

The Advance



CHRIST CHURCH

October 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

7126 Bruno Ave., Maplewood, MO 63143
Church Office: 644-3033
Sermon Line: 647-0171
www.maplewooducc.org
Office email: office@maplewooducc.org

Council President

president@maplewooducc.org

In This Issue:

- 2 Change Is In The Air
- 3 Words from Rev. Turner
Help Wanted!
- 4 Memorial Fund Ideas
- 5 Memorial Bowl
Prayer Chain Info
- 6 October Celebrations
Open Studio
Fall Retreat
Church Happenings
- 7 Church Info
Emergency Action Process
- 8 Parish Nurse Notes
- 9 Project Peanut Butter Update
Church Humor
Thank You's
- 10 Project Peanut Butter Letter
- 11 Welcome Emmaus Choir
Financial - Statement of
Change
- 12 October Calendar

Change Is In The Air

It has been an eventful summer for the church—that is really an understatement! There have definitely been times when we weren't sure what the future would hold for us, but our faith in God and each other buoyed us up. We had a fun time gathering together as one service this summer, and having our services led by gifted members of our congregation and some Reverend friends. Core members have pulled together and stepped up to serve in ways they didn't know they were able. We were able to make some hard decisions as a congregation, but kept moving and grew together through it. We should be proud of our church and celebrate how well we have made it through such a difficult time.

We move into fall a little more sure-footed and excited as we welcome back Rev. Becky Turner for a part-time interim with us and look forward to the activities and future ahead. We have a few more months of transitional time, including the extra costs of finishing the termination period with Rev. Meyer, while we are investing in our future with the part-time help of Becky.

But there's a new energy in the air! Several people have taken this feeling of new energy as an opportunity to act on their ideas for the church like helping to plan the retreat or thinking about mission projects for the congregation.

I encourage everyone to think about what and how you can add to what we do at Christ Church. It could be something big like leading a new effort to connect to people in our neighborhood, or it could be something small like planting flowers, writing an email to a new visitor, or putting an extra couple of dollars in the offering plate every week. We all know (but need to be reminded sometimes!) that what we put into our church is directly related to what we get out of the church in great times, connecting with wonderful people, and in being a light to our surrounding community.

We have amazed ourselves this year, both with what we are capable of handling and what we are able to accomplish as a congregation. Let's continue to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps, hug each other often, and look forward to our bright future together!

Jennifer Elam, Council President

Dear Members and Friends of Christ Church,

I am delighted to have the opportunity to serve as your interim pastor for a short while. The plan right now is that I'll be with you through the end of the year. Because I'm doing this interim in addition to my full-time job as Executive Director of Faith Aloud, I'm asking for everyone's support throughout these next months. Christ Church is full of talented, committed people, and I know that together we can put the church on a solid path into the future.

On Sunday our service was about letting God surprise us with answers that come from new places. This is a perfect time for you to make a new commitment to service. Here are some ways you can help me during this interim:

- If you haven't been to church in awhile, please come back!
- Invite your friends and family and neighbors to join you.
- Volunteer to your church leaders for tasks that need to be done. There is a job that perfectly fits your talent and time.
- Keep me informed about pastoral care needs.
- Fill out a comment form every Sunday to share your ideas on how to make the church better.

The Maplewood community has come alive again, and we can be a part of that new vitality. Let's believe in ourselves. There is no end to what God can do with faithful people who are open to new life!

See you Sunday!



Rev. Rebecca Turner

Help Wanted: Needs/Dreams of Christ Church

This is a new column to list our ideas from the congregation for needed/dreamed of activities, repairs, and hopes for building up the church. These are currently just ideas. If you think any of these are something you can help get a team together to tackle or would like to be involved in, talk to others in the congregation about them and we'll see what we can accomplish together. Also be thinking of your own ideas and pass them along for next month's column. Some of these are ambitious, but hey, we're a lively congregation, if there's a desire to tackle them, we can do it!

- Create greater awareness and participation from entire congregation on shut-in and hospital stay visits. May need a coordinator, but the visitors should come from whole congregation.
- Start a maintenance group to meet once a month on a Saturday morning for coffee and donuts at the church. The group would analyze needs, prioritize projects (small or large) and perform the required work on the church needs.

Continued on p. 4

Dreams, continued from p. 3

- Set up a writing group to write/email visitors and members/friends we haven't seen in a while
- Monthly (or every other month) trips for congregation. To encourage more group activities for the church as a whole, plan monthly trips to local attractions or semi-local attractions (2 hours distant maximum).
- Hold a Bible Study, maybe twice a month, maybe weekly, early (6 or 7am) on a weekday morning. The goal is to allow those who work, and who are early morning folks, to attend. Topics might be open or directed... whatever works.
- Weekly/Monthly Mexican Train Domino nights for members and non-members in Dining Hall. This is a popular game that's fun and allows for conversation while playing.
- Add an Electronic sign in front of the church, if available for an affordable price, that would increase attention and be easier to change.
- Consider combining our youth with the youth of other nearby churches (UCC or other) in order to create activities involving a larger element than any individual church might attain on their own.
- Build a ramp to adjoin the Dining Hall to the hallway (by the downstairs men's bathroom).
- Set up a Prayer box on our corner to accept prayers from passers-by at Bruno and Bellevue. Appropriate prayer requests could be read at the services on Sunday (if desired by the requestor)

Memorial Fund Ideas

From time to time, one of our dear members pass away and there is some money donated or left in their will for a Memorial Gift in their name. The church does not always have a clear list of ideas of what would be of benefit to the church and yet be a fitting tribute to that person. As a result, these monies may be unspent on specific items for a year and then end up in the general Memorial Fund to be used on more general purposes of need.

This is the way the Memorial Fund has always worked, but we wanted to take this time to ask Congregational Members for input on ideas for Memorial Fund gifts. What is it that you see around the church that might be improved upon in some way with a potential gift? Are there things we could be purchasing that would end up generating more income for our church as well? What are your thoughts, good people? Contact Donna Ratkowski or Ron Gaus with your suggestions. Thanks so much for your help!

HERB KOPP/LES ROEDER/GUS KRAUSE MEMORIAL BOWL

The 19th Annual Fun Bowl was held Sunday, September 25 at Crestwood Bowl. We had 22 bowlers and many people who cheered us on. The winners' trophies and certificates will be handed out during coffee hour on October 2nd. The winners were:

Team High Three - 1829

Simba White, Linda White, Jennifer Elam, Ron Gaus and Stephanie Pfleeger

High Single Women

1st Place – Julie Sutfin 128
2nd Place – Jennifer Elam 107

Team High Single - 498

Steve Mueller, Matt Henroid, Amanda Henroid and Christy Burton

Pre-School

Age 2 – Allie Henroid - 2 games 158
Age 3 – Ian O'Neal - 3 games 239
Age 5 – Lilly Henroid - 2 games 158

High 3 Men

1st Place – Steve Mueller 409
2nd Place – Simba White 352

Grade School

Eric O'Neal – 2 games 145

High Single Men

1st Place – Matt Henroid 141
2nd Place – Lou Rose 134

Middle School

Boys High Three
Dylan Pitts 400

High 3 Women

1st Place – Stephanie Pfleeger 387
2nd Place – Amanda Henroid 334

Boys High Single

Kody Gaus 61

Girls High Three

Jessica Crites 224

Girls High Single

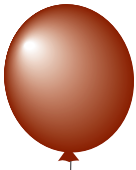
Alicia Talarski 74

We made a profit of \$1,035.00 (after paying bowling fees), which goes toward the maintenance fund of the church. **Because of the generosity of our many sponsors, in the 19 years we have been bowling we have contributed \$22,782.50 to the maintenance fund.** Thanks to everyone for making this such a fun event.

Janet O'Neal, Ron Gaus and Ginny Halloran

Prayer Requests for Prayer Chain

If there is a person that you would like to add to the Prayer Chain, please call LaVerne Albach at 314-845-1976 with all of your prayer requests. If you can't reach her after two tries, please call Carol Carvely at 314-966-0577 instead. If you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain, please let one of these wonderful ladies know! They will be happy to add you.



October Celebrations

Birthdays

Gary Finklang	10-02
Michael Burke	10-03
Loraine Hardt	10-07
Carolyn Bierwirth	10-10
Elizabeth Burton	10-10
Robert Siebert, III	10-14
Dave Coleman	10-15
Amy Chapleau	10-18
Betty Murphy	10-19
Lauren Newton	10-20
Amaya Gaus	10-21
Ruth Ann Ball	10-23
Kathryn Buchanan	10-23
Debbie Siebert	10-25

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

Senior Club Dinner

Please join us on
Thursday October 20th at 5 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall at Christ Church.
Join us for pot luck dinner
Everybody Welcome!

Open Studio Day at The Community Crafts Studio

- Please join us **Saturday, October 15**
- **from 9 am to noon** for the next Open
- Studio. Bring anything you're working on
- and hang out with us! Knitters, crocheters,
- stitchers, scrapbookers -- whatever
- you do -- ALL are welcome! Stay for an
- hour, stay for the morning.

• Cara Crocker & Amy Chapleau

- The Community Crafts Studio is located
- Christ Church, UCC (Second Floor),
- at the corner of Bellevue & Bruno in
- Maplewood, MO. Look for the signs!



Christ Church Monthly Lunch!

Thursday, October 13th at 11:30
Olive Garden
2351 Maplewood Commons Drive
Please RSVP! 314-644-3033

Christ Church 2nd Annual Fall Family Retreat To be held the weekend of October 21-23 at Camp MoVal

• Christ Church has reserved the Hilltop Cabin at Camp MoVal from Friday evening, October 21 to Sunday noon, October 23. We're planning this as a very relaxed event so you can arrive when you want and leave when you need to. Details of the agenda are still being finalized, but we promise it will be casual, comfortable, and accessible for all. All events on the agenda will be optional, but plans include a hayride and bonfire, as well as worship and spiritual study.

• Cost for the weekend is \$30 for housing plus \$8 per meal. We'll plan to arrive Friday night after dinner, or you can bring your own dinner with you if you like. So if you stay from Friday evening through Sunday lunch, the total cost for the weekend will be \$70 per person to cover housing plus five meals.

• Please contact Donna Ratkowski if you plan to attend, and let her know when you plan to arrive and leave, so we can get a final head count for each meal. Contact Donna at parksdk@charter.net or call her at 781-1356 to reserve your spot. And please let us know if you have any special diet restrictions or allergies that the kitchen staff needs to know about.

• This will be a great weekend of outdoor fun and fellowship, and we look forward to seeing you there. Please plan to join us!

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.

Food Panty

October & November

Detergents & Kleenex

Next SOCC's Meeting

October 27th 1:00pm

New Process Assisting Folks Through Emergency Action

At our last Church Council Meeting, the question was raised concerning how we should be handling emergency action requests, for money or food, from folks that drop by the church during the week. When a Pastor is present, he or she can speak with the individuals to try to determine the real need versus someone who may just be asking for a handout. It is not always an easy task to tell the difference and a Pastor will usually just make a gut decision on the real need of the individual. The other problem is that our church secretary is left to field these questions and that puts her in a vulnerable, and potentially dangerous situation with outsiders coming to the church.

Without a Pastor in the office all the time at this point in our church history, Ted West suggested a process that his agency uses for this purpose. It is a simple form that asks a few questions and identifies this person and their specific request. That form is then reviewed by a small committee on a quick basis and, depending upon how the form is answered, a decision is made. Most folks looking for a quick handout for the wrong reasons will immediately balk at this extra step and refuse to fill out the paperwork. That's okay. It helps determine real need. It is not foolproof, but it does help weed out the real needs from those that are not. The blank forms may be available in a box with a small sign next to it. The completed forms, sealed in a confidential pre-addressed envelope, could then be mailed to the church or dropped in the mail slot. Only the committee would see the completed forms to maintain privacy. Ted agreed to head the committee and Robyn Keough quickly added her name. A third volunteered by the end of the discussion.

The really encouraging thing about this is how quickly this solution was suggested and how quickly volunteers came forward to be on this review committee. This has been a problem within the church for many years and it has always fallen to the decision and time of the Pastor to make the determination. We are entering into a new area of independence within our church where we can take on some of these roles ourselves and allow more time for the Pastor to focus on areas that the congregation cannot. We become stronger and closer as a church through this process. Neat stuff.

Parish Nurse Notes:

Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

One of the many topics that will be presented during the 6-week NAMI Basics program that will be held in the city of St. Louis in mid-October will be ADHD in children. Exact dates, time, and location of the course will be given as soon as everything is finalized.

The following information regarding ADHD in children comes from the Mayo Clinic.

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a chronic condition that affects millions of children and often persists into adulthood. ADHD includes some combination of problems, such as difficulty sustaining attention, hyperactivity and impulsive behavior. Children with ADHD also may struggle with low self-esteem, troubled relationships and poor performance in school.

While treatment won't cure ADHD, it can help a great deal with symptoms. Treatment typically involves medications and behavioral interventions.

A diagnosis of ADHD can be scary, and symptoms can be a challenge for parents and children alike. However, treatment can make a big difference, and most children with ADHD grow up to be normal adults.

Most children who have ADHD have some combination of inattention and hyperactive-impulsive behavior. ADHD symptoms become more apparent during activities that require focused mental effort. In order to be diagnosed with ADHD, signs and symptoms of the disorder must appear the age of 7. In some children, signs of ADHD are noticeable as early as 2 or 3 years of age.

Signs and symptoms of inattention may include:

- * Often fails to pay close attention to details or makes careless mistakes in schoolwork or other activities.
- * Often has trouble sustaining attention during tasks or play.
- * Seems not to listen even when spoken to.
- * Has difficulty following through on instructions & often fails to finish schoolwork, chores or other tasks.
- * Often has problems organizing tasks or activities.
- * Avoids or dislikes tasks that require sustained mental effort, such as schoolwork or homework.
- * Frequently loses needed items such as books, pencils, toys or tools.
- * Can be easily distracted.
- * Often forgetful.

Signs and symptoms of hyperactivity and impulsive behavior may include:

- * Fidgets or squirms frequently
- * Often leaves his or her seat in the classroom or in other situations when remaining seated is expected.
- * Often runs or climbs excessively when it is not appropriate or, if an adolescent, might constantly feel restless.
- * Frequently has difficulty playing quietly
- * Always seems on the go
- * Talks excessively
- * Blurts out answers before questions have been completely asked
- * Frequently has difficulty waiting for his or her turn
- * Often interrupts or intrudes on other's conversations or games.

You may suspect your child's behavior is caused by ADHD if you notice consistently inattentive or hyperactive, impulsive behavior that:

- * Lasts more than six months
- * Occurs in more than just one setting (typically at home and at school)
- * Regularly disrupts school, play and other daily activities
- * Causes problems in relationships with adults and other children.

If you are concerned that your child is displaying signs of ADHD, such as trouble concentrating, difficulty sitting still, or inability to control his or her behavior, see your pediatrician or family doctor. Your doctor may refer you to a specialist, but it is important to have a medical evaluation first to check for other causes of your child's difficulties.

Project Peanut Butter Update

Last month, at one of our Mission Moments on Sunday morning, we heard a presentation about the Peanut Butter Project in Malawi and Sierra Leone in Africa. Children in that portion of the world suffer from one of the most alarming mortality rates on earth. Dr. Mark Manary, a Pediatrician at Washington University, who resides in Maplewood, initiated Project Peanut Butter. It is a food product, using peanut butter and some high nutrient additives, of great nutritional benefit to these children. In similar projects in Niger, for example, the mortality rate for children went from the highest in Africa to the lowest. Children receiving this formula have a 98% rate of survival after 6 months and with continued use, and remain at a 96% rate of survival at the end of a year. Mortality rates are 28% in Sierra Leone. The project involves local production, local training and as much self sufficiency as possible.

Read the letter of thanks we received from their organization due to our generous congregational donation last month on next page.

For further assistance to the children of this area, we can accumulate used clothing, age 0 to 6, to send to these children. If anyone has clothing they would like to donate, contact Robyn Keough. For most of us, this type of clothing does not exist in our homes. If still interested in participating (and for a fun morning or afternoon, as well), we would encourage a visit to the new Goodwill Outlet Store where the old Famous-Barr Warehouse was located next to Highway 64/40 at Vandeventer Blvd. (Vandeventer Exit). Clothing is sold by the pound for 39 cents. They also have items other than clothing that may be of interest.

Incidentally, if anyone has clothing or items to DONATE, Feed My People takes such items at 171 Kingston in Lemay (631-4900). This is a shameless plug for our member, and their employee, Ted West!

Church Humor

A man and his ever-nagging wife went on vacation in Jerusalem. While they were there, the wife passed away. The undertaker told the husband, "You can have her buried here in the Holy Land for \$150 or we can have her shipped back home for \$5000.

The husband thought about it and told the undertaker he would have her shipped back home. The undertaker asked him, "why would you spend \$5000 to have her shipped home when you could have a beautiful burial here, and it would only cost \$150?"

The husband replied, "Long ago, a man died here, was buried here, and three days later, rose from the dead. I Just can't take that chance!"

Thank You

A big thank you to Ron Gaus for everything he does for Christ Church!

**Thank you to Ginny Halloran, Janet O'Neal and Ron Gaus
for another successful Memorial Bowl!**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$ 293.46 to Project Peanut Butter (PPB). 100% of this tax-deductible donation goes towards feeding children in Somalia. Millions of children in Somalia are facing death due to starvation and your donation is helping save these lives. Project Peanut Butter sincerely thanks you for helping get ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) to children that need it.



Children in Somalia
Photo from guardian.co.uk

Project Peanut Butter, through home-based therapy with peanut-based ready-to-use therapeutic food, has improved the recovery rate of children suffering from severe-acute malnutrition from 25% to 90%. PPB operates a factory and clinic sites in Malawi, Sierra Leone, and soon to be Mali. The factory in Malawi is busy producing RUTF to meet local needs and to send to Somalia. In Sierra Leone, the factory team is preparing for an international inspection, and PPB is excited to begin work in Mali this fall.



PPB's factory in Malawi

Thank you for
supporting PPB,
Margo Stower
Project Peanut
Butter

Project Peanut Butter. Saving Futures. Saving Lives.

Welcome Emmaus Choir!

The remarkable choir from Emmaus Home — Marthasville, Missouri graces our sanctuary on Sunday, November 20, 2011, when we will enjoy a concert and joint service beginning at 10:00 am.

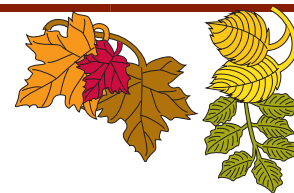
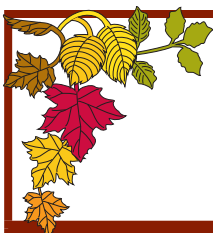
The Emmaus choir will sing six selections and we will hear the latest news from the Emmaus Home for adults with special needs. Everyone is invited to dine with our visitors at a potluck luncheon after the service.

We are luck to have secured this concert for the Emmaus choir boasts a backlog of bookings nearly a year long! Please spread the word and we will have a crowd to be proud of. Please call Tom Raber with any questions: (314) 308-5052.

August 2011

	Beg Bal.	Receipts	Disburs.	Transfer	Net Chg.	End Bal.
BUDGETED FUNDS						
Operating	-67,139.22	6,412.57	9,216.10		-2,803.53	-69,942.75
Contingency/Debt Reduction	22,094.35	100.00			100.00	22,194.34
Subtotal	-45,044.87	6,512.57	9,216.10	0.00	-2,703.53	-47,748.40
Maint. & Improvement	21,308.58	357.00	1,268.00		-911.00	20,397.58
Maint. & Improvement from PCF	33,164.66				0.00	33,164.66
Rental Properties	14,691.55	1,175.00	903.08		271.92	14,963.47
Benevolent	8,174.00	977.46			977.46	9,151.46
Total Budgeted Funds	32,293.92	9,022.03	11,387.18	0.00	-2,365.15	29,928.77
NON-BUDGETED FUNDS						
Memorial	445.00				0.00	445.00
Perpetual Care	0.00				0.00	0.00
Other Miscellaneous	7,843.81	771.16	290.00	0.00	481.16	8,324.97
Total Non-Budgeted Funds	8,288.81	771.16	290.00	0.00	481.16	8,769.97
GRAND TOTAL ALL FUNDS	40,582.73	9,793.19	11,677.18	0.00	-1,883.99	38,698.74

	RECEIPTS 2011	RECEIPTS 2010
JUNE	8463.07	7263.35
JULY	8708.93	10732.69
AUGUST	6412.57	9272.72
	<u>23584.57</u>	<u>27268.76</u>



October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Services Traditional 9:00 am Contemp Service 10:30 am	3	4	5 Choir Practice 7:15 pm Farmers Market 4 - 7 pm	6	7	8
9 Services Traditional 9:00 am Contemp Service 10:30 am	10	11 Garden Club 7 - 9 pm Fellowship Hall	12 Choir Practice 7:15 pm Farmers Market 4 - 7 pm	13 Church Lunch 11:30 am RSVP 644-3033 Council Meeting 7:00 pm	14	15 Open Studio 9 am to Noon
16 Services Traditional 9:00 am Contemp Service 10:30 am	17	18	19 Choir Practice 7:15 pm Farmers Market 4 - 7 pm	20 Senior Club 5:00 pm	21 All Church Re- treat at Camp MoVal	22 All Church Re- treat at Camp MoVal (Thru 23rd)
23 One Services 10:00 am (many folks will be at retreat)	24	25	26 Choir Practice 7:15 pm Farmers Market 4 - 7 pm	27 SOCC Meeting 1 pm	28	29
30 Services Traditional 9:00 am Contemp Service 10:30 am	31					

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,

