



Volume XXVI,
Number 10
October 2010

Christ Reformed United Church of Christ
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.*

Michelle's Musings: "That My House May Be Full"



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In Luke 14:15-24 we hear the story of the man who plans a great banquet, and when the time comes he instructs his servants to go and tell everyone who was invited that the feast is ready. But the servants report back that some who were invited are making excuses not to come, all of whom seem to be doing OK for themselves having either just bought land or oxen or just gotten married. When the master of the house hears this, he instructs his servants to go out and be sure to personally let the "poor, and maimed and blind and lame" know that everything is ready. And much to his delight, he is told that his servants have already done so: "Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room." In response, the master tells his servants to extend the open invitation to the fringes of society, to the highways and hedges, so that his house may be filled.

In a quick reading of this passage, it may seem as though the "poor, and maimed and blind and lame" were not invited until the others rejected the offer. But a slower reading reveals this isn't the case. They had already been invited; otherwise the servants would not have ensured they were there even before the master of the house asked about them.

Throughout the month of October, we will be exploring the blessings of disabilities ministry. At its heart, disabilities ministry is not about extending a new invitation to those who were not invited before. It's about intentionally living out the invitation that has already been extended, from

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Raise the Star! is Given the Go Ahead!

At a congregational meeting between worship services on September 26th, our membership voted to move ahead on all four of the proposals placed before it.

- To contract with Bruchey Builders to do the restoration of the portions of our sanctuary damaged by the March fire. The \$282,300 cost of this work will be largely covered by our insurance. There are a few contingency items included, such as unforeseen electrical, flooring and HVAC work, that may be the responsibility of the congregation.
- To perform a number of additional repair items suggested by the fire marshall, the congregation and the Property Board. The \$72,888 cost will be paid for by the congregation. An outline of these items is available from the church office.
- To change the floor covering in the sanctuary to include hardwood under the pews and in the chancel/altar areas. The \$29,967 cost of this item will be paid for by the congregation.
- To contract with Schantz Organ Company to remove the pipe organ and begin its restoration. The bid from Schantz is for \$229,900 and we are still negotiating with the Insurance Board to determine how much of that cost will be covered by them. Our hope is that they will give us approximately \$209,000 toward the cost of the restoration. The costs over and above the insurance reimbursement will be covered by the congregation.



(Continued on page 3)

the beginning, by God to all people. And it's an invitation not just to passively sit and watch the feast, but to participate in the celebration: to have one's Spirit fed, to enjoy fellowship, and to contribute to the Body as one is able.

We are the servants in the story from Luke, charged to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19), to uphold and celebrate the inherent dignity of all those whom God has gifted with the Divine image and knitted together in the womb (Ps. 139), to humbly consider the needs of others (Phil. 2:3-4), and not to hinder the approach of any of God's children, especially those in special need of his holy touch and words of peace (Matt. 19:13-15).

We are a blessed people, privileged with a faith that assures us of God's personal love and care, and with that privilege comes a great responsibility. It is not our place to discern who God does or does not insist be at our table: the answer is and always has been 'everyone.' As we learn in the scripture from Luke, God's great desire is that his house be full, and there is always room for more. Our job is not to wait for people to find their way from the "highways and hedges," but to go and get them, invite them in, and make sure they feel welcome, especially those who might otherwise not trust in the invitation.

Many individuals and families impacted by disabilities have had negative experiences with church, having been turned away by lack of access or understanding. Many others wrestle with significant barriers before they even reach the doors, be they transportation or family stress and conflict. For the love of such as these, our support for a healthy and thriving disabilities ministry is not an option; it is an imperative.

We at Christ Reformed have already taken many steps to encourage the participation of those with disabilities and to support their loved ones. But there is much work left to be done. Only 47% of adults with disabilities report visiting church at least once a month compared to 65% of those without disabilities. God's house is not yet full, and we already know where to look for those in need of a personal invitation. For some, the challenge of ensuring that our church is physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually accessible to all may seem overwhelming, but we are assured that our attitude of abundance will enrich the Body in ways we can't begin to imagine, for "no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor heart of man conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor. 2:9).

~ Michelle

Staggering Stats

- ◆ There are 54 million people with disabilities in the U.S. (that's 1 in 5); 26 million have a severe disability
- ◆ 1.6 million Americans use wheelchairs; 6.6 million Americans use canes or walkers
- ◆ Over 34 million Americans have a hearing impairment; over 8 million have visual impairments
- ◆ 75% of adults with disabilities are not gainfully employed
- ◆ 1 in 91 children are being diagnosed with Autism
- ◆ 4.7 million children have AD/HD
- ◆ 5.4 million children receive special education
- ◆ 1 in 800 children have Down syndrome
- ◆ The divorce rate for families with a child with a disability is 80%

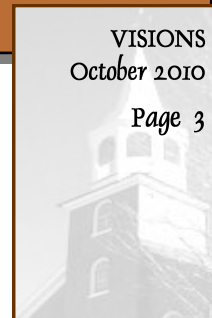


A Snapshot of Disabilities

A disability is a condition that limits a person's ability to function in what is generally considered "normative" activities in their society without modifications/accommodations. Some people have multiple disabilities.

Categories of disability may include:

- ◆ Autism Spectrum Disorders (Neurologically based, ex: Autism, Asperger's Syndrome, PDD)
- ◆ Emotional and Behavioral Disorders (Chemical imbalance, ex: AD/HD, bi-polar disorder, depression)
- ◆ Physical Disabilities (Affecting mobility and movement to varying degrees)
- ◆ Speech and Language Impairments (Difficulties with expressive speech)
- ◆ Developmental-Cognitive Disabilities (Prevent a child from growing into independence)
- ◆ Visual and Hearing Impairments (Conditions that prevent full use of the senses)
- ◆ Learning Disabilities (Conditions/disorders that inhibit learning using 'traditional' methods and so require modifications)
- ◆ Other Special Needs/Considerations (Epilepsy, environmental intolerances, etc.)



Sanctuary Restoration Teams & Leaders

Structure

Bill Falconer, Team Leader

Contents

Diana Corl, Team Leader

Finance

Bob Galey, Team Leader

Communications

Denise Coleman, Team Leader

Volunteers

Judy Brandenburg & Sharon Thomas,
Team Leaders

We hope that the physical work on our buildings can begin very soon. Bruchey has estimated that their work will take approximately three months. The organ restoration will likely take until the middle of 2011.

In the near future, the Fire Restoration Team will be looking into a suggestion from Sunday's meeting to replace the full sanctuary roof and not just the side damaged during the fire, the addition of audio/visual resources in the sanctuary, and the possibility of the expansion of the organ. Any action on these items will come before the congregation for discussion and a vote.

The Fire Restoration Team and the Consistory are grateful for the input and support of the congregation. You are encouraged to contact them with thoughts and concerns.

Notes

Guest Pastor Visiting

Thomas Vesterling, a pastor in the Evangelical Church of Middle Germany, arrives in the U.S. in early September. He's coming to spend a year in our country learning how churches function here. He will spend the first two months working with a UCC church in Washington, DC. Around the beginning of November, he'll come to Middletown to begin a three month stay with us. While here, he will help in all parts of our church's program. He is quite fluent in English, so will be able to work in worship, education, fellowship and mission interpretation.

The EKM will pay Thomas' salary while here, but we'll need to arrange for housing while at CRUCC. Several people have already offered to house Thomas for a couple of weeks at a time. If you might be willing to provide a room for Thomas for part of the stay, please contact Debbie in the church office or speak to Mark.

Growing Project Update

Thanks to everyone who has supported the 2010 Growing Project. In partnership with seven churches and the Foods Resource Bank, the Growing Project helps impoverished people around the world become self-sustaining. The funds raised this year are going to support a Malawian community.

There are still 15 acres available for sponsorship, - the cost for one acre is \$250; for one-half acre, \$125; and for one-quarter acre, \$62.50. You may partner with another sponsor or sponsors for the sponsorships below one acre. See Insert for details of the upcoming Harvest Celebration scheduled for October 24th.

Children's Center News

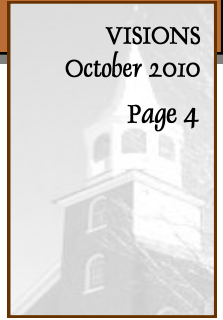
The Center started the 2010/2011 school year with a healthy 95 children enrolled. We are fortunate to be doing as well as we are with the economy in the state that it is. Our three preschool classes are close to maximum capacity and we now have 4 two year olds enrolled full time. The Center participated, once again, in the Heritage Parade with staff, children and parents in a hay wagon pulled by a Holland tractor. October brings preschool visits to Jumbo's Pumpkin Patch off Holter Road and visits to Middletown Fire Hall during safety month. These two field trips are very popular with the children and all children including, school-agers, visit the Fire Hall.

~Louisa Potts, Director

The "Apple Dumpling Gang" Bakes Again!!

We have rounded up the 'Apple Dumpling Gang!' They will be baking those "**Best in the Valley**" apple dumplings on **Tuesday, November 2**. These are the candidates you really want to vote for on Election Day. Order 1, 2, 4 or 6 or more dumplings for a tasty dessert or an oversized snack. Cost is still \$3.50 each. An order form is on the bulletin board in the narthex or call the Church Office: 301-371-6610. Last day to order is Sunday, October 31. Orders may be picked up after 12 noon on Nov. 2. Pick-up only, please! Proceeds will go to the Fire Restoration Fund.

If you would like to join 'The Gang,' just come to the social Room at 8:00 a.m. on November 2. Bring your rolling pin!



This month in Children's Church, we are learning about

INITIATIVE – seeing what needs to be done and doing it!

Memory Verse: "None of you should look out just for your own good. You should also look out for the good of others."

(Philippians 2:4, NIrV)



Week 1: October 3rd

Bible Story: Get a Clue?
(Nehemiah hears about the wall)
Nehemiah 1

Bottom Line: When there's a job to be done, first you have to see it.

For Discussion:
How have you taken initiative lately?
What are 3 things you can do to take initiative this week?

Week 2: October 10th

Bible Story: Someone's Gotta Do It (Nehemiah goes to Jerusalem)
Nehemiah 2:1-9, 11-18

Bottom Line: When there's a job to be done, don't wait for someone else to do it.

For Discussion: Do you know anyone with a lot of initiative, someone who always seems to get the job done? Describe that person.

Week 3: October 17th

Bible Story: Crime Seen (Nehemiah helps the poor)
Nehemiah 5:1-12

Bottom Line: When there are people in need, don't wait for someone else to help them.

For Discussion: Whom can you help this week? ...in your family ...a friend ...at school

Week 4: October 24th

Bible Story: Seeing is Believing (The wall is rebuilt) *Nehemiah 6:15-16; 8:1-3a, 17b*

Bottom Line: When you've done what YOU can do, trust God to do what HE can do.

For Discussion: Have you finished a "job" lately that was tough or that gave you a sense of pride?
...thank God for His help with the job ...tell someone about it

Week 5: October 31st

Bible Story: Look Who's Talking (Philip and the Ethiopian)
Acts 8: 26-29

Bottom Line: If someone asks what you believe, what will you say?

For Discussion: You can tell people about Jesus with words.
How can you "tell" them with actions?
What actions could tell someone about Jesus?



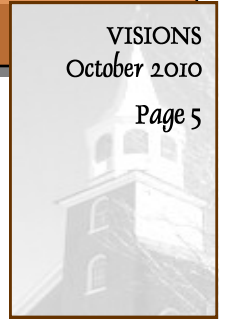
**Church Attendance
September 2010**

	8:15 am	10:30 am
September 5	63	104
September 12	74	115
September 19	63	127
September 26	70	116
September Average — 183		
2010 Average — 184		

Memorials

Bessie Mildred Brown died on August 29, 2010. A service celebrating her life was held on September 2nd.

Richard A. "Rick" Kinna died on September 7, 2010. A service celebrating his life was held on September 11th.



Middle School Helpers

October 3	Thomas Corl
October 10	Taylor Long
October 17	Trevor McClure
October 24	Olivia Remsberg
October 31	Clark Zecher

Layreaders

October 3	Disability Ministries Group
October 10	Disability Ministries Group
October 17	Disability Ministries Group
October 24	Disability Ministries Group
October 31	Disability Ministries Group

Coffee Hour Hosts

October 3	Chris & Gail Johnson
October 10	Bob & Lynette Kaufmann
October 17	Mickey & Shirley Keller
October 24	Ed & Anita Link
October 31	Mike & Lisa Remsberg

Nursery Volunteers

October 3	Barbara Ohler
October 10	Pat Wiles
October 17	Renee Huffer
October 24	Renee Weston
October 31	Nancy vom Lehn

Ushers

October 3	Team 5
October 10	Team 6
October 17	Team 1
October 24	Team 2
October 31	Team 3

Sound Technicians

October 3	Nick Fink
October 10	Matt Anticevich
October 17	Tony Verdi
October 24	Luke Verdi
October 31	Chris Johnson

Thank You Notes

Dear Members & Friends,
I would like to thank everyone for the visits and positive support during Bob's recent surgery and hospitalization.

~Leah MacMillan

Dear Friends,
Thank you all for the prayers, kind words and well wishes at our loss of my mother. It is the love and support we receive from others that help us through these times. Again, thank you all so much.

~Kind Regards, David & Kathy Cutler and family

Dear Members & Friends,
Your many prayers and cards have contributed greatly to my recovery from heart surgery. I am doing amazingly well—I am blessed beyond measure. Thanks so very much.



Thanks

Dear Members & Friends,
I would like to thank you, during my recent surgery and recovery, for your prayers, visits, telephone calls, and the food sent to my home. I especially want to thank the members of the Call to Care Ministry, Rev. Mark Wakefield for his visits in the hospital, and Rev. Beadle for her thoughtfulness. To everyone...thank you for the deep comfort you gave me as you reached out in my time of need.

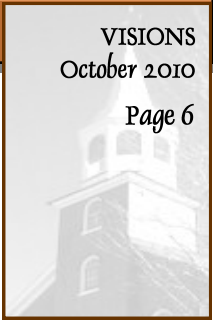
~Walter L. Coblentz

~Terry Foor

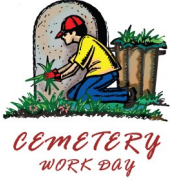
Middletown Heritage Days Results

Thanks to all who helped out and made Heritage Days a success for the church. It was heart warming to see so many folks pitching in, either in the kitchen, at the bake table, selling crafts and quilt tickets, tending the Moon Bounce, handing out popcorn and water, and last but not least lending a helping hand to clean up at day's end. And, a really special thanks to Richard and Joyce Kefauver, who have been working behind the scenes preparing food and shopping for our lunch.

As a result of all your hard work, crafts was able to raise \$255, the bake table raised \$694.50, the Quilt Raffle raised \$725, and the Social Room Lunch raised \$1,415, for a total of **\$3,089.50.**



Cemetery Work-Day

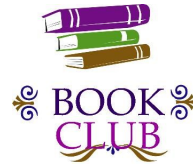


The Cemetery Board is having their semi-annual Cemetery Work-Day on **Saturday, October 2, 2010** from 8:00A.M. - 12:00 Noon. This Workday will be held at the "ORIGINAL" church site and cemetery on OLD BIDLE ROAD. Members are invited to join the Board in this effort. Please contact Mickey Keller for directions and tools needed for this job.

Book Club Selection for October

Please join us at 7PM in the Parish House on **October 27th** to discuss: The Help by Kathryn Stockett.

Three determined women start a movement that forever changes a town and the way women view each other. Please reserve your copy from the library early...the estimated wait is about 50 days!



October 23



Choir Retreat
8:00—3:00
Skycroft

October Basket Classes



Our October basket is the 'Sunday Brunch.' It is made on an 8" wood base and features chase weaving and a folded or match book rim. Shaping is important for this useful basket which would make an ideal gift. Cost for this class is \$12.00. The classes will be held on **Tuesday, October 19 at 6:30 p.m.** and **Tuesday, October 26 at 12:30 p.m.** in the Parish House. For more information, please call Diana Corl (301-371-7737) or Gail Johnson at 301-371-6580.

Community Outreach

Frederick Alzheimer's Memory Walk

Beth Scott is heading a Team for the Frederick Alzheimer's Memory Walk on **Sunday October 24th**, with registration at @ 1 pm, and the walk at @ 2 pm. The Frederick Walk is held at the Maryland School for the Deaf. There will be a one mile and a three mile route. Please support Alzheimer's Association by making a donation or joining Beth's team to help advance research into prevention, treatments and a cure for Alzheimer's. Please see Beth any Sunday before the walk to make a donation or visit her website for more details at <http://memorywalk2010.kintera.org/faf/r.asp?t=4&i=338744&u=338744-6160963>.



Weagly House Update

The most recent Advocates for Homeless Families' client-family living in the Weagly House has moved out. A member of the Consistory did an inspection of the house after they left and found it in very good shape. Advocates is currently seeking another family to place in the house. We expect that will happen some time in October.



PB&J for Hoffman Homes

Great job everyone!
We collected 115 jars of peanut butter and jelly for Hoffman Homes.



*Christ Reformed
United Church of Christ*

Rev. Mark Wakefield, Pastor
Rev. Michelle Beadle, Associate Pastor

Contemporary Worship 8:15 a.m.
Sunday School for All Ages 9:15 a.m.
Traditional Worship 10:30 a.m.
Coffee Hour following Worship

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

Fax: 301-371-6912

christreformeducc@comcast.net
www.christreformeducc.org

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Middletown, Maryland 21769

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**CHRIST CHURCH
CHILDREN'S CENTER**

301-371-0360

Daycare – Early Learning Center
Kindergarten thru 5th Grade
6:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Monday – Friday

*Reaching out to help people to know God through Jesus Christ.
Equipping people to love God through the community of faith.
Sending people to serve God throughout the world.*



**The 2010 Growing Project
Harvest Celebration**

Please join us at the 2010 Harvest Celebration on **October 24** (see Insert for more details) for an afternoon of fun and fellowship. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would like to bake a cake to contribute to the cake auction. Baked goodies, food and games will be available at the celebration.

Hope to see you there!