

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: Epiphany Stars

Last January, borrowing a tradition from Gary and Connie Bell's former church, we invited our members and friends to spend a year among the stars. More specifically with a single star. Each cut-out Epiphany star had a word written on either side and was intended to spur personal reflection during 2010. Where or how in your life are you experiencing those words? What is God saying to you through them?

My star had the words "faith" and "doubt" written on it. Little did I realize that it would not be the words, but the star itself that would become the more obvious recurring theme for my year.

In early March, the sanctuary fire frightened all of us. A building that has been the focal point of our congregation's life for almost two centuries nearly went up in flames. The close call was symbolized by the ash covered and slightly melted Moravian star that had hung high in the arch above the chancel. Its condition reminded us of how close we had come to even greater loss. Yet the star quickly became the symbol of the challenge to restore our worship space. Our personal Epiphany stars may have been put away or lost by some, but the battered sanctuary star has been a constant presence in worship in our chapel. It reminds us of many things: to not take for granted those things that are important in our lives, to not lose heart in the time of "worship exile" for we will follow the star back to the sanctuary one day, that church is never fully defined by a building and its accessories, but by a people seeking to know God.

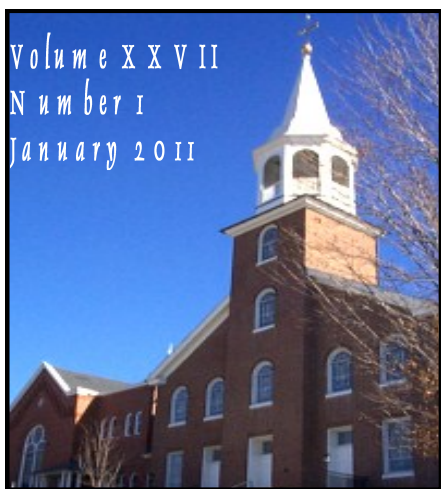
If the fire represented the low point of the year for the church, the development of the worship/education outreach to special needs children has to be one of the highs. It has been exciting to see the energy of the participants and the sense of calling in the leaders. Intentionally or subconsciously its name, "Spirit Stars," calls us to reflection once again. What does it mean to say, as our welcome statement does, "No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"? How do we make provision for those whom God has created and spoken to, but we have left largely outside our congregation? What new insights into our own faith can we gain from nurturing the faith of the Spirit Stars participants?

Over the past year, several members of the congregation have told me how the "stars" have spoken to them. At worship on January 9 we want to give you a chance to tell your story, to say a word about how the various stars have challenged, inspired, consoled and enriched you. How has God been present to you in the Epiphany, sanctuary and Spirit Stars? Join us on the 9th.

~Mark

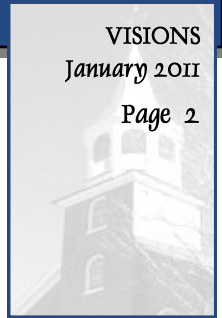
Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on **Sunday, January 23rd, 2011 at 9:15 am** in the Chapel during the Sunday School hour. The meeting is a time to look back over the past year, elect officers, and consider any other business brought forth by members. Please plan to join us.



Markings: Epiphany Stars	1
Thomas' Story Children's Center News Raise the Star Update Let's Make a Bread Basket Called to Care	2
Children's Church Community Outreach	3
Christian Education Thank You Notes	4
January Calendar	Insert
Around the Congregation	5
A Little New Year's Wisdom	6





Thomas' Story

By now most of us have had a chance to meet Thomas Vesterling, the visiting German pastor who will be with us for the first few months of 2011. Hearing him sing a Bach hymn in German while we gathered to light candles in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve was one of the most moving moments of the season. His story of growing up in the former East Germany and of becoming a pastor is an interesting and inspiring one. On Sunday morning, **January 30**, he'll share some of that story in a presentation during the Sunday School hour. It will be held in the chapel at 9:15 a.m. You are also invited to include Thomas in your family's activities. You can reach him at 202-650-8911.

Children's Center News

The Children's Center begins registration for the 2011/2012 school year on Wednesday, January 18, 2011. Registration opens to the public on Tuesday, February 1, 2011. Center participants sign up by the classroom where they will attend in the 2011/2012 school year and pay the non-refundable registration fee. The public can register through Mrs. Louisa, anytime after February 1. If you know of someone interested in child care for a child ages 2-12 or preschool for a 3 or 4 year old, please let them know about the church's Center. Back by popular demand, Culler Magic will entertain children at the center on Wednesday, January 19 at 10:00 a.m. Frederick Co. Public Schools are closed that day and school age children will be able to enjoy his talents. He has been known to move lamps, make rabbits appear and disappear, and perform some other amazing tricks. Frank Culler is a very popular magician with the Center and we always look forward to his new "bag of tricks." The Center will be closed on Monday, January 17 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

"Raise the Star!" Update

The sights and sounds of construction and renewal continue at our church! The old south roof of the church was removed and the new slate roof has been installed, so the Sanctuary is now protected from the wintery elements as work proceeds inside. Removal of the old attic insulation will begin shortly and with it will go the remainder of smoky odor left over from the fire. Reconstruction of the fire damaged rooms is proceeding well and the electrician is hard at work with the new wiring, including that for the improved lighting to brighten our worship experience. The oak top of the altar table has been replaced and the wood screens to the sides of the organ chambers have been repaired.

Speaking of the organ, the Congregation approved \$12,728 for improvements to the organ which include upgraded sound range and quality and will make the organ more "user friendly" for Ed to play. We will also be

able to see the organ pipes from the Sanctuary for the first time in many years, a very visible sign of improving our Sanctuary for current and future generations of our Congregation. Work on the organ will begin at the Schantz Organ facilities in early January.

A sample of the design for the tile of historic slate removed from our roof was recently unveiled and you are encouraged to sign up to purchase one of the limited number of these that will be made available for sale once the design has been finalized. This is sure to be a unique piece of art and history you'll want to have with all proceeds from the sale going toward the fire restoration work!

The Raise the Star Capital Campaign is well underway and nearly \$200,000 in pledges over three years have been made, so we're making great progress toward our goal to cover funding for improvements and future capital needs for our buildings that will surely arise. Your continued support is essential and is much appreciated.

As always, if you have any questions, thoughts, or concerns, please contact a member of the Fire Restoration Team or the Consistory. We appreciate your involvement and your patience as we progress through our restoration process.

Let's Make a Bread Basket

We will start 2011 by making a Bread Basket to serve your favorite 'artisan' bread and rolls. The basket has several rows of color and is finished with stoneware handles. The cost for the class is \$15.00. The classes will be held in the Parish House on **Tuesday, January 18, at 6:30 p.m.**, and also on **Tuesday, January 25, at 12:30 p.m.** Watch for the sign-up sheet (& photo) on the bulletin board. More info is available from Diana Corl or Gail Johnson.

Called to Care

Called to Care is looking for folks who enjoy making people smile when they open a card, receive a meal when there has been a bump in the road, given a ride to an appointment when transportation is unavailable, having a smiling face show up at your doorstep just when you need a friend. If this sounds like a "fit" for you, Called to Care cordially invites you to attend our next meeting on **Tuesday, January 25th, 2011 at 7:00PM** in the Parish House. Please feel free to contact our coordinator, Bunny Cramer, or any of the current Called to Care members for further information.



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

Determination *It's what gets you there.*

Deciding it's worth it to finish what you've started.

Memory Verse:

"Let us keep on running the race marked out for us." Hebrews 12:1 NirV



Week 1: January 2

Bible Story: Leaving Egypt (the plagues)

Exodus 3:1-12; 5:1-2; 7:14-24; 8-11; 12:21-23, 29-42

Bottom Line: Keep doing what God says because He is God.

Family Discussion: When have you shown determination? What happened as a result?

"The only way to find the limits of the possible is by going beyond them to the impossible."

Week 2: January 9

Bible Story: Desert Blues (40 years in the wilderness) • *Numbers 14:1-39*

Bottom Line: Keep doing what you should do so you don't miss something really good.

Family Discussion: Name 3 positive consequences of not quitting. Name 3 negative consequences of quitting.

"If you take yourself out of the game, you will never succeed."

Week 3: January 16

Bible Story: No Excuses (learning from Israel's history) • *1 Corinthians 10:6, 11-13*

Bottom Line: Keep doing what you should do because God says you can.

Family Discussion: Have you ever given up on anything? What made you feel like giving up?

"If you think you can, you can."

Week 4: January 23

Bible Story: Finishing Right (Paul and his sufferings) • *2 Corinthians 11:23b-27; Acts 20:24*

Bottom Line: Keep doing what you should do even if it's hard.

Family Discussion: Name a family member or friend who is good at supporting your determination.

"There are no shortcuts to life's greatest achievements."

Week 5: January 30

Bible Story: Road Map (Paul advises Timothy) • *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Bottom Line: Learning what God says will help you keep doing what you should.

Family Discussion: Can you think of 3 helpful reasons to memorize verses from the Bible?

"It's your character that shows who you are far more than your abilities."

Community Outreach

Save the Date!



Sunday, February 6th
Sign-up to Serve
or provide a dessert!

Hoffman Homes Advent Collection

Thank you to everyone who contributed items for the children and youth at Hoffman Homes in Gettysburg. Items donated included new board games, underwear, shirts and socks, toiletries, books, journals, school supplies...the list goes on. Every item not only helps a child in need, but also reminds them that they are remembered and loved by the community of faith. Items will be delivered to Hoffman Homes later this month, so there is still time to share your generous donations. Items should be marked for Hoffman Homes and left in the narthex or in the church office.



Nov – Dec 2010
Our Church has
donated over 278
food bank items to the
Middletown Food Bank
Well Done!

Youth Sunday School Program's *You-Can-Two-Can* Campaign



The Youth Sunday School Program's *You-Can-Two-Can* campaign to collect food for the Middletown Food Bank brought in an additional 106 items in December, bringing our total to 229. That's about 33% of our goal. **Great job everyone!**

In December, reusable grocery bags were distributed through the Sunday School classrooms to help kids collect and bring items for the campaign throughout the remainder of the year. If you did not get one yet, please check with your Sunday School teacher or check with the church office. See the church's homepage for more information on hunger in our area and a list of suggested items for donation.

A Special Invitation For Our Elementary Schoolers

Before we know it, snow will cover the ground and the winter wind will chill the air. When this happens, don't let the mid-winter blues get you down. Instead, put on your craziest island tourist outfit and grab your ***Ticket to Paradise***.

The Christian Education Board is sponsoring ***Ticket to Paradise***, a field trip for our elementary-aged youth (up to age 10) to Paradise of Fun, an indoor inflatable playground facility located in the FSK Mall (www.paradiseoffun.com). Join the tropical party on **Sunday, January 23, from 3:00-5:00 p.m.** The requested contribution per child is \$7.00. A completed registration form and signed waiver form are required to participate. Friends are welcome, but space is limited and will be allotted on a first come, first served basis. Registration forms and waiver forms are available on our home page at christreformeducc.org or by contacting the church office.

Thank You Notes

Dear CRUCC Friends and Family in Christ,

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks, and those of Len's family, for all your cards and prayers during his seven month battle with brain cancer and subsequent passing. Thank you to Pastor Mark for his many visits down the road and to those of you who braved the weather to attend the funeral in Baltimore. I am truly blessed to be part of such a caring group and will be forever grateful for your being there when I needed you most. As I continue in my grief journey, I have no doubt you will be by my side. May God's blessing and love surround you.

~Gail Patrick

THANK YOU to everyone that contributed gently used and new toys, clothes, (and even a bed!!) to our 2nd annual toy drive to benefit local children in cooperation with Janet Naill, of Faithful Servants COB. We collected enough items to fill up the back of Janet's full-size pick-up truck, and due to inclement weather, an additional delivery was made with items that filled up the back of our SUV. We are very grateful for everyone's giving spirit and were once again, overwhelmed by everyone's generosity. Thanks again!

~Debbie Bruns

THANK YOU

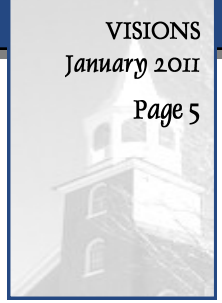
Thank you to everyone for your support during our recent loss. Your sympathy cards, wonderful food, and use of the church facility were greatly appreciated.

~The Family of Robert MacMillan



Thank you to the members of CRUCC for your generous contributions in the amount of \$2,345.00 for the Field of Hope Growing Project. Your gift will help support sustainable food security in the Nkhoma region of central Malawi.

~The Growing Project Committee



Memorials

Linda Snyder died on November 27, 2010. A service celebrating her life was held on December 1, 2010.

Harold Schilling died on December 3, 2010. A service celebrating his life was held on December 7, 2010.

Robert "Buddy" MacMillan died on December 3, 2010. A service celebrating his life was held on December 11, 2010.



Birth Announcement—Welcome

Malia Rose Johnson was born on December 10, 2010.
Congratulations to Mary and Michael Johnson.

**Church Attendance
December 2010**

	8:15 am	10:30 am
December 5	85	195
December 12	66	110
December 19	81	148
December 26	49	60

December Average — 199
2010 Average — 185



**Church Attendance
Christmas Eve 2010**

5:00 PM	162
7:00 PM	183
9:00 PM	103

ALTAR FLOWERS

January 2	N/A
January 9	Linda DeLauder
January 16	Lewis Corl
January 23	Robyn Bramhall
January 30	The Beadle Family

USHERS

January 2	Team 2
January 9	Team 3
January 16	Team 4
January 23	Team 5
January 30	Team 6

SOUND TECHNICIANS

January 2	Matt Anticevich
January 9	Tony Verdi
January 16	Luke Verdi
January 23	Chris Johnson
January 30	Nick Fink

MIDDLE SCHOOL HELPERS

January 2	Taylor Long
January 9	Trevor McClure
January 16	Olivia Remsberg
January 23	Clark Zecher
January 30	Jordan Bramhall

LAYREADERS

January 2	Beth Tucker
January 9	Gail Johnson
January 16	Judy Brandenburg
January 23	Nancy vom Lehn
January 30	Margie Hurd

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS/GROUPS

January 2	Shelly & Terry Boykin
January 9	Connie & Gary Bell
	Missions Board
January 16	Lesla & Tim Cook
January 23	Called to Care
January 30	Kathy & David Cutler

*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

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

**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

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
PERMIT 2202
Frederick, Maryland 21701

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*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.*

A Little New Year's Wisdom from 'The Beatles'

(From the song Revolution, slightly adapted of course)

*You say you want a resolution.
Well, you know, we all want to
change the world.'*



Think it's too lofty a goal – changing the world? Well, you can change the world of a child, for a lifetime, by giving them the gift of faith. Nothing in all Creation will be of more significance for them on their life's journey than a dynamic and loving relationship with the Lord: helping them to set priorities, form decisions, and shape relationships. This year, **resolve** to change their world! Bring the children in your life to Sunday School, to worship, and to Christian fellowship activities. They will be, quite literally, eternally grateful.