

VISIONS

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. Because Jesus has taught us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves we invite people of every race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, marital status, economic circumstance, and physical and mental ability into the worship, rites and sacraments, fellowship, and leadership of our church.

MARKINGS: "A Pathway to Faith"

What is a labyrinth? It is a path for prayer that leads from yearning towards joy, meaning, hope, and peace. While it can be used for personal explorations, it also invites communal participation. What is planted here flowers in the gardens of our lives. Whether perplexed, overjoyed, confused, hopeful, hurt distraught, happy or simply curious, as we pray, God meets us here.

-Jill K.H. Geoffrion



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For more than a dozen years walking the labyrinth at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine has been a part of our confirmation class trip to New York. For a fairly left-brained person like me the labyrinth can seem like foreign territory. What's the point? How does it work? But there's a mystical quality that defies description. It is more easily experienced than explained.

A labyrinth is an ancient spiritual and meditative tool that has been in use by Christians since at least the 4th century. Some confuse it with a maze, the twisting path with multiple dead-ends and wrong turns, but a labyrinth is a single path with no choices. The point is not to get lost or get fooled. Instead, it offers an opportunity to step away from those things that hinder your relationship with God. It is a place to have a conversation with God about things that matter to you. You can repeat a word of scripture, a line from a hymn or song, a simple prayer and listen how those words take on new meaning as you move along the path. You can simply try to set aside the words vying for your attention and listen. Through the centuries the labyrinth has served as a metaphor

(Continued on page 2)

Green Day: "Renewable Resources"

Sunday, April 19

During the Sunday School hour

In the Social Room

Presenting:

~Compost Columns Using Soda Bottles

by the Truth Seekers

~Sustainable Gardening

by the Downstairs Discussion Group

~Trash Cans Converted into Rain Barrels

by the Bible Explorers

If you are interested in setting up an activity station or display or would like to help, please contact Kim Hughes at 301.834.3869.

Let's help Christ Reformed go Green!

(see Page 5 for more information)

2 liter soda bottles are still needed to make Compost Columns



GREEN DAY
"Renewable Resources"

MARKINGS: *cont'd*: “A Pathway to Faith”

and a vehicle for reflecting on the journey toward God, the journey through the life, following Jesus and walking with God. Its twists and turns reflect the path our lives take. There is no “right” way to travel the labyrinth.

Lent is a season that has a special connection to the journey theme. The scriptures of the season recall Jesus’ movement from his call to his death and resurrection. They remember the disciples’ halting attempts to understand and live out the message Jesus preached. They beg the question of where we have heard Jesus and where we have denied him. Where we have displayed courageous faith and where we have hoped the darkness would cover our sins. Where we are entombed and where hope is being resurrected in our lives.

On Maundy Thursday, April 9, we’ll near the conclusion of the Lenten journey as we recall Jesus’ last supper with his disciples and the deepening shadows of his crucifixion the next day. That night you are invited to join other members and friends of Christ Reformed UCC in our Chapel to remember the last days of Jesus’ life, to share communion, and to walk a labyrinth. You do not need to walk the labyrinth in order to participate in worship that evening, but the invitation is there.

The Psalmist says “*You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy.*” Walking the labyrinth’s path on Maundy Thursday may those words find a new meaning for you.

~Mark

Notes

March Consistory Meeting Highlights

- There is currently a balance of \$19,755.66 in the General Fund as compared to \$20,944.69 at the same time last year.
- Total income for the current month was \$25,838.63 up from \$24,006.77 at the same time last year.
- Mark reported that Advocates for the Homeless is having a hard time financially. They didn’t know when they would be able to put a family in the Weagly House.
- Our Congregation is slated to be participating in US Congregational Life Survey. We also participated in 2001.
- Mark proposed we purchase our own portable Labyrinth. After much discussion, all were in favor to go ahead with the purchase.
- Some members met on Saturday, March 7, 2009 for a Strategic Planning Meeting with Bob Galey. Another meeting will be held in the near future to continue the Strategic Planning.
- The Property Board has been discussing the restoration of the stained glass window and has been meeting with several companies for information and prices.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE—March

	8:15 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
March 1	78	83
March 8	49	152
March 15	56	125
March 22	65	177
March 29	56	141
Average March Attendance	— 196	
Average 2009 Attendance to date	— 199	

Easter Sunrise Service

Parish Life is busy planning for our Easter Sunrise Continental Breakfast, which will be held after the Sunrise Service. We will be serving bagels, muffins, fruit, juice and coffee. **Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex** if you are planning on joining us.

See you bright and early Easter Morning!

Coffee Hour Hosts—April

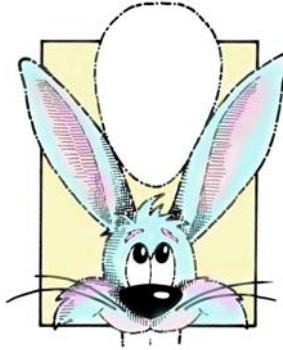
April 5	Mentors of Confirmands & Christian Education Board
April 12	Mike & Lisa Remsberg
April 19	Tim & Lesa Cook & Evangelism Board
April 26	Terry & Shelley Boykin

Events and Activities

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4th - 2:00-3:30 pm

Parish Life will once again be hosting the Church's Annual Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 4th between 2:00 and 3:30 pm**. We will have age-appropriate egg hunts, Easter egg coloring, crafts, cupcakes to decorate and eat, and lots more. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you are planning on attending, so we will have a count in order to prepare for the Hunt.



A Women's Night Out

Save the date

Our annual gathering of mothers, daughters, aunts and sisters will take place on Wednesday evening, May 6. You're invited to save that date for a delicious meal, basket bingo and a chance to connect with new and old friends. Proceeds from the evening will benefit Heartly House which works with victims of domestic violence in Frederick County.

Egg Hunt — Egg Coloring — Crafts — Easter Snacks



April Basket Classes

This month we are making a Small Marketing or Gathering Basket. This is a sturdy 10" x 10" basket with handle and a woven and filled base. It can be done in all natural reed or color may be added as shown in the picture.

Classes will be held on Tuesday, April 21st at 6:30 p.m., and Tuesday, April 28th at 12:30 p.m. Cost for the basket is \$14.00. New members are always welcome. Add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Any questions, please contact Diana Corl at 301.371.7737 or Gail Johnson at 301.371.6610.

Weaving Ministry News

Weaving Ministries will meet **Monday, April 6 and May 4**, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Parish House. If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, please come join us -- guests are always welcome! Questions can be emailed to wmcrucc@aol.com or you may call Kathie at 301-662-4793.

Youth Yard Sale

May 9th 8:30am-2:30pm

**Time to clean out those closets,
its yard sale season!**

**Any items you would be willing to
donate to the youth can be
brought to the church garage
any time after April 26th.**

(See Page 5 for youth info)



Youth Yard Sale

All-Seasons —Book Club Schedule

The Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, April 22 at 7PM** in the Parish House to discuss The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski. Born mute, Edgar Sawtelle grows up happy on a farm turned dog breeding and training kennel with his parents. Then, in an injection of Hamlet that one can almost map out, the Sawtelle dream is poisoned. This debut novel is already the latest Oprah Book Club pick.

Event and Activities



30 Hour Famine: April 10th -11th

Good Friday & Holy Saturday

The high school youth will once again participate in the 30 Hour Famine in an effort to raise money for hungry children around the world. We will meet at the church on Friday, April 10 at 12:00 noon. We will enjoy one meal together before we begin our fast. We will fast from Friday at 1:00pm until Saturday, at 7pm. Our group will end our 30 Hour Famine together at 5:00pm, as this is when youth will need to be picked up. The youth will be required to finish the fast on their own. Donations should be collected and turned in by Saturday, April 11th. This event is a Famine, NOT a youth lock-in. We hope to have many youth participate but it is important that you plan to attend from the beginning to the end, as well as collect donations. Any youth who may have difficulty getting to the church by 12:00pm should speak with Tanya about alternate transportation. Please sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend, a collection envelope will be given to those who sign up. Call Tanya Montgomery for more information.

Church Directory

New Faces, Updates & Corrections

- Did you miss having your photo or name & address listing in the New Church Directory?
- Would you like to make a correction to or update your current listing?

If you would like to have your photo taken, a photographer from our congregation will be available on Sunday, April 5, 12 & 19 after late service. Please call the church office to schedule.

You may submit your name & address additions, updates or corrections to sarahlpetermann@comcast.net, or call the church office at 301.371.6610.

Your information is needed by April 30. After all additions, updates, corrections and new photos have been gathered and compiled, a supplement/insert for your directory will be mailed to you.

The Church Softball Team Needs You!

The Church Softball Team is ready to sign-up players for 2009! Contact Craig Zecher at 301-834-6848 or the1andonlymeat@aol.com or sign-up on the narthex board.

New Book Group

Are you a fan of Annie Lamott? Barbara Brown Taylor? Brian MacLaren? Kathleen Norris? These writers are among a large group of very good writers of spiritual non-fiction. They use their own lives and experiences to journey toward a deeper understanding of God with humor, honesty and wisdom.

A new book group at CRUCC called Sojourners is going to gather Friday, April 17, at 7:00 p.m to choose some authors and titles they would like to explore. They will meet at the home of Janet Lawler Heavner, 16 Gray Fox Court in Middletown. For more information contact Janet at jlawlerheavner@aol.com.

Visions Newsletter by E-mail

Many congregation members are receiving their monthly Visions via e-mail. If you would like to receive the Visions Newsletter by e-mail, please send an e-mail to sarahlpetermann@comcast.net

Please specify if you would like to stop receiving your snail mail (paper) copy or would prefer to receive both e-mail and paper.



Christ Church Children's Center News

March was a busy month with parent/teacher conferences and preparation for our pre-validation visit. We have an addition to Mrs. Stacey's and Mrs. Lori's two and three year old class with a furry brown hamster the children named "Loopie." Mrs. Serenity's class also plans to get a small critter in the next few weeks. April brings visits to Harley Farm in Middletown, owned by Elaine and Peter Murray, to see horses, chickens, and cashmere goats. The Center continues to prepare for MSDE validation this May.

C.C.C.C. will be closed on Fri., April 10 for the Easter holiday.

Christian Education News

Pat Joy, Director of Christian Education



During the 10:30 am Service

Children's Church

Sunday, April 5, 12, 19

PSTOO! Children's Dramatic Worship

Sunday, April 26

Virtue for April:

C-O-N-V-I-C-T-I-O-N

Standing for What is Right Even When Others Don't

Green Day is Coming Sunday, April 19

The Truth Seekers, Bible Explorers and Downstairs Discussion Group Adult Sunday School Classes are joining the Christian Education Board in presenting the First Annual Green Day on Sunday, April 19, during the Sunday School hour. In previous years, the CE Board sponsored "Science Day", which after last year's theme of "Going Green for God" evolved into "Green Day". The CE Board and the aforementioned Adult Sunday School classes are excited to be setting up stations with information about Renewable Resources. Among the stations being presented are: Compost Columns Using Soda Bottles by the Truth Seekers; Sustainable Gardening by the Downstairs Discussion Group; and Trash Cans Converted into Rain Barrels by the Bible Explorers. Please mark April 19 on your calendars and plan on coming to learn interesting and fun facts about Renewable Resources during our Green Day Event, where there will be something for EVERYONE.

(See article on front page)



Camp E.D.G.E. is Coming!

Monday, July 13—Friday, July 17

9:30 a.m. to 12 Noon

Mark your calendars now for

Camp E.D.G.E.

(Experience and Discover God Everywhere)

WATCH for more information in the upcoming issues of Visions.

What is the Christian Education Board up to?

You probably noticed that there are some changes in a couple of the more traditional events that the CE Board sponsors, such as Science Day becoming Green Day and Vacation Bible School happening during July in the mornings, but that's not all!

Pat Joy and Michelle Beadle will be meeting with Ricardo Valdez, Director of Faith Formation with Holy Family Catholic Community to discuss teaming up for Vacation Bible School. The traditional last Sunday in August for Promotion Sunday is being changed to Sunday, June 7 with hopes that the children will start their summer with anticipation of the upcoming year. Under the leadership of CE Chairperson, Jean Galey, the Board has also made note of areas in the Sunday School building that need sprucing up and Jean has already started addressing some of them. So keep a look out for posters in the hallways and curtains in the Sunday School rooms as the Board strives to make our Sunday School Program more inviting and our class rooms a place everyone will want to be. Anyone with suggestions or who would like to help with beautification is encouraged to contact Jean Galey or Pat Joy.

The Bible Explorers Sunday School Class will be Sunday School Fellowship Greeters for the month of April & Host Cookie Sunday on Sunday, April 12



May 9, 2009 Youth Yard Sale

The youth will have their annual yard sale from 8:30am-2:30pm. Youth should plan to arrive at 7:30am to begin setting up tables. The funds raised from the yard sale will be going toward the cost of the Creation festival. If you plan to attend the festival, you will need to help with the yard sale.

April Nursery Volunteers

April 5	Tim & Lesa Cook
April 9	Maundy Thursday/ Volunteers Needed
April 12	Michelle Beadle
April 19	Beth Mummert
April 26	Mary Johnson



Congregation News



Catherine "Cathy" Stull moved to Frederick County from Montgomery County in 1990, where she spent her teenage years. Her family originally came from Peoria, Illinois. Cathy and her youngest daughter, Jennifer, purchased their home together a few years ago as her daughter began at Hood College, and they enjoy the special challenges of a two-generation household.

Cathy is the Volunteer Director for Homewood at Crumland Farms. She says she is blessed to be able to direct the activities of about 325 volunteers, loves her job, and it never seems like work to her. Cathy loves to work in her yard and garden. Much of her leisure time is spent at her mountain cabin which is located about two hours from Frederick. She particularly enjoys the serenity there where she can read and study. She also finds much joy in cooking and entertaining with her friends.

Cathy comes to us by letter of transfer from the Unity Church of Frederick. She has expressed her gratefulness for the warm and loving way she has been welcomed into the spiritual family at Christ Reformed.

Welcome, Cathy!



Welcome
Our New
Members

Robert and Lynette Kaufmann have lived in the Frederick area for quite some time, Bob hailing from Wisconsin in the 1970s, and Lynette being born in Pennsylvania, and having lived in Georgia, North Carolina, Kentucky and Greenbelt, Maryland, and coming to this area in 1989.

Bob has three children, all girls, and four grandchildren. Lynette has two children, a boy and girl, and one grandchild, Ethen O'Brien, who is currently living with them. Bob is a physician here in Frederick and practices internal medicine and endocrinology with Internal Medicine Associates. Bob loves tennis and is working on his Master's degree in German. Lynette is a Registered Respiratory Therapist and works for SleepMed, Inc. They rescue golden retrievers through GRREAT and foster dogs until they find homes. Bob and Lynette have six dogs of their own, two horses, a donkey, a goat and three cats. They keep them on their toes!



Bob will be transferring his membership from the Lutheran Church in Frederick and Lynette is joining by affirmation of faith. Bob and Lynette say they feel at home in this church and are looking forward to becoming involved as much as possible with activities.

Welcome, Bob and Lynette!



Terry and Gloria Tasker live on Westchester Court in Middletown. They have lived in Middletown for 30 years, but grew up in Western Maryland. Terry and Gloria's son, Chad and daughter-in-law, Windy, and grandsons, Travis and Tyler Tasker are members of Christ Reformed. They also have a daughter, Jodi, son-in-law, Steve, and granddaughter, Xylea Keyfauber.

Terry is retired from the Montgomery County Public Schools, and Gloria has retired from a career in the mortgage field. They both enjoy gardening and spending time with their three grandchildren.

Terry and Gloria join us by confirmation of faith.

Welcome, Terry and Gloria.

Around the Congregation

Dear Christ Reformed Friends,

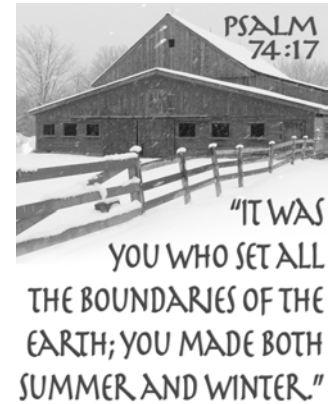
The family of Beverly Stork would like express our sincere appreciation for all the kindness everyone has shown during mom's illness. The outpouring of love, support and inspiration touched her heart dearly. She loved receiving the cards, visits and hats. It kept her spirits up during her difficult times. We appreciate all the prayers and food everyone provided for the family as well. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

We are so grateful for all you have done since she has passed. We find healing in knowing others truly care and will always remember our wife/mother 'Bevy'!

The service was beyond beautiful and it was all because of the church members who made it so special.

~Thank you so much and God Bless,
Dick, Karen, Terri and Michelle

Freezin' for a Reason raised \$1,420 for the Colon Cancer Alliance in memory of Bev Stork. Thank you to all of the Youth, Parents and other Adults who participated in the event. A very special thank you to Bev Stork's family for preparing breakfast for Freezin' for a Reason participants the next morning. Thank you to everyone for their generous and giving spirits.



To My Church Family,

Sincere thanks to Carol & Matt Anticevich for the surprise Birthday Party after Sunday School on Sunday 3/29. It was very unexpected and greatly appreciated.

Thank you to everyone for the cards and food sent to me over the past many weeks. It all means so much.

- May God Bless You,
Eleanor Bidle

Congratulations!

Nicholas Coccagna will receive his pin and badge for completion of the Cub Scout "God and Me" Project on March 29 at the Montgomery Methodist Church in Damascus with his cub scout pack. He is a member of Cub Scout Pack 169 at Green Valley Elementary School (4th Grade).

From Rev. & Mrs. George Klinefelter:

A Committal Service for their daughter, Mary Jo, will be held on April 29th at 11am at Maple Grove Cemetery, Bluffton, Ohio. Her body was donated to the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and her remains are ready for committal. This is also the site of Gregory Klinefelter's internment.

Welcome!

New Members: Robert & Lynette Kaufman, Catherine Stull, and Terry & Gloria Tasker joined our congregation on Sunday, March 29, 2009

Baptisms: Tyrone Darnell Weedon III, son of Tyrone & Rachael Weedon was baptized on Sunday, March 22, 2009.

Just a quick shout out to Ms. Terry Sparks, Alden Sparks, David vom Lehn, Aaron Esworthy, Robby Tuerker, and Scott, Mykenzie and Jaxxon Montgomery for all chipping in to clean the high school room. Walls were washed down, rugs and furniture were steam cleaned and all cabinets and shelves were cleaned out. The room looks better than ever. Thanks for all your help!

~Tanya



News from Laura Schultz: The following is "Adventure of Today"-# 11, following Laura Schultz, who grew up in our church and is now a Missionary Associate through the Assemblies of God to N.E. Africa:

Many friends have asked us about how Laura is doing over the past weeks and months as she continues her mission work in Sudan. She is happily being challenged! Recently she wrote:

"In late August I had kind of a strange chance meeting with a woman here on a prayer campaign. Through that encounter I felt like the Lord clearly challenged my thoughts about how things were going to go this year, especially with my excess time. The question posed to me was 'Is it a waste of time if I have you wait before me?' of course as many of us would I think say 'of course not Lord'. I had many thoughts about how this year was going to go....even plans. Many plans, thoughts and aspirations have been put aside. I cling to the things I know: 1) Jesus is supreme and the one I cling to. 2) I continue to know that this is a place I will be planted for as long as He wills. 3) His sheep know His voice. While I know little about the future, but continue to seek answers. I revel in my time and fellowship with the Lord. In this dry and barren land one has to cling tightly."

Please continue to pray for her and her team; pray for a spirit of peace, safety and contentment.

~Kathy and Steve Schultz – Laura's parents

P.S. Laura's birthday was March 31! You can e-mail her at laura@pactec.org or visit www.nilevalleyacademy.com to find out more about her work and relationships.



Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 5: Palm Sunday – 8:15 & 10:30 am Service

During the 10:30 am Service, the 2009 Confirmation Class will be affirming their faith through confirmation.

Palms will be distributed to the congregation.

Following the service, there will be a Special Coffee Hour honoring the Confirmands.

Thursday, April 9: Maundy Thursday—7:00 pm Service

We'll remember Jesus' journey to the cross and our own journey toward Jesus on Maundy Thursday as we recall the events of the Last Supper, share communion, journey through a labyrinth in the Chapel, and be witnesses to the falling darkness that leads to Good Friday.

Friday, April 10: Good Friday

On Friday our sanctuary will be open for personal prayer and reflection. We will also have the labyrinth available in the chapel between noon and 3:00 p.m.

Church office will be closed.

Sunday, April 12: Easter Sunday

6:30 am — Easter Sunrise Service at the lake in the Middletown County Park off Coblenz Road. **Continental Breakfast** will be served in the Coffee Hour area following the Sunrise Service.

8:15 & 10:30 am — Worship & Communion

9:15 am — Sunday School Classes for All Ages



**CHRIST REFORMED
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
Rev. Mark Wakefield, Pastor

Contemporary Worship
8:15 a.m.

Church School for All Ages
9:15 a.m.

Worship
10:30 a.m.

Coffee Hour following Worship

P.O. Box 333
12 South Church Street
Middletown, Maryland 21769

Church Office
Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
301-371-6610
Fax: 301-371-6912

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www.christreformeducc.org

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Equipping people to love God through the community of faith.
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6:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Monday – Friday