tough as they came. His wife, Mary Ann, probably knew he would pull through. He did. Joe's clients rallied around him and urged him to start his own business. He took their advice. As Joe explained to me, he became 5 times more successful than he ever could have imagined. He may have mentioned he sent a thank you card to his old boss every Christmas.

With that near fatal accident, Joe's life changed dramatically. What may have been a generous man became the most generous man. What was a man, who loved his family, worked and played, became a man who loved with passion, worked incessantly and played as hard as you can play. His motto became "If you aren't living life on the edge, you're taking up too much space". Joe was larger than life to his friends at church and in his personal life. Though a relatively small man, Joe could take a sledge hammer at arm's length, slowly lower it with only his wrist until it touched his head. Please do not try this at home. You will forget what you were doing when you regain consciousness. He could lay flat on his back with his palms up next to his shoulders, and raise a 240 lb man in the air.

(Continued on page 7)

(Mr. Joe, Continued from page 6)

His toys included the smart car, a helicopter, a houseboat and a Sea Doo Jet Ski called an HX. Apparently this very rare vehicle approximates riding a two wheel bike on the water. It was incredibly difficult to even ride. Joe mastered it. He also enjoyed people on the lake asking him if they could ride it. He was fond of giving the stock answer: "Ride it 50 feet and I'll give you \$50". Many tried. Nobody got close.

His list of duties at his church was enormous and he always asked for more. Giving back was his goal in everything he did. Joe and his wife invited Sandy and I down for a weekend on their houseboat with four other couples. I knew that Joe and Mary Ann seemed the kindest individuals I had ever met. We regretfully declined the first year due to a conflict. Next February Joe told us to pick the date of the weekend and everyone else would be there. Sandy did not know Joe that well and wanted to be sure we were not walking into a serial killer's hands or some type of Swingers Club, but we graciously accepted anyway. The houseboat turned out to be a 3 story yacht with 5 bedrooms. It was luxurious in every way, catered, and the weekend of a lifetime. Joe & Mary Ann perfect hosts. None of the couples had met prior to that weekend... a great bunch of people. Each had done something that Joe valued and this was his thank you. We provided his smart car. That's all. Joe took Sandy out on his HX and she swears her hair turned completely gray after the ride. Joe was a rare individual who loved his family and shared his gifts, living each day with the passion of a teenager.

I wish this ended the story. It doesn't. We received a call from Mary Ann on Monday, 7/11. Joe had rolled the dice his last time. He had died alone when his helicopter crashed Saturday in the woods of Indiana. But Joe's life will not end at that crash site. I am sure Joe is looking down at all of his friends and acquaintances right now hoping we have learned something from our relationships with him. We all will have those memories of Joe for the rest of our lives. In his 60 short years, he probably fit in another 40 in the aggressive zeal that he lived each day. Mary Ann shared with me that he died doing the only thing he enjoyed more than driving his smart car, flying his helicopter. Now he is just flying a bit higher in the sky with a co-pilot.

I drove down to the funeral on Friday. A six hour trip with lots of time for reflection on the type of life, the type of generosity he had displayed, the example he set for all who knew him. I said a prayer as the night passed in the drive down. At the end of the prayer, I whimsically asked Joe for a sign so I knew he was okay. Twenty seconds later I came to the Santa Claus, Indiana Exit. Hmm. Biggest smile, heartiest laugh and known for his generosity. Good hearing from you, Joe. Glad you're alright. You took the right exit from the right path of life.

It is difficult to go through this life with the hands we are sometimes dealt and still maintain a positive look at life. In Joe's life, he found Christ early on and it provided him both the mental and physical courage to keep going. May we all reach the state of peace and giving that Joe found in his life and the happiness that it appeared to bring to him.

Pastoral Care Coverage Contact Information

For any pastoral care needs
please contact the following:

Church Office **Paul Zachow**
314-644-3033 314-496-8404

Chris Goff **Donna Ratkowski**
314-322-5229 314-322-6608

Worship Schedule

Sept 4 – Rev. Dorothy Gannon preaching, accompanied by our band Quelle. Barry gets the weekend off!

Sept 11 – our last 10 am combined worship and Rally Day celebration. Rev. Court Buchanan will be preaching. We have a special service planned, and both band and choir will participate. Pot Luck lunch following worship.

Sept 18 – we return to our old two-service schedule, 9:00 and 10:30 am. Rev. Toni Kracke will be preaching at both services.

Sept 25 – Rev. Becky Turner joins us as our new part time interim pastor. We anticipate that Becky will be with us until January.

Next SOCC's Meeting

September 22nd 1:00pm

On the agenda:

Pricing and Sorting of Sale Items

At the July meeting, cookie mixes were measured and jarred and will be for sale at the Fall Sale. **Perfect for holiday gift giving...**

Wanted: Cookie Tins!

Cookie Tins are needed for the annual SOCC Christmas Cookie Sale that will be held in December.

Tins may be placed in the SOCC's room or given to Robyn or Jan.

Church Humor

*If Cain and Able were Siamese twins,
would they be Cable?*

*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst,
for they are sticking to their diets.*

The best vitamin for a Christian is B1.

*"I've taken a vow of poverty. To annoy me,
send money."*

*Warning notice at a seminary swimming
pool: "First-year students are only allowed
to walk on the shallow end."*

*"If absence makes the heart grow fonder,"
said a minister, "a lot of folks must love our
church."*

Passed on by John Reichle,
GED Director

Food Panty

**September, October & November
Detergents & Kleenex**

Maplewood Farmers' Market

Every Wednesday through October 27th,
from 4 to 7 pm

'Tis the season and the farmers are back
providing fresh, local produce,
meat, eggs, honey, cheese and more!

Schlafly Bottleworks at
7260 Southwest Avenue.

Phone: 241-BEER



Interested in Christ Church-wide Retreat?

We are gauging the congregation's interest in having another All-Church Retreat at camp MoVal this Fall. We have the Hilltop cabin reserved for the weekend of October 21-23. It is a great time to really get to know others in the congregation and spend some time enjoying the beauty of God's creation. If you would be interested in participating in and/or helping to plan a retreat, please let Deb know by calling or emailing the church office.

Thank You's

It is always nice to be recognized! If you want to thank someone, please let Debbie at the office know and she will post them in the newsletter.

**Thanks go to Chris Goff, and Linda and Simba White
for helping make camp a fun time!**

**As always, many thanks to Deb Tolstoi and Michelle Smith
for caring and keeping the church in working order.**

**Thanks to Ginny Sanders, Shirley Keller, Eleanor Gaus & Tony Rosa
for coming in every Monday to count the money and make sure it is taken to
the bank!**

**Thanks to Robyn Keough and Jan Pryibil
for everything they do for the church and the folks here at church!**

Needed!

**New trash receptacles are needed in the fellowship hall and in the
upstairs restroom. Anyone willing to donate?**

Fritsch Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted for 2011-2012 School Year

In February 1978, the sons of Reverend Carl and Helen Morrill Fritsch contributed the seed money for a Scholarship Fund in their parents' names. Reverend Fritsch was Pastor at Christ Church for over 40 years.

An applicant for the Fritsch Scholarship must be in pursuit of a ministerial degree or a degree toward a service profession such as (but not limited to) Social Work, Pastoral Care, or any Health Care field.

A total of \$1000 is available to be awarded from this fund in any calendar year, but only if the Scholarship Fund accounts generated at least \$1000 in interest during the previous calendar year. Otherwise the amount of the scholarship is limited to the amount of interest earned by these accounts during the previous calendar year. The total amount available will be divided among the selected recipients as determined by the Scholarship Committee.

Recipient is limited to one (1) scholarship award, and is not eligible to apply for this scholarship in subsequent years after being awarded a scholarship.

Awarding of this scholarship will be based upon financial need, past scholastic grade point, and answers to basic questions surrounding the field of interest. Applicant must be a member of Christ Church.

Contact Donna Ratkowski or Ron Gaus for an application. Applications for this year's award must be received by September 30, 2011.

Donna's contact information: donna.ratkowski@aftonchemical.com 314-322-6608

Ron's contact information: rgaus15496@aol.com 314-583-9935

We are also looking for additional members for this Scholarship Committee. Use the contact information above to let us know if you are interested.



September 2011



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Summer Service 10:00 am	5	6	7 Farmers Market 4 - 7 pm	8 Church Lunch 11:30 am RSVP 644-3033 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	9	10
11 Summer Service 10:00 am	12	13 Garden Club 7 - 9 pm Fellowship Hall	14 Farmers Market 4 - 7 pm	15 Senior Club 5:00 pm	16	17 Open Studio 9 am to Noon
18 Services Traditional 9:00 am Contemp Service 10:30 am	19	20	21 Farmers Market 4 - 7 pm	22 SOCC Meeting 1 pm	23	24
25 Services Traditional 9:00 am Contemp Service 10:30 am	26	27	28 Farmers Market 4 - 7 pm	29	30	

Don't forget – if you're able to receive your Advance by email, please let the church office know. You can help save money and paper, and the electronic copy can always be saved on your computer. Let the church office know if you can help.

THE ADVANCE

NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST CHURCH UCC
MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI

CHRIST CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
7126 Bruno Ave.
Maplewood, MO 63143

God
is still
speaking,

